



## **Data on the Status of Women Worldwide**

Gender Equality and Sustainable Development  
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### **❖ Income**

- Wage Economy - While women's participation in the wage labor sector is increasing, they represent half of all wages earners in only 17 countries. Women still average approximately 77 cents for every dollar men earn in developed countries and 73 cents in developing countries.
- Poverty - Women are the poorest of the poor. More than two thirds of the one billion people living on less than \$1.00 per day are women and children; the majority of these live in rural areas.

### **❖ Education**

- Literacy - Almost twice as many women as men worldwide are illiterate (600 million women to 320 million men). While countries have made progress in girls' education, the gender gap persists even in primary school in the least developed countries. At the secondary school level, fewer than half the girls remain enrolled, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.

### **❖ Health**

- Mortality - Every minute, a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth. This adds up to 1400 women dying each day and more than 500,000 each year, of which 99 percent are in developing countries.
- Child mortality - Each year approximately, 11 million children under five in developing countries die, mostly from preventable diseases.

- HIV/AIDS - Over 95 percent of the 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS are in developing countries. While women account for almost half of infected adults, among young women, the percentage is far higher and likely to become worse.
- Reproductive health care - Including access to family planning services, reproductive health services allow women and adolescents (where contraception is widely available) to delay and better space their childbearing.

### ❖ Access to Resources

- Livelihoods - Rural women are responsible for 60 to 80 percent of food production in developing countries, but many of these countries prohibit women from acquiring or disposing of land without their husbands' consent.

### ❖ Access to Water and Sanitation

- As economic providers and unpaid caregivers and household managers, women are most often responsible for ensuring that their families have water and a sanitary environment for daily living. Women make a disproportionate contribution to good household sanitation. As women are primarily responsible for the unpaid work of raising children and caring for the sick and elderly, insufficient access to sanitation increases the burden on women and further puts at risk the health and hygiene of them and their families. And when water is scarce, polluted or unaffordable, women suffer most acutely. On average women spend 134 minutes a day simply collecting water.

### ❖ Violence Against Women

- Violence against women cuts across socioeconomic, religious and ethnic groups as well as geographic areas. Evidence from diverse countries reveals that women living in poverty are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence as are adolescent girls.

### ❖ Political Participation

- Despite the commitment adopted by governments in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action to set a target of 30 percent of seats for women in national parliaments, ten years later only 21 countries have reached this target. The global average is only 15 percent. Effective strategies to achieve such change have been identified and replicated particularly in Africa, Europe and Latin America.