

High Level Political Forum 2020 – Side Event

GENDER DATA FOR GENDER EQUALITY: NEW APPROACHES TO ACCELERATE ACTION

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA) repeatedly references the need to regularly collect, generate, analyse, disseminate and present recent and reliable data disaggregated “by, among other factors, sex and age, other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables”. The BDPfA also calls for the development of qualitative and quantitative statistical indicators and methods to improve data that relate to the human rights of women. Such methods, data and indicators are needed to inform policy-making, planning, programmes, projects, monitoring and evaluation across the Critical Areas of Concern.

Twenty years after the adoption of the BDPfA, the necessity of “quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data” for ensuring that “no one is left behind”, alongside “developing broader measures of progress”, were reiterated in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.¹

At the twenty-fifth and fifth anniversaries, respectively, there remains a ‘gender data gap’ that is impeding progress towards gender justice and inclusive, equitable sustainable development. Convincing decision-makers of the need for action on equality, and for transformative actions to be adequately resourced, requires data – quantitative and qualitative. Diverse organizations are working together to fill the gender data gap. This work includes developing new multidimensional approaches that provide greater insight into women’s lives and the multiple and interconnected barriers to realising gender equality. New measures that are being developed include the Individual Deprivation Measure and the Gender Equality for Food Security measure. Complementing quantitative tools is qualitative research from which we can see the people behind the numbers, the trade-offs they face, and why action matters.

Individual Deprivation Measure: The Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) grew from critiques of household-level measurement and money-focused metrics, seeking to address the limitations of existing approaches including gender blindness and underestimation of poverty and inequality. As a gender-sensitive measure of multidimensional deprivation, the IDM assesses deprivation at the individual level, in relation to 15 key dimensions of life, making it possible to see who is poor, in what way and to what extent, identify those groups being left behind, and point decision-makers towards areas of greatest policy impact. The IDM is the result of more than 12 years of multisector research collaboration, trialling and refining that began with participatory research with thousands of people with lived experience of poverty across six countries. IDM studies have been undertaken in six countries, most recently in the Solomon Islands. The IDM comprises: (i) a survey assessing 15 economic, social and environmental dimensions, enabling measurement of gendered experiences of multidimensional poverty; (ii) data collection from each adult in a household, enabling intra-household analysis; and (iii) a standardised system of indicator coding, dimension scoring, and composite index construction, enabling comparative analysis. Data can be disaggregated to show how individual characteristics influence circumstances and interact to deepen deprivation.

Gender Equality for Food Security (GE4FS) Measure: Another gender data gap is in the area of hunger and malnutrition – Sustainable Development Goal 2 and encompassing several Critical Areas of Concern, such as poverty, health care, violence, access to resources, decision-making and managing natural resources. The ‘Gender Equality for Food Security’ (GE4FS) measure is a globally-applicable instrument that has been developed to illuminate the interconnectedness of dis/empowerment and food in/security. The GE4FS measure gathers, and enables comparison of, data on individuals’ experiences of gender in/equality and of food in/security. This is of value given that gender and food – and the associated inequalities and insecurities – are two elements of the daily lives of all persons. The GE4FS measure

¹ https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

combines the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)² and a set of questions exploring dimensions of personal empowerment that encompass resources, agency and physical integrity. Between 2018 and 2019, the GE4FS has been administered in 17 countries, through the Gallup World Poll.

Qualitative data: Qualitative data and research are complementary to the quantitative data that is collected during humanitarian responses. UNHCR's main source of quantitative data is gathered through registration and identity management of refugees. In synergy with the quantitative data collected, which includes sex and age disaggregated data, qualitative information is vital to further analysing, understanding, and taking action to address gender inequalities amongst displaced populations and within humanitarian processes. UNHCR has been documenting field practices on tackling gender inequalities, advancing the empowerment of women and girls, and preventing, mitigating and responding to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), thereby creating a record and an evidence base of what works, when it works, and how it works. This documentation contributes to shared learning and knowledge that is beneficial for both UNHCR and other humanitarian actors. The documented practices, from across different geographical regions, cover a wide range of issues, including livelihoods, housing, land and property rights, provision of protection-related documentation, participation in leadership, community-based protection, and coordination structures.

On the anniversary of global declarations, action plans and agendas, as HLPF 2020 focuses on accelerating action and transformative pathways, this side event will explore the necessity of robust, disaggregatable, gender-sensitive and multidimensional data for realising the visions and goals of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Beijing Declaration*. Making visible the circumstances of women and men in their diversity is a foundation for more focused and effective action to achieve gender equality, realise human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and secure a sustainable future for people and planet.

Panellists

- **Bernadette Castel-Hollingsworth**, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](#))
- **Kylie Fisk**, Research Fellow, Individual Deprivation Measure Team, International Women's Development Agency ([IWDA](#))
- **Ruth Maetala**, Researcher and Director, Dignity Pasifik, Solomon Islands
- **Jacqueline Paul**, Senior Gender Adviser, World Food Programme ([WFP](#))

Moderator: First Assistant Secretary and Ambassador for Gender Equality, Government of Australia
Julie-Ann Guivarra

Date & time 14 July 2020
08:00-09:00 New York / 14:00-15:00 Geneva
22:00-23:00 Melbourne / 23:00-00:00 Honiara

Event address <https://unhcr-events.webex.com/unhcr-events/onstage/g.php?MTID=e41004350593739bb553bc51861e07621>

Organizers IWDA IDM, UNHCR, WFP

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² <http://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/>