

# **MDG Goal 3—Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: An Assessment of Gains and Remaining Challenges**

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# MGD Declaration-Goal 3

- **The MDG Declaration resolved, among other things, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.”**
- **Goal 3 of the MDG focuses on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.**
- **It’s main target is to “eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education, no later than 2015.”**

UNIFEM, 2008. *Ibid, Report of the* page 1.

United Nations, 2007, *The Millenium Development Goals Report 2007*. New York.

# Country Initiatives to Address Gender Equality Issues

- Ratification of CEDAW and other human rights conventions;
- Passage of enabling laws to eliminate gender-based discrimination, harm and abuse;
- Thirty-Year Development Plan to promote gender equality;
- Gender Budget policy and gender mainstreaming approach to program development;
- Creation of various programs and services especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups of women;
- Promotion of gender-fair education

## **Set Indicator 1:** Female and male school participation rates

Over the last decade, there has been marked improvement in the school participation rates of females compared to males across the three levels of education and based on such indicators as **simple literacy rate, functional literacy rate, enrollment figures, cohort survival rate, completion rate and number of graduates in higher education.**

# School performance data

- **Female adult literacy rate of women was 95.7% in 2004 compared to 92% in 1990. The males had a lower rate increase of 94.4% in 2004 compared to 93.1% in 1990.**
- **Girls fared slightly better in terms of enrolment indicators in elementary and secondary education.**
- **Female NER at the secondary level was 49.58 percent, while male NER was 41.34 percent .There was greater disparity between girls and boys in high school at 1.20 GPI which is equivalent to 120 girls in every 100 boys.**

# School performance data

- **The average dropout rate (ADR) at the elementary level was lower for female at 0.93 percent compared to male ADR at 1.57 percent;**
- **There was also a slightly higher participation rate of females in Muslim schools but slightly higher participation rates for males in indigenous communities**
- **In tertiary schools, the female enrollment rate during the SY 2005-2006 was 54.48% compared to the 45.5% of males.**
- **The gap in women's participation across various professional fields has narrowed as well in recent years**

## **Indicator 2: Equal access to employment opportunities**

- While the educational status of Filipino women has improved in recent years, this has not immediately translated into a better access for them of employment opportunities.
- For example, while the October 2008 Labor Force Survey (LFS) showed a slight increase in the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) of both sexes, the rate for females was only at 48.6% (from 48.2% in 2007) compared to the male rate of 78.9% (from 78.3% in 2007).
- Nonetheless, female unemployment rate for the same year was relatively lower at 6.5% which is equivalent to 929 thousand compare to male at 7.0% which is estimated at 1.6 million.

# Access to employment.....

- There is, in fact, an increasing trend of unpaid workers over the past years. In October 2006, unpaid family workers in own family business or enterprise were estimated at 4.3 million in the agriculture, industry and services sectors from 3.7 million in 2003. Of the total figures, 2.4 million **(55.8%) were unpaid women workers** while only 1.9 million **(44.2%) were unpaid male workers**. A large fraction of the unpaid workers, both women and men, were laborers and unskilled workers (78.4%) in the agriculture sector (73.7%).



# Indicator 3: Equality in access to decision-making positions

- In 2007, females occupied only 21 percent of the 240 seats in the House of Congress; 29 percent of all positions in the first and second level courts and 5 out of 15 seats in the Supreme Court.
- It must be noted, however, that the middle level positions—the technical teams operating the bureaucracy—are composed of highly educated women; they occupy 74 percent of all second-level career service positions.
- There are slightly more females (58 percent of the 2.32 million employees) working in the executive branch of government. They dominate the technical or second-level positions while the men are either in skilled (e.g. clerk, driver) or in managerial/executive posts.

# **Persistent and Emerging Challenges to the Full Attainment of MDG Goal 3**

- **Male-centered political culture**
- **Domestic Violence and Other Forms of Abuse Against Women and Children.**
- **Lack of Access to Reproductive Health Information and Services.**
- **Growing feminization of overseas migration and stresses on family life.**

# Conclusions.....

- There has been significant progress in advancing the status of Filipino women;
- Persistent and emerging gender issues continue to pose serious challenges to the full realization of the MDGs.
- There is a need to have a closer look at the declining school participation rates of the sexes, especially of the males;
- There is a need to continue with efforts to eliminate all forms of discriminatory practices in the country.

Thank you.....

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# School performance data

- **The gap in women's participation across various professional fields has narrowed as well in recent years**

# Two additional indicators.....

- **Set Indicator 1:** Female and male school participation rates
- **Indicator 2: Equal access to employment opportunities**
- **Indicator 3: Equality in access to decision-making positions**

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