



Gender-Responsive Programming for Poverty Reduction

TECHNICAL PAPER



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Abstract

Despite all the efforts made at the national and international level to understand and reduce poverty, little success has been achieved in narrowing the gender gap. Actually a woman's multiple responsibilities continue to subject her to time constraints and time poverty. In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), girls spend four times more on productive tasks than boys'. While girls spend most of their time working on the farms and doing house chores, the boys go to school. Women in Africa are under represented in public institutions at the local and national levels and have very little to say in decision-making. Women in SSA represent only 6% of national legislatures, 10% at the local level and 2% in national cabinets.

There is need to focus on promoting gender equality since men and women experience poverty differently and are affected differently. Women are more vulnerable to poverty because of inequalities in access to productive resources, lack of control over their labour and earned income. Since men and women experience poverty differently, these differences need to be taken into account if the causes of poverty are to be adequately understood and addressed. In some societies, women are also subjected to socially imposed constraints that further limit their opportunities to improve their economic and social conditions or to enjoy equal access to public services and consumption with required goods.

While some poverty alleviation initiatives need to identify and address the engendered root causes of poverty that target both men and women and the values and structures that promote gender inequality, others should be designed to specifically target poor women so as to immediately initiate the processes of addressing and redressing the sex specific imbalances in the causes, experiences and effects of poverty. The World Bank has identified four dimensions of poverty that can be used as a framework for the analysis, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-responsive poverty alleviation programmes. These are opportunity, capacity, security and empowerment dimensions.

UNFPA's efforts to address poverty from a gender perspective are based on integrating gender concerns in all its programming processes and addressing specific issues that contribute to poverty related gender disparities. Infact, gender concerns are part and parcel of the core UNFPA programming. It is very important that UNFPA and its collaborating partners strengthen the gender analysis components of country programmes, poverty reduction and common country assessments. It is also important to ensure that approaches to participatory research and policy dialogue address the gender biases that currently exist between men and women. Strategic gender interests are related to gender-response

programming for poverty reduction that takes into account women's status and equity. In the African context these include legislating for equal rights, reproductive choice and increased participation in decision-making.

This publication is about gender-responsive programming for poverty reduction in Africa. It demonstrates how gender inequality contributes to poverty, slows economic growth and reduces human well-being. Eliminating gender gaps and gender inequality means bringing the disadvantaged at par with the favored, something that is yet to be achieved in access to education and health in many African countries.

Introduction

Women are poorer than men

Estimates over a 20-year period show that the increase in the number of poor rural women in 41 developing countries is 17% higher than the increase in the number of poor men.

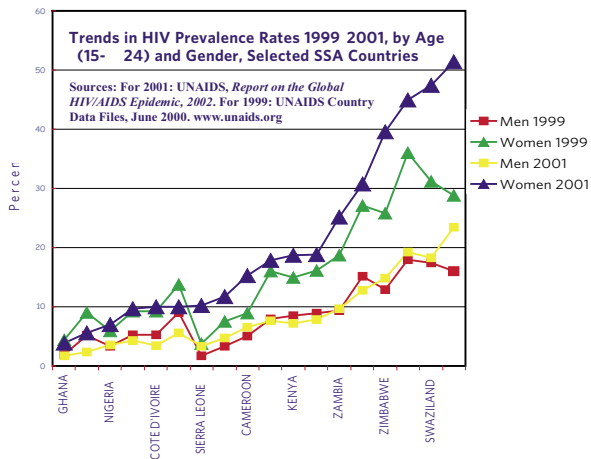


Sex-specific statistics worldwide show that women are poorer than men. It is estimated that 70% of the 1.2 billion people living in poverty are females. In sub-Saharan (SSA) Africa, about 50% of the population lives in absolute poverty, compared to 20% in North Africa. Of this SSA's poor population, about 80% are women. Estimates over a 20-year period show that the increase in the number of poor rural women in 41 developing countries is 17% higher than the increase in the number of poor men. Information on health, HIV infection, education, time use, income, access to credit and participation in decision-making further highlights the sex differentials in experiencing poverty.



Africa accounts for 20% of the world's births but contributes 40% of the world's maternal deaths.

Over half a million women die from preventable pregnancy-related causes and complications each year, the causes of which are exacerbated by issues of poverty and remoteness. Maternal mortality rates in SSA are the highest in the world: between 600 and 1,500 maternal deaths for every 100,000 births for most countries. Africa accounts for 20% of the world's births but contributes 40% of the world's maternal deaths.

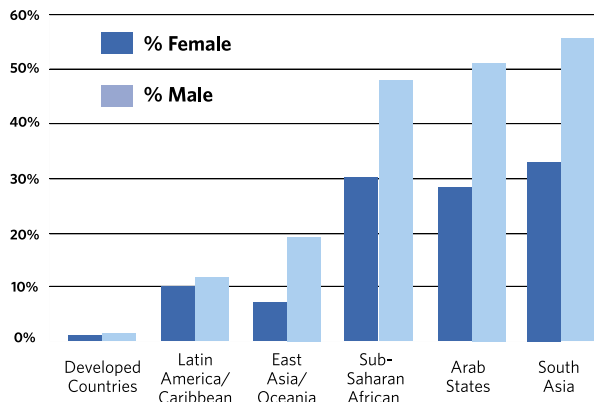


It is estimated that in SSA, in the age group 15-19 years old, for every 1 boy that is infected with HIV, there are 5-6 girls.

are 5-6 girls. In western Kenya, nearly 1 in 4 girls, aged 15-19 is HIV-positive, compared with 1 in 25 boys of the same age. In Zambia, in the same age group, 16 times as many girls as boys are infected. In rural Uganda, among 20-24 years old, 6 young women are HIV-positive for every 1 infected young man. Iron deficiency anemia affects double the number of women compared to men.

About 55% of HIV-positive adults in SSA are women. It is estimated that in SSA, in the age group 15-19 years old, for every 1 boy that is infected, there are 5-6 girls.

Estimated world illiteracy rate, by region and by gender, 2000



In SSA, about 50% of women are illiterate compared to about 30% of men.

Of the 960 million illiterates in the world, 66% are women. Of the 130 million children not enrolled in primary school, two thirds are girls. Of the 100 million primary school-dropouts 66% are girls. In SSA, about 50% of women are illiterate compared to about 30% of men.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

*Not including Japan, Australia and New Zealand



Women in rural areas spend 1-2 hours daily on domestic transport, carrying water, firewood and crops on their heads and traveling on foot.

Time is a scarce commodity for women and girls and most often their labor is not often valued. Women's multiple responsibilities subject them to time constraints and time poverty. In Uganda, women work longer hours than men, between 12 and 18 hours per day, with a mean of 16 hours, compared with an average male working day of around 8-10 hours. Women in rural areas spend 1-2 hours daily on domestic transport, carrying water, firewood and crops on their heads and traveling on foot. Studies in Ghana show that women contribute to 60-70% of the transportation time for crop productivity, harvesting and marketing. An African woman uses 13 hours to pound maize that is enough to feed a family for four to five days. She spends 4-5 hours every day to prepare the food her family eats. This is twice the time it takes the villagers to grow and gather food and cash crops (Zukerman, 2001). In SSA, girls spend 4 times more on productive tasks than boys. While girls are working, boys go to school. Even though boys spend only 15 minutes per day on farm work, girls spend up to 40 minutes on it (Blackden 2001).

In SSA, girls spend 4 times more on productive tasks than boys.



About 66% of women's work in developing countries is unpaid work compared to 25% of men's work. Women are paid 30-40% less than men for comparable work. Even though over 50% of agricultural work is carried out by women in Africa, women receive only 10% of the credit going to small farmers and just 1% of the total credit going to the agricultural sector.

Women Members of Parliament

Rwanda:	48.8%
Sweden:	45.3%
Denmark:	38%
UK:	17.9%
US:	14.3%
Swaziland:	3.1%
Niger:	1.2%
World average:	15.2%

Even though over 50% of agricultural work is carried out by women in Africa, women receive only 10% of the credit going to small farmers and just 1% of the total credit going to the agricultural sector.

Women in Africa are under-represented in public institutions at the local and national levels and have little say in decision-making. Women in

SSA represent only 6% of national legislatures, 10% at the local level, and 2% in national cabinets. Half of the national cabinets in SSA have no women. However, in 2003, Rwanda, with 48.8% women Members of Parliament became the first country with the highest proportion of women parliamentarian worldwide.

Gender inequality explains poverty sex differentials

Women are more vulnerable to poverty because of inequalities in access to productive resources, lack of control over their own labor and earned income, gender biases in labor markets, and the exclusion that women experience in a variety of economic, social and political institutions.

The statistics presented above show that for men and women, the causes of poverty are different. They experience poverty differently and are affected differently by poverty. The UN emphasizes that these differences are strongly associated with gender inequality. "Women are more vulnerable to poverty because of inequalities in access to productive resources, lack of control over their own labor and earned income, gender biases in labor markets, and the exclusion that women experience in a variety of economic, social and political institutions. Additionally, women experience poverty as a direct result of the differences between the roles of men and women ascribed to them by existing norms, practices and institutions" (Economic and Social Council, 2002).

Why poverty alleviation initiatives need to focus on promoting gender equality

Some poverty alleviation efforts need to focus on addressing gender related poverty differentials

Since men and women experience poverty differently, these differences need to be taken into account if the causes of poverty are to be adequately understood and dealt with. Due to their different constraints, options, incentives, and needs, women and men frequently have different poverty alleviation priorities and are affected differently by poverty alleviation interventions. In most societies, women are also subjected to socially imposed constraints that further limit their opportunities to improve their social and economic conditions or to enjoy equal access to public services and consumption goods (World Bank).

Gender equality promotes poverty reduction and economic growth

A 10% increase in female literacy rate reduces child mortality by 10%.



Evidence from studies correlates gender equality with poverty reduction and economic growth. Data from 13 African countries, from 1975 to 1985, show that a 10% increase in female literacy rate reduces child mortality by 10%, whereas changes in male literacy had little influence (World Development Report, 1993). A 1% increase in the share of women in secondary schools is associated with a 0.3% increase in per capita income (Dollar and Gatti, 1999). Macro-level studies show that better educated women contribute to the welfare of the next generation by reducing infant and child mortality, lowering fertility and improving the nutritional status of children. In poorer countries, where access to health care is often limited, each additional year of schooling is associated with a 5-10% decline in child deaths.



In Kenya, one study estimated that giving women farmers the same level of agricultural inputs and extension services as men farmers could increase yields obtained by women farmers by more than 20%.

Gender equality promotes agricultural productivity

Research on agricultural productivity in Africa shows that reducing gender inequality could significantly increase agricultural yields. For example, in Kenya, giving women farmers the same level of agricultural inputs and extension services as men farmers could increase yields obtained by women farmers by more than 20%. Women's time burdens are an important time constraint on growth and development. For example, a study in Tanzania shows that reducing such constraints in a community of smallholder coffee and banana growers increase household cash incomes by 10%, labour productivity by 15% and capital productivity by 44%.

Gender inequality slows development

Gender inequality in education and in employment is estimated to have reduced Sub-Saharan Africa's per capita growth in the 1960-92 periods by 0.8% per year.



Compelling, broad-based statistical evidence shows that gender inequality is costly to development. Gender inequality contributes to poverty, slows economic growth and reduces human well-being. Evidence from many countries show that disparities between men and women's access to, and control over resources are associated with systematically lower access to health and education facilities for women and less than optimal participation in economic activities. Macro- and micro-level analyses of the links between gender inequality and growth show that gender-based asset inequality acts as a constraint to growth and poverty reduction in SSA. For example, gender inequality in education and in employment

is estimated to have reduced SSA's per capita growth in the 1960-92 periods by 0.8% per year (Blackden, and Bhanu. 1999).

Gender inequality, as measured by the Gender Development Index (GDI) and the general level of human poverty, as measured by the Human Poverty Index (HPI) are associated.

Gender inequality is strongly associated with human poverty

The 1997 Human Development Report shows that gender inequality, as measured by the Gender Development Index (GDI), and the general level of human poverty, as measured by the Human Poverty Index (HPI) are associated. The GDI reflects achievements in the most basic human capacities---leading a long life, being knowledgeable and enjoying a decent standard of living adjusted for gender inequality. The variables used to capture these dimensions of development are life expectancy, educational attainment and income. Variables included in the HPI are life expectancy, maternal mortality, educational levels, nutritional levels, access to safe drinking water and perceptions of well-being. "The four countries ranking lowest in the GDI, in 1997 - Sierra Leone, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali - also ranked lowest in the HPI. Similarly, of the four developing countries ranking highest in the HPI, three - Costa Rica, Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago - also rank among the highest in GDI".

The Human Poverty Index (HPI) and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) are indices that measure the extent of gender inequality in political and economic participation and decision-making. They are correlated.

Low gender empowerment is associated with human poverty

The HPI and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), are indices that measure the extent of gender inequality in political and economic participation and decision-making are correlated. The GEM focuses on four variables of income: income-earning power, share in professional jobs, managerial jobs and in parliamentary seats. "The three countries with the worst GEM ranks - Mauritania (94), Togo (93) and Pakistan (92) - also have very high HPI values: 47% for Mauritania and Pakistan, and 39% for Togo. Among the countries with higher GEM rankings - such as Trinidad and Tobago (17), Cuba (23) and Costa Rica (26) - are some of those with the lowest HPI values. For Trinidad and Tobago the HPI is 4%, for Cuba 5% and for Costa Rica 7%. Thus, in these six countries there is a strong association between the extent of human poverty and opportunities for women" (Human Development Report, 1997).

For ultra poor households, women are crucial in preventing their poverty from worsening.

Women prevent the poverty of the ultra-poor households from worsening

In post-transition Mongolia, if women's contributions were ignored, the rural gini coefficient and household's poverty gap ratios would be 0.63 and 32%, respectively. But when women's income is taken into account, the ratios drop to 0.49 and 29% respectively. This means that for the ultra poor households, women are crucial in preventing their poverty from worsening. Strategies that consider how best to enhance women's economic contribution, can in turn enhance their potential for reducing household poverty (Subbarao and Ezemenari, 19950).

Integrating gender perspective in poverty reduction programming

Promote gender equality and women empowerment as effective means to combat poverty

Gender-responsive poverty reduction programming is the analysis, design, implementation, monitoring, managing and evaluation of population and development programmes that focuses on poverty reduction and development promotion from a gender perspective. Gender concerns are mainstreamed into all programming processes. While some poverty alleviation initiatives need to identify and address the engendered root causes of poverty that target both men and women and the values and structures that promote gender inequality, others should be designed to specifically target poor women so as to immediately initiate the processes of addressing and redressing the sex-specific imbalances in the causes, experiences and effects of poverty.

"GENDER MAINSTREAMING IS A STRATEGY FOR MAKING WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN'S CONCERNS AND EXPERIENCES AN INTEGRAL DIMENSION OF THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN ALL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL SPHERES SO THAT WOMEN AND MEN BENEFIT EQUALLY, AND INEQUALITY IS NOT PERPETUATED. THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY" (ECOSOC 17.7.97).

Through global UN conferences and summits, governments have highlighted the different causes and impacts of poverty on men and women, as well as their respective capacities to cope with it, and, consequently, emphasized the importance of directly addressing

"... THE HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS, IN PURSUING DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION, RESOLVED TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AS EFFECTIVE WAYS TO COMBAT POVERTY, HUNGER AND DISEASE AND STIMULATE DEVELOPMENT THAT IS TRULY SUSTAINABLE".

such gender differences in poverty eradication efforts. In the Millennium Declaration, "... the heads of States and Governments, in pursuing development and poverty eradication, resolved to promote gender equality and empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and stimulate development that is truly sustainable". They agreed that gender mainstreaming should be considered in the design, implementation, monitoring and

evaluation of poverty alleviation policies, strategies, programmes and projects.

A successful agenda for eradicating poverty and its gendered effects requires the dismantling of values, structures, and processes that maintain women's subordination and justify inequality in access to political, social and economic resources (Cagatay, 1998). "Initiatives must contribute to the transformation of traditional attitudes and roles and unequal division of family responsibilities between women and men. The benefits that (individuals, families, communities and) the whole society can derive from greater participation of women in decision-making structures, as well as from men's greater involvement in family responsibilities, should be made clear, particularly in the context of poverty eradication strategies" (E/CN.6/2002/9).

"THE BENEFITS THAT (INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND) THE WHOLE SOCIETY CAN DERIVE FROM GREATER PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES, AS WELL AS FROM MEN'S GREATER INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF POVERTY ERADICATION STRATEGIES" (E/CN.6/2002/9).

During the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2001, it was reaffirmed that the "success of the poverty policies and programmes

"FROM THE OUTSET, THE DESIGN OF POVERTY ERADICATION STRATEGIES SHOULD INCLUDE A GENDER ANALYSIS OF THE POWER STRUCTURES AND RELATIONS IN EACH SPECIFIC CONTEXT. A GENDER PERSPECTIVE SHOULD BE REFLECTED THROUGHOUT ALL STAGES OF THE PREPARATION EFFORTS" (E/CN.6/2002/9).

depends on the extent to which these policies and programmes empower people living in poverty in general and women in particular" (E/CN.6/2000/pc2, Para 144). "From the outset, the design of poverty eradication strategies should include a gender analysis of the power structures and relations in each specific context. A gender perspective should be reflected throughout all stages of the preparation efforts" (E/CN.6/2002/9).

Use the four dimensions of gender sensitive poverty reduction as a framework

The opportunity dimension addresses, among others, the unequal access to labor markets, employment opportunities, productive resources and pay, constraints on mobility and time burdens, resulting from the need to combine domestic duties, productive activities and management of the community. The barriers hindering equitable opportunity as identified by the World Bank include gender differences in the impact of economic downturns, unequal access to labor markets, unequal access to productive assets and pay discriminations. Interventions that could be used to address the opportunity dimension of poverty reduction may include the promotion of economic growth, equal access to the labor markets and to productive resources and reduction in women's travel and time burdens. Indicators to measure these dimensions are time budgets, employment, labor force participation and capital assets.

THE WORLD BANK HAS IDENTIFIED FOUR DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY THAT CAN BE USED AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE ANALYSIS, DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES. THEY ARE OPPORTUNITY, CAPACITY, SECURITY AND EMPOWERMENT.

The capacity dimension focuses on the lack of access to public services such as schools and health. The gender-differentiated barriers are unequal access to education and health and limited access to water and energy. Interventions include improving access to education, health, water and energy for women and men. Indicators to measure the capacity dimension include infant mortality, life expectancy, education, health, nutrition and qualitative indicators on culture, freedom, and autonomy.

The security dimension addresses issues of vulnerability to economic risks and civil and domestic violence. The gender-differentiated barriers include vulnerability to economic risks, natural disasters, civil and domestic violence and environmental risks. Interventions include helping poor men and women to prepare and manage risks, economic crises and natural disasters and to be protected from civil and domestic violence. Security indicators include economic vulnerability, exposure to violence and the lack of social capital.

The empowerment dimension deals with issues of being without voice and power at the household, community and national levels. The gender-differentiated barriers include the fact that state institutions are not accessible to poor women and men; that poor women and men lack the voice in local and national politics and women in particular do not have voice in community and household decision-making. Interventions should focus on making state institutions more responsive to poor women and men by removing barriers to their political participation. Empowerment indicators measure gender differences in participation and in

access to decision-making at the national and local political levels and in the control over resources in the communities and households.

Steps for integrating gender perspective in poverty reduction programming

Integrating gender perspective into poverty diagnosis according to the World Bank, includes ensuring that gender issues are assessed at the four dimensions of poverty related framework mentioned above, documenting the experiences of both men and women, conducting gender analysis of the data gathered and integrating findings into a poverty diagnosis. Using a gender-sensitive poverty analysis to define priority poverty interventions includes defining the implications for policy analysis in the country, identifying gender-responsive priorities for poverty reduction initiatives and integrating gender-responsive priorities into the policy responses and priority interventions and actions. Integrating gender into the monitoring and evaluation involves the gender dimension into the monitoring, the poverty reduction initiative monitoring and evaluation strategy, and building institutional capacities for gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation.

An example of how gender issues are addressed in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers-the case of Kenya I-PRSP

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers as well as their corresponding action plans are increasingly becoming some of the essential documents on which each UNFPA's country programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation are based. The gender issues addressed in UNFPA's country programmes also reflect the priority issues that are addressed in the PRSP documents. The Kenya I-PRSP document shows how gender

UNFPA'S COUNTRY PROGRAMMES ARE GENERALLY BASED ON UNFPA'S MANDATE, INTERNATIONALLY AGREEMENTS AND THE COUNTRY'S PRIORITIES AS DOCUMENTED IN ITS DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS.

issues are reflected in some of these documents. The areas discussed here are agriculture, education, health, HIV/AIDS, security and the administration of justice.

Agriculture and rural development: In agriculture and rural development, two of the identified priority issues were low income for women and land discriminatory policies and regulatory frameworks. The priority interventions suggested were to extend loan credit facilities to women and to promote the women's participation in extension services. For the second issue, some of the priority interventions were to review law and regulatory frameworks to increase women's access and control over land and to ensure that at least one-third of the membership of land boards are women.

Education: In education, some of the issues identified were women's lack of access to educational opportunities, low participation in management and girls' high school drop-out rates. The priority interventions proposed were to provide bursaries to girls, improve admission of girls to schools at all levels, review the Education Act, promote changes in attitudes through curriculum improvement, formulate admission policies that include affirmative action to cater for female students and students with special needs and enhance the management and provision of bursaries and loans to poor and vulnerable persons such as girl children and people with disabilities.

Health: In health, some of the priority issues identified were low access to quality services and low participation in management. The main interventions considered were to increase resources for reproductive health services, support the training of traditional birth attendants, employ gender-sensitive medical personnel and increase nutrition, immunization, and breast feeding programmes.

HIV/AIDS: For HIV/AIDS, one of the priority issue identified was the increase of mother-to-child transmission (MCT). Some proposed interventions were to prevent MCT, discourage practices that put girls and women at greater risks of contracting AIDS, prevent and manage HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STI) through the promotion of safer sex and increase male involvement in the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Security: In the area of security, one of the priority issue was the increase in sexual harassment, assault and domestic violence. The proposed interventions were to amend discriminatory legislations and legal frameworks, to implement Lady Justice Owuor recommendations on laws relating to women, and to review sections of the constitution relating to discrimination.

Administration of Justice: With regards to the administration of justice, one of the priority

issues identified was gender disparities and discrimination. The priority interventions were to implement the National Policy on Gender and Development, to amend discriminatory constitutional clauses and to promote gender awareness in public administration.

UNFPA's support in gender-responsive poverty alleviation programming

Gender concerns are highlighted in the UNFPA's strategic framework and are integrated into its programming processes.

UNFPA's efforts to address poverty from a gender perspective are based on integrating gender concerns in all its programming processes and addressing specific issues that contribute to poverty related gender disparities. UNFPA's participation in the United Nations Common Country Assessment (CCA) exercise ensures that gender analysis is integrated into the country programme analysis stage. The focus is on identifying issues concerning access and availability of reproductive health services, highlighting disparities in productive resources, analyzing inequalities in participation in decision making at the household, community and national levels, and assessing specific issues such as gender based violence, harmful traditional practices, male involvement in reproductive health and assessing issues that concern the girl-child and women empowerment.

UNFPA's strategic framework, the Multi-Year Funding Framework (MYFF) 2004-2007, which identifies the Fund's key expected results and provides a framework on which to design, implement and evaluate country programmes, addresses gender issues. Gender is one of the three main goals of the agency. UNFPA's organizational goals seek to achieve the following:

- All couples and individuals enjoy good reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, throughout life;
- Countries address interactions between population dynamics and equitable and sustainable social and economic development; and
- Gender equality and empowerment of women are achieved.

The output results indicate what the programme can deliver. Some outputs that address gender issues include increased information on gender issues, increased availability of comprehensive reproductive health services, improved quality of reproductive health



services, improved environment for addressing practices that are harmful to women’s health; national and sector development plans in line with International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action and increased availability of sex-disaggregated data. UNFPA’s programmes’ monitoring and evaluation plans and interventions are based on a defined set of indicators that are defined at the country level. Many of these indicators

are in line with the Fund’s set of indicators as presented in the MYFF.

UNFPA country programmes address some gender-related poverty alleviation issues

When one reflects on UNFPA’s inclusion of gender equality and women empowerment in its strategic framework, on the gender issues addressed in UNFPA country programmes, on the review of the gendered differential causes, experiences and effects of poverty and on a review of the four dimensions of poverty, one can conclude that the agency is undertaking important gender-responsive poverty reduction programming. Some of the areas in which UNFPA contributes in addressing



gender related poverty issues include the provision of quality reproductive health services, prevention of HIV/AIDS, advocating for adolescent reproductive health, promotion of male involvement in reproductive health, prevention of harmful practices, prevention of gender-based violence, promotion of the enforcement of the Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), promotion of girls education, promotion of women’s income generation activities, empowerment of women for increased participation in political, social, and family decision making and production of sex-disaggregated data. UNFPA country programmes promote the increased availability and access to quality reproductive health services to men, women, boys and girls.



Provision of contraceptives: UNFPA supported programmes ensure continuous supply in contraceptive commodities, including male and female condoms. The Fund purchases, ships and distributes them in different countries. The population is informed, educated and motivated to use contraceptive methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Most of the clients for contraceptive methods are women and girls. Since many of the health providers who work in family planning

services are women, UNFPA contributes to increasing the employment of women. Family planning services are extended to the communities through UNFPA's support to the Community Based Distribution (CBD) programmes. This extension services ensure that women who may not have the time to travel long distances to receive family planning methods could have the services brought to their communities. The family planning services providers including the CBD workers are trained so that they can provide quality services. In some cases, UNFPA contributes to improving the family planning service by providing medical supplies and equipment and in repairing some of the facilities.

HIV prevention: UNFPA implements HIV/AIDS prevention advocacy/ Information Education and Communication (IEC) programmes. IEC projects and materials that are produced and disseminated educate the population about HIV/AIDS and on how to prevent it. UNFPA promotes the use of male and female condoms as the means for preventing HIV/AIDS. The projects also empower women and girls to say no to unsafe sex.

Adolescent reproductive health: UNFPA programmes advocate for and promote adolescent reproductive and sexual health and rights through information and education of youth, parents and decision makers. They also provide reproductive health services for adolescent boys and girls. The IEC activities promote sexual abstinence, promote the use of family planning methods for those who are sexually active to prevent unwanted pregnancies, STIs and HIV/AIDS. The projects also inform and motivate young men and women about their responsibilities in protecting and promoting their reproductive and sexual health and that of their partners.





Gender discrimination prevention organization:

UNFPA provides support to organizations, projects and activities that focus on the elimination of discrimination against women. Projects and activities are designed to sensitize the population about the CEDAW. UNFPA supports governments and NGOs to set up structures to monitor and report on the progress that is being made in implementing the CEDAW.

Male involvement in reproductive health: UNFPA designs and implements projects that promote male involvement in reproductive health. Multi-media IEC campaigns address the importance of male involvement in reproductive health and how they can further assist in participating more responsibly in the promotion of their reproductive health and that of their partners and family members. UNFPA supports the establishment of services that cater for the reproductive health - care needs of men and young men. Service providers are also trained on how to provide effective male-friendly services.



Prevention of harmful practices: UNFPA designs projects that are aimed at the prevention of practices that are harmful to women and girls. Some of these practices that UNFPA programmes address are Female Genital Cuttings (FGC) and early marriages. For the prevention of FGC, the projects focus on informing the population about its harmful effects, on the design and implementation of alternate rights of passage projects and activities and on providing safety-nets for girls who escape from their homes because they do not want to undergo circumcision. In addition, UNFPA works with organizations such as the Inter Africa Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC) for the prevention of FGC. For the prevention of early marriages, UNFPA supports IEC activities that inform the population of their negative effects on the girl, family and society and advocates for increasing the legal age of marriage.



Prevention of gender based violence: Gender-based violence prevention activities are integrated into UNFPA funded projects to educate the population of the negative effects of gender based violence, to prevent such violence, and to assist in the care and treatment of rape and battered cases. The programmes also advocate for creating laws against rape and other types of sexual violence and abuse.



Promotion of girls' education: UNFPA designs advocacy and IEC programmes that promote girls' education. Since many cultures value boys more than girls and tend to invest more in boys' rather than on girls' education, UNFPA designs and implements advocacy and IEC projects that help to change these attitudes and behaviors. For example, the Family Life Education (FLE) information materials for students, teachers and parents address gender issues including the need to provide the same opportunities to boys and girls. UNFPA assists governments to develop policies such as the population, education and gender policies that emphasize the importance of girls' education. Further more, the agency collaborates and works with Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as the African Women Educationalists (FAWE) that promotes the education of the girl-child.

Income generating activities: UNFPA designs and implements few projects that promote women's income generation activities through the support of women groups and organizations. Information on reproductive and child health are integrated into the groups' activities. The projects strengthen the existing women's groups so as to empower them to participate in development activities. The groups receive seed money that enables them to initiate and sustain income-generating activities.



Participation in decision-making: UNFPA designs and implements programmes that empower women to participate more effectively in public life and in decision-making. Some projects are focused on strengthening female NGOs that address women and gender issues. This support may be in the form of funding their participation in international conferences and meetings and/or supporting their activities at the country level. UNFPA supports women in decision making through

the organization of women leaders' groups such as the Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians. During the meetings of these networks, members are trained on key gender issues that they could advocate for upon return to their respective countries. They are also trained in advocacy and are provided with advocacy tools. They are also encouraged to support each other and strengthen national and sub-regional networks.

Sex-disaggregated data: UNFPA provides assistance for the collection, analysis and reporting of sex-disaggregated data through the censuses, other population based surveys and specific studies. The analysis of such data can provide information that highlights gender differences in the access to and control over resources and participation in decision-making. UNFPA also funds specific gender related studies such as that on factors that contribute to increase girl's school drop-out rates, the practices of Female Genital Cuttings (FGC) and its effects on the magnitude and effects of gender-based violence.

Recommendations

UNFPA and its collaborating partners should strengthen the gender analysis components of country programmes, poverty reduction and common country assessments.

Increased efforts should be made in strengthening the methodologies, extent and depth of gender analyses that are conducted within the country poverty assessments of the PRSPs, the UN Common Country Assessments and the UNFPA Country Programme Assessments, where needed.

These analyses should use the World Bank's four dimensions of poverty---opportunity, capacity, security and empowerment--- as a framework for the analysis. The analyses should address the sex differentials in the four dimensions. These poverty assessment exercises should ensure that participatory consultations give voice to men and women alike so that the gender dimensions of poverty can be captured and the differential experience of poverty by both sexes can be understood. In addition, poor women and men should be involved in the analysis in order to provide them with the opportunity to assess their needs and propose potential ways for solving their problems. Only the poor can understand how poverty actually affects them.

STRENGTHEN THE GENDER ANALYSIS
COMPONENTS OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS,
POVERTY REDUCTION AND COMMON
COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS.

UNFPA and its collaborating partners should design and implement programmes that address the gender-related aspects of the various dimensions of poverty

Findings from the above assessments should be used as basis for making recommendations that include identifying priority gender related problems, setting specific priority objectives and proposing potential strategies and interventions that can be implemented to resolve the problems. UNFPA's support should ensure that policies and programmes are designed and implemented that strengthen women's rights to productive resources such as increased access to education, health services, employment, as well as access to land and savings. This will enable women to meet their social and economic needs and take advantage of economic opportunities. Programmes need to promote women's increased access to productive resources at the various stages of their life cycle.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMMES THAT ADDRESS THE GENDER-RELATED ASPECTS OF THE VARIOUS DIMENSIONS POVERTY.



Women groups and organizations should be fully involved in searching for ways to design projects that will address the gender dimensions of poverty. Women NGO's and groups can contribute significantly to alleviating poverty at the grass root levels.

UNFPA needs to increase and strengthen its efforts in the alleviation of the gender dimensions of poverty. These efforts, among others include:

- Increased focus on addressing gender equity, equality and women empowerment in programme designs, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Increased focus on advocacy for the promotion of girls' education, women's reproductive rights, and male involvement in reproductive health;
- Enhanced design of programme activities that address gender based violence and support the implementation of the CEDAW through policy dialogues;
- Strengthened the capacity of national partners to integrate gender perspective in country programmes, PRSPs and other development programmes; and
- Reinforced advocacy for policy interventions that focus on investing in household technology so as to address women's time burden issues that curtail women effective participation in development. Increased time saving investments should be made in areas such as water supply, fuel wood, transportation, efficient cooking stoves and transportation.

UNFPA and its collaborating partners should establish and implement monitoring and evaluation plans that will increase the capacity to assess, measure and monitor the effects that policies and programmes make in achieving set objectives in gender-sensitive poverty reduction initiatives.

Gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation plans that clearly indicate the poverty reduction expected results, priority activities to be implemented, defined indicators to measure the expected changes and achievements, the sources of the information for the indicators and the persons or organizations that will be responsible for implementing the monitoring and evaluation interventions should be established at the onset of the poverty reduction efforts.

ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORKS AND PLANS THAT WILL INCREASE THE CAPACITY TO ASSESS, MONITOR AND MEASURE THE EFFECTS THAT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES MAKE IN ACHIEVING SET OBJECTIVES IN GENDER-SENSITIVE POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVES.

Defining indicators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the poverty reduction initiatives in reaching and benefiting both men and women cannot be overemphasized. Interventions need to establish standards by which to measure the quality of gender-aware participation and participatory gender analysis. Effective support should be provided to conduct studies that would

show the negative impacts on women, the family and communities. These could be used to underscore the importance of supporting women's reproductive rights and promoting girls education. It is important to ensure that approaches to participatory research and policy dialogue address the gender biases that currently limit the participation of marginalized groups. Integrating and using gender participatory research and analysis on the local poverty situation to inform priorities for action is a timely action for building and shaping development and prosperity.

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