

Goal 3: Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning

National targets on goal 3 need to be gender sensitive. Increasing by a uniform per cent the proportion of children accessing and completing pre-primary, primary and secondary education will not address current gender inequalities in education; such as in the Central African Republic where 33 per cent of girls complete primary education compared to 53 per cent of boys, or in Burundi where 32 per cent of girls transition to secondary education compared to 42 per cent of boys. Therefore, we recommend at the national level higher percentage targets are set for girls than for boys.

To help increase the proportion of girls accessing and completing education, national and local governments also need to improve the safety of girls at, and on their journey to and from, school.

Goal 10, target b: Ensure people enjoy freedom of speech, association peaceful protest and access to independent media and information

Freedom of speech and access to independent media are essential to democracy and development. However, we urge governments to address the violent and sexualised portrayal of women and girls through all forms of media.

Goal 11d: Enhance the capacity, professionalism and accountability of the security forces, police and judiciary

It is important that the police, judiciary, military and other public officials are fully sensitised and trained to deal with violence against women and girls; in supporting survivors, dealing with perpetrators and administering justice – whether during peace, in conflict or in post-conflict situations. Civil society, non-governmental organisations and intergovernmental organisations can all play an important role in this and governments should create the space, opportunity and funding for this to happen.



Addressing the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality, and in particular preventing gender-based violence, is crucial to 'leaving no one behind' and ending 'business as usual'. Failure to do this would not just leave behind half of the global population – it would lead to the failure of creating the transformative shift needed for the development of all humankind.

To read our full statement to the UNCSW58 go to <http://tinyurl.com/nzk82lw>

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THE MDGS AND BEYOND:

Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals; and the post-2015 Development Agenda for Women and Girls

Since the inception of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, strides have been made in reducing extreme poverty and furthering development across the world. However, it is clear that many goals will not be achieved by the deadline of 2015.

⇒ 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

✓ The target of reducing extreme poverty rates by half was met in 2010

✗ 1.2 billion people are still living in extreme poverty

⇒ 2. Achieve universal primary education

✓ Enrolment in primary education in developing regions reached 90 per cent in 2010, up from 82 per cent in 1999

✗ In 2011, 57 million children of primary school age were out of school

⇒ 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

✓ The world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys

✗ Only 2 out of 130 countries have achieved that target at all levels of education

⇒ 4. Reduce child mortality

✓ The number of deaths in children under five worldwide declined from 12.4 million in 1990 to 6.6 million in 2012—that means 17,000 fewer children dying each day

✗ An increasing proportion of child deaths are in sub-Saharan Africa where one in 10 children die before the age of 5 and in Southern Asia where one in 16 die before age 5

⇒ 5. Improve maternal health

✓ An estimated 287,000 maternal deaths occurred in 2010 worldwide, a decline of 47 per cent from 1990

✗ The maternal mortality ratio in developing regions is still 15 times higher than in the developed regions

⇒ 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

✓ New HIV infections continue to decline in most regions; and the global estimated incidence of malaria has decreased by 17 per cent since 2000

✗ 2.5 million people are newly infected with HIV each year

⇒ 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

✓ There has been a reduction of over 98 per cent in the consumption of ozone-depleting substances since the adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987

✗ Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have increased by more than 46 per cent since 1990

⇒ 8. Develop a global partnership for development

✓ There has been some success of debt relief initiatives reducing the external debt of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC)

✗ Despite the pledges by G20 members to resist protectionist measures initiated as a result of the global financial crisis, only a small percentage of trade restrictions introduced since the end of 2008 have been eliminated.

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How Mothers' Union is working to further the Millennium Development Goals

Mothers' Union is a Christian, grassroots organisation working through 4 million members in 84 countries to support family life and promote loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. Through locally run programmes and projects, often in partnership with the church and other organisations, we have helped to further the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.



Through our **Family Life Programme** in Uganda, community participants tackle poverty and hunger (MDG1) through developing skills to run vegetable gardens and savings and credit schemes. Within their communities, groups also deliver education on HIV/AIDS (MDG6), which has led to more people seeking testing and treatment and a gradual reduction in the stigmatisation of those living with HIV/AIDS.

Through our **Literacy and Financial Education Programme** in Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Sudan and South Sudan we train community facilitators to introduce literacy, numeracy, financial education and business skills to small literacy circles. In particular, we seek to empower women (MDG3) to form savings cooperatives so that they can borrow money at a low interest rate to set up or expand their businesses. This income generation also helps families to send their girls to school (MDG2).



Mothers' Union is also working in a new way across the world. Through the **Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP)**, Mothers' Union members and Community Development Coordinators work with communities to identify their assets and how these can be used to meet their needs and improve their lives. Communities have used the process to improve income through agriculture, improve maternal healthcare and improve literacy (MDGs1 and 5).



And through our **advocacy** work, Mothers' Union is empowering women to speak out about their rights and other issues affecting their families and communities (MDG3). Through our advocacy toolkits in Burundi, South Sudan and the United Kingdom, Mothers' Union members are equipped to engage with their governments on issues such as gender-based violence, the reconciliation of work and family life and the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood.

The post-2015 Development Agenda

Mothers' Union welcomes the new post-2015 Development Agenda set out in '**A New Global Partnership**' and the recommended 12 goals and targets, in particular the stand alone goal on gender, as well as gender mainstreaming throughout other goals.

We have specific recommendations on a number of the new goals, which reflect the voice of our members. They also build upon consensus reached in the agreed conclusions of the Fifty-seventh Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, on eliminating violence against women and girls.



Goal 1: End Poverty

Whilst constitutionally many countries give women and men equal rights to own property, in practice this is not sufficient to ensure equality is a reality in many places. A number of additional legal frameworks need to be in place for women to secure rights to land, property and other assets; such as inheritance law, marital property law and land tenure law. Where customary law governs these issues, there is room for contradiction, confusion and wilful denial of rights; and consequently many women are unable to exercise their constitutional rights to own.

Targets need to take into account the fact that women are still disadvantaged in terms of ownership rights and therefore higher national percentage targets are needed for women than for men. This will also help ensure equal rights of women to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register a business and open a bank account.

Goal 2: Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality

Preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against girls and women must be tackled universally. There is no country on earth where gender-based violence does not occur, and it is not a human rights violation that developed nations have overcome. To prevent and eliminate violence, member states need to:

- ⇒ Raise awareness of gender-based violence and challenge underlying attitudes that perpetuate it
- ⇒ Invest in prevention, addressing the intersecting factors that lead to gender-based violence
- ⇒ Ensure provision for survivors of gender-based violence and their children
- ⇒ Support rehabilitative services that change attitudes and behaviours of perpetrators, to reduce the likelihood of re-offending.