

# Delivering for Adolescent Girls

## Ambitious Indicators for a Transformative Post-2015 Agenda

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The post-2015 process offers an historic opportunity to change the lives of the world's adolescent girls. But if we are to achieve the transformative agenda defined by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it must include ambitious indicators that effectively measure the real impact of policies, strategies, and practices to ensure that the post-2015 agenda accounts for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, particularly adolescent girls.

Though all forms of data, including indicators and collection methods, have significantly improved, there is still a persistent tendency to measure only the easiest-to-measure parts of necessarily complex targets. The SDG process offers, however, a unique moment to abandon this inclination and embrace a more determined approach that ensures the most vulnerable benefit from this comprehensive agenda.

The transformative SDG agenda is bold. Its indicators should be, too.

The Girl Declaration Joint Advocacy Group recommends the following principles for data collection and use, as well as the following minimum set of core indicators as essential to ensure that the lives of adolescent girls are properly and holistically understood, and that adolescent girls have access to the programs, services and care they require, as well as have the ability to exercise the full range of their human rights.

### **PRINCIPLES FOR AMBITIOUS INDICATORS**

- \* All targets require indicators and some may require multiple indicators, which should not be arbitrarily limited.
- \* Indicators should measure the more complex aspects of each target, not just the easiest to evaluate, or be based on what is currently being measured.
- \* Indicators should include both quantitative and qualitative measures, and should include measures of policy, legal, structural, behavioral and normative change.
- \* Capacity development, including adequate resourcing, for national mechanisms and organizations to collect data on new and updated indicators must be built into the post-2015 framework in order to ensure progress can be adequately tracked. Specifically, capacity development for proper and ethical collection and analysis of gender-related data should be prioritized.
- \* There must be scope for further development of the indicator framework in the coming years, in particular, for updating indicators as global and national capacity for collecting complex data develops and as contexts change. As such, research and development of the indicator framework should remain open after the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission.
- \* Crucially and at a minimum, data should be disaggregated on the basis of: age in five-year bands, sex, geography, income, disability, marital status, race and ethnicity and other factors as relevant to monitoring inequalities. It is critical for understanding the lives of adolescent girls that indicators are disaggregated by age by sex.

### **FINANCING AMBITIOUS INDICATORS**

The Financing for Development process also presents a significant opportunity to invest in and improve data collection and usability, particularly in gender statistics. Improving gender statistics' and disaggregating data are smart and necessary investment strategies that will facilitate sustainable development.

- \* The production of timely and quality gender statistics must be a policy and budgetary priority for governments, as well as regional and international institutions. Data are a public good and national budgets must have an allocated provision for the collection and analysis of gender-focused statistics.
- \* To monitor the SDGs, national statistical offices (NSOs) must be adequately resourced and strengthened to be functionally autonomous and transparent in order to produce consistent, reliable, and high-quality data that are independent, protected, and accountable.
- \* There must be dedicated resources to improve data literacy in country, particularly around gender data, and to encourage accountability and the use of data by all, including civil society and citizens.
- \* Support for strengthening NSOs should come from a coordinated effort by governments, regional and international institutions, donors, and civil society.

## CORE INDICATORS ESSENTIAL FOR MEASURING PROGRESS OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS

The Girl Declaration Joint Advocacy Group recommends that all of the indicators below be disaggregated at a minimum by sex by age in five-year bands, in particular for the age ranges of 10-14 and 15-19, as well as marital status. This priority set of adolescent girl indicators is not exhaustive.

Target	Recommended Indicators	Rationale
<b>2.2</b> By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Adolescent wasting as assessed by considering body mass index (BMI) and calculating BMI for age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› In many cases, girls living in poverty and food-insecure households eat only after male family members.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>› Adolescent girls in poor countries face a high risk of anemia and malnutrition, which can have long-term consequences for their health and that of their children.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
<b>3.1</b> By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Adolescent birth rate (10-14, 15-19)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Maternal mortality is the second leading cause of death of girls aged 15-19<sup>4</sup> and 70,000 adolescents in developing countries die annually of causes related to pregnancy;<sup>5</sup> the risk of maternal death for mothers under age 15 in low-and middle-income countries is double that of older females.<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<b>3.4</b> By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Number of suicide deaths per year per 100,000 population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› According to the WHO, self-harm/suicide is now the leading cause of death among girls aged 15-19 worldwide.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
<b>3.7</b> By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Percentage of family planning demand met with modern contraceptives (aged 10-49+)</li> <li>› Percentage of population aged 10-49+ who demonstrate comprehensive correct knowledge about preventing pregnancy, and HIV/other STIs (transmission, prevention, and treatment)</li> <li>› Rate of unsafe abortions per 1,000 women aged 10-49</li> <li>› Proportion of adolescent girls who have received at least two doses of HPV vaccine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Ensuring that adolescents have access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services can ensure their right to health and help prevent unintended pregnancy, STI infection (including HIV).</li> <li>› Sexuality education can increase knowledge and improve attitudes, delay or decrease risky sexual behaviors, and/or increase condom/contraceptive use.<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
<b>4.1</b> By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Completion rate (primary, lower secondary, upper secondary, tertiary)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Almost a quarter of young women aged 15-24 today (116 million) in developing countries have never completed primary school. Girls and women who are educated are more confident, have more freedom to make decisions which affect their lives, have greater awareness of their rights, and have better work prospects.<sup>9</sup></li> <li>› Returns on female secondary education can be 15 to 25 per cent higher for women than men.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>

1 Gender statistics are defined as the sum of the following requirements: a) data are collected and presented by sex as a primary and overall classification; b) data reflect gender issues; c) data are based on concepts and definitions that adequately reflect the diversity of women and men and capture all aspects of their lives; d) data collection methods take into account stereotypes and social and cultural factors that may induce gender bias in data. UN Statistical Division (2013). Gender Statistics Manual: Integrating a gender perspective into statistics. Retrieved from: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/genderstatmanual/>.

2 ICRW and 2CV (2013). I Know. I Want. I Dream: Girls' Insights for Building a Better World. ICRW and 2CV. London: Girl Hub. <http://www.girlieffect.org/2015-beyond/making-of/>

3 Ibid.

4 WHO (2014) Adolescent Pregnancy Fact Sheet. Retrieved from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/>

5 UNFPA (2013). State of the World Population 2013, pg. iiiii - Motherhood in Childhood. Facing the challenge of adolescent pregnancy. Retrieved from: <http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/swp2013/EN-SWOP2013-final.pdf>

6 Ibid.

7 World Health Organization, Health for the World's Adolescents, Geneva, 2014. <http://apps.who.int/adolescent/second-decade/>

8 McQuestion, K., Silverman, R., & Glassman, A. (2012). Adolescent fertility in low- and middle-income countries: Effects and solutions (CGD Working Paper 295). Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.

9 UNESCO, (2013), pg. 1. Fact Sheet: Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Retrieved from: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/GMR/images/2011/girls-factsheet-en.pdf>

10 Schultz, T.P., 2002. 'Why Governments Should Invest More to Educate Girls,' World Development, 30 (2): 207-225.

Target	Recommended Indicators	Rationale
<p><b>4.5</b> By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Whether laws or policies discriminate against pregnant or married girls in school</li> <li>› Number of girls who leave school due to marriage and/or pregnancy</li> <li>› The number or percentage of primary and secondary schools with at least one teacher who has been trained in comprehensive sexuality education and who has taught the subject at least once in the last academic year</li> <li>› Percentage of schools that have sexual violence and harassments policies and reporting mechanisms in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Girls and young women are often required to leave school if they are pregnant, resulting in additional discrimination and lack of opportunities for single mothers, rape victims, young married women/girls.</li> <li>› Sexuality education can increase knowledge and improve attitudes, delay or decrease risky sexual behaviors, and/or increase condom/contraceptive use.<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>4.a</b> Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Percentage of schools with access to (i) electricity; (ii) drinking water; and (iii) single-sex sanitation facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions) including accommodations for menstrual hygiene management</li> <li>› Percentage of students who feel safe at school and traveling to and from school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Violence in schools is correlated with lower academic achievement and economic security, as well as greater long-term health risks.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>› Girls stay away from school every month due to the lack of separate and safe facilities where they can wash themselves and change sanitary cloth or pads during their periods with privacy, confidence and dignity.<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>5.1</b> End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Whether or not legal frameworks and policies discriminate against women and girls. This includes but is not limited to: nationality, marriage, age inheritance rights, equality in marriage and divorce, and land rights</li> <li>› Number of countries that ratified CEDAW and CRC that have fully nationalized their commitments and report to the CEDAW and CRC committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Women and girls often lack access to or control over resources, both within and outside of the household. For example, fewer than 20 percent of the world's landholders are women.<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>5.2</b> Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Percentage of all women and girls ever subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a (i) current or former intimate partner, (ii) other family member, or (iii) persons other than an intimate partner or family member</li> <li>› Percentage of people who believe that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife in any circumstances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› An estimated 150 million girls under age 18 have experienced rape or other forms of sexual violence.<sup>15</sup></li> <li>› Up to 50 percent of sexual assaults worldwide are committed against girls under 16 and up to one in five girls under the age of 15 experience sexual abuse.<sup>16,17</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>5.3</b> Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union (i) before age 18 and (ii) before age 15 (i.e. child marriage)</li> <li>› Percentage of girls and women aged 10-49+ years who have undergone FGM/C</li> <li>› Number of countries with laws against FGM/C</li> <li>› Number of countries with laws that set 18 as the minimum age of marriage for women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Approximately 15 million girls are married every year before they reach 18.<sup>18</sup></li> <li>› FGM/C has no health benefits and can lead to complications including fistula, infertility, problems during childbirth, increased risk of HIV/AIDS infection, and even death.<sup>19</sup></li> </ul>

11 McQueston, K., Silverman, R., & Glassman, A. (2012). Adolescent fertility in low- and middle-income countries: Effects and solutions (CGD Working Paper 295). Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.

12 Plan International (2013). A girl's right to learn without fear: Working to end gender-based violence at school. Retrieved from <http://plan-international.org/files/global/publications/campaigns/a-girls-right-to-learn-without-fear-english.pdf>

13 "Girls stay away from school every month": Domestos, WaterAid, WSSCC (2013). We Can't Wait: A report on sanitation and hygiene for women and girls. Retrieved from: <http://worldtoilet.org/documents/WecantWait.pdf>.

14 UN Women (2011) Facts & Figures: Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals. Retrieved from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html#footnote6>

15 WHO. (2006). Global Estimates of Health Consequences Due to Violence against Children. Background Paper to the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2006/pr57/en/>

16 UN Women. Fast Facts: statistics on violence against women and girls. Retrieved from <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>

17 WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: summary report of initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2005.

18 UNICEF. (2014). pg. 6, Ending Child, early and forced marriage: Progress and Prospects

19 "FGM/C has no health benefits": WHO (2015). Sexual and reproductive health: Health complications of female genital mutilation. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/health\\_consequences\\_fgm/en/](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/health_consequences_fgm/en/).

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<b>5.6</b> Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform of Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of countries that currently have enforceable regulations that allow women and adolescents to access SRH care without third party (spouse or partner, parent, guardian) authorization</li> <li>Percentage of women and girls who say they make and/or participate in decisions about their sexual and reproductive health lives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In many contexts, young people may only legally access sexual and reproductive health services with the consent of their parents or spouses, or when they are married.<sup>20</sup></li> </ul>
<b>6.2</b> By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of the population with access to safe, separate sanitation facilities, with water and soap, including accommodations for menstrual hygiene management, in public, private, rural, and urban spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without safe facilities for sanitation and hygiene, girls are at greater risk of violence.<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>
<b>11.7</b> By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of women and girls who say they always feel safe when in public spaces</li> <li>Percentage of women and girls who say they have access to safe spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In public spaces and settlements across many parts of the world, girls and women report feeling unsafe. In some cities, one in five girls chooses not to venture outside the home alone for fear of violence.<sup>22</sup></li> </ul>
<b>16.9</b> By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children under 5 whose births have been registered with civil authority</li> <li>Percentage of persons over 5 who have a legal identity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information from civil registration and vital statistics is essential in tracking births, school attendance rates, age of marriage and in accurately understanding mortality and causes of death, among other critical public health and broader policy outcomes.<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>
<b>17.18</b> By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of countries that have mandated minimum Gender Indicators be integrated into formal data collection mechanisms through legislation or national statistical plans</li> <li>Number of countries whose national budgets include resourcing for gender data collection and analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender inequality is reproduced through the statistical record— girls and women, and their issues are often not measured. Existing gender statistics vary in quality and comparability.<sup>24</sup></li> <li>In 2013, only 37 percent of 126 countries reviewed for gender statistics programs had a mechanism for gender statistics at the national level.<sup>25</sup></li> </ul>

20 IPPF (2014). Qualitative research on legal barriers to young people's access to sexual and reproductive health services. Retrieved from [http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf\\_coram\\_final\\_inception-report\\_eng\\_web.pdf](http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf_coram_final_inception-report_eng_web.pdf)

21 UNICEF (2014). A Post-2015 World Fit For Children, Issue Brief: Gender Equality and Girls' and Women's Empowerment. Retrieved from: [http://www.unicef.org/post2015/files/P2015\\_issue\\_brief\\_set.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/post2015/files/P2015_issue_brief_set.pdf)

22 ICRW (2013) Safe Cities Free From Violence Against Women and Girls: Baseline Finding from the 'Safe Cities Delhi Programme'. Retrieved from: <http://www.icrw.org/publications/safe-cities-free-violence-against-women-and-girls-baseline-finding-safe-cities-delhi-pr>

23 WHO (2013). Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: challenges, best practice and design principles for modern systems. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/healthinfo/civil\\_registration/-crvs-report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/civil_registration/-crvs-report_2013.pdf)

24 IEAG (2014). A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. Retrieved from: <http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/A-World-That-Counts.pdf>

25 UN Women (2015). Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights. Retrieved from [http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/UNW\\_progressreport.pdf](http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/UNW_progressreport.pdf)

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