

GENDER INDICATORS

Lorena Aguilar

Reviewed by: Mary Hill Rojas
Connie Campbell

Gender Makes the Difference

What are Indicators?

An indicator is a pointer. It can be a measurement, a number, a fact, an opinion or a perception that points to a specific condition or situation, and measures changes in that condition or situation over time. Indicators can be quantitative or qualitative. In this case, the term relates to assessing aspects of gender (in)equality that can be measured, quantified or systematized.

Gender Equity Indicators

- Measure conditions or situations that affect men and women differently
- Signal changes in power relations between women and men over time
- Determine access, use and control of resources and distribution of costs and benefits
- Point out changes in living conditions and in the roles of women and men over time
- Provide important inputs for planning, implementation, and evaluation of field projects and broad programs ranging from community livestock to watershed irrigation to national policies

These indicators are signals or signs that help us to “take the pulse” of equity between women and men in a given place- whether this place is the world, a country, a region, a province or a community. Gender equity indicators play the role of permanent observer, checking for progress or setbacks in this area.

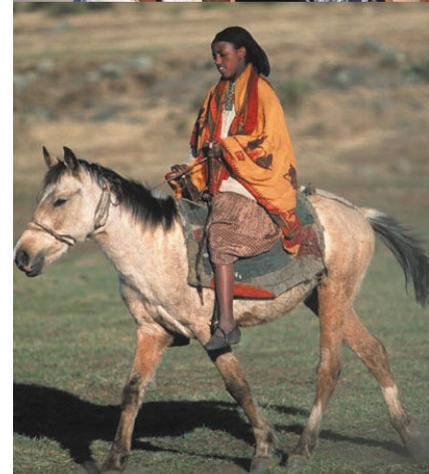
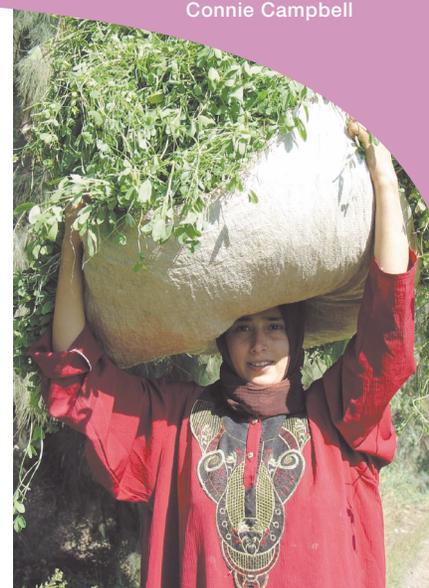
How are Gender Equity Indicators Useful?

- TO MAKE VISIBLE WHAT IS CURRENTLY INVISIBLE: Indicators allow us to verify whether there is inequity or equity between men and women, where and how gender differences take place, and how they vary over time.
- TO COMPARE RESULTS: Applying gender-sensitive indicators enables us to assess the gender equity situation of the community in relation to other communities, the province, the region or the country.
- TO FIND OUT IF THERE IS A TENDENCY TOWARD PROGRESS: Applying these indicators at different moments in time allows us to see if the gender equity situation has improved or worsened. In other words, they enable us to see trends toward change in a given situation.
- TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF POLICIES, PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS: Indicators help us determine whether or not the policies, programs or projects being implemented are contributing to gender equity in the community, the region, the nation or the world.

Examples of Indicators

Agriculture and Biodiversity

- Number of women holding elected leadership positions in community organizations, co-operatives or decision-making councils (e.g., community forestry or fishing programs, co-management councils for protected areas).
- Absolute and percentage changes in research funding being devoted to home gardens and species of value to women, including crops, non-timber forest products, wildlife, medicinal plants, fibers.
- Changes in male and female participation rates in training programs and employment (both formal and informal).
- Changes in women’s and men’s ownership of agricultural lands, including homes and home gardens.
- Differentiated access of men and women to credit and technical assistance.
- Numbers of households headed by men, women, or couples benefiting from intellectual property rights.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC CAN BE FOUND AT:

IUCN-Gender and Environment
www.genderandenvironment.org

Toolkit on Gender Indicators in Engineering, Science and Technology. UNESCO/GAB
<http://gstgateway.wigsat.org/ta/data/toolkit.html>

Gender Indicators for Follow-Up and Evaluation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, and the Beijing Platform for Action
<http://www.eldis.org/static/doc7378.htm>

Guide to Gender Sensitive Indicators
<http://w3.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida>

GEM Gender Evaluation Methodology
www.apcwomen.org/gem/

Gender and Sustainable Development Indicators
www.earthsummit2002.org/workshop/Information%20S%20TR%20PR%20Annex.pdf

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TO CONTACT US:

Lorena Aguilar,
Global Senior Gender Advisor
IUCN - The World Conservation Union
E-mail: lorena.aguilar@iucn.org
www.iucn.org

Climate Change

- Numbers of women and female-headed households receiving training and assistance related to disasters (*e.g.*, the number of women who know how to swim).
- Number of women owning and using energy-efficient technologies, using renewable energy and involved in sustainable forest management (climate change mitigation).
- Proportion of men and women who own and use non-motorized and public transport.
- Increased support for research on women's knowledge about drought and flood related strategies.
- Participation of women in climate change planning institutions, processes and research (including disaster preparedness and management), at professional and lay-community levels.

Energy

- Reduction in the amount of time or money spent by women and men to obtain energy supplies (fuelwood, charcoal).
- Increased number of girls attending school.
- Amount of time spent by women on rest, relaxation and learning activities.
- Number/percentage of women and men adopting energy-saving technologies.
- Number/percentage of women and men involved in energy-related employment and training.
- Number/percentage of women and men involved in energy policy dialogue.
- Reductions in the number/percentage of women and children visiting clinics for respiratory or eye conditions.
- Number/percentage of women trained to use alternative technologies.

Forestry

- Increased number of women that benefit from natural resource concessions.
- Female ownership or co-ownership of equipment and tools for production, processing, commercialization and other services associated with natural resources.
- Increased female participation in project management training programs related to productive and conservation activities.
- Perception of women and men who consider that the operating plan of co-management responds to their needs and interests.
- Number of forest management plans with gender-sensitive activities (*e.g.*, non-timber forest products, medicinal plants, wildcrafting).

Urban

- Numbers of households headed by men, women, or couples connected to sewer systems and potable water systems.
- Number/percentage of female-headed households receiving housing-related loans.
- Number of women trained in house construction-related skills.
- Increased number of women with voice and voting rights in community consultation process for urban planning.
- Number/percentage of women in municipal institutions with environmental decision-making authority.

Fisheries and Aquaculture in Coastal Zones

- Improved access to and control over key resources by women (*e.g.*, fuelwood, craft supplies, shellfish).
- Number and type of formal tourism sector jobs held by women; not just the housecleaning and food preparation jobs.
- Percentage of women obtaining fisheries-related business credit.
- Number/percentage of women that own aquaculture ponds.
- Increased number of women managing successful productive projects (*i.e.*, marine farms, ponds, zoo-farms, eco-shelters).
- Improved participation of women in wetlands planning, professions and research, at all levels.

IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE
COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION
COALITION:

