Gender equality means that girls and boys, women and men, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. Investments in gender equality contribute to lifelong positive outcomes for children and their communities and have considerable inter-generational payoffs because children’s rights and well-being often depend on women’s rights and well-being. This snapshot shows key dimensions of gender equality during the lifecycle. It is organized around: 1) the first decade of life (0-9 years of age) when gender disparities are often small, particularly in early childhood; 2) the second decade of childhood (10-19 years of age) when gender disparities become more pronounced with the onset of puberty and the consolidation of gender norms; and 3) adulthood, when gender disparities impacts both the wellbeing of women and girls and boys.

Every Girl & Boy Survives & Thrives: The First Decade of Life

**Early Stimulation & Responsive Care by Adults**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Adult</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of children aged 2-4 years with whom adult household members engaged in activities that promote learning and school readiness during the last three days, by person interacting with child and sex of child.

Note: Activities include: reading books to the child; telling stories to the child; singing songs to the child; taking the child outside the home; playing with the child; and naming, counting or drawing things with the child.

**Early Childhood Development Index, SDG 4.2.1**

Percentage of children aged 3-4 years who are developmentally on track in at least 3 of the following 4 domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning domains, by sex.

**Violent Discipline, SDG 16.2.1 Sex Disaggregate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any violent discipline</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical punishment</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological aggression</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of children aged 1-14 years who experienced violent discipline in the past month, by sex.

Note: The age group 1-14 spans the first and second decades of life.
**Every Girl & Boy Learns: The First Decade of Life**

Investment in good quality early childhood education services prior to entering school improves learning outcomes for children. It also enhances the efficiency of the school system by reducing repetition and drop-out and improving achievement, especially among girls and marginalized groups. Primary education provides the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Considerable progress has been made in achieving universal education and closing the gender gap but gender disparities to the disadvantage of girls still exist in some countries. Further, girls still comprise the majority of the world’s out-of-school population.

**Note:** Because children of primary school age range from 6-14 years, these indicators include some children in their second decade of life.

### Participation Rate in Organized Learning, SDG 4.2.2

- **Girls:** 63%
- **Boys:** 71%

Percent distribution of children age one year younger than the official primary school entry age at the beginning of the school year, by attendance to education, and attendance to an early childhood education programme or primary education (adjusted net attendance ratio), by sex.

### Primary School Attendance

Percentage of children of primary school age attending primary or secondary school (adjusted net attendance ratio), by wealth quintile and urban/rural residence.

### Children of Primary School Age Out of School

Percentage of children of primary school age not attending either primary or secondary school, by wealth quintile and area.

### Primary Completion

Percentage of children who are aged 3 to 5 years above the intended age for the last grade of primary school who have completed primary education, by sex.

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**Key Messages**

- There are no differences among the percentage of boys and girls aged 2-4 years with whom any adult household members engaged in activities that promote learning and school readiness during the last three days, 91 percent for girls and boys.
- Father is a little bit more engaged in those activities with girls (48 percent) then with boys (41 percent).
- The percentage of boys and girls aged 3-4 years who are developmentally on track in at least 3 of 4 domains (literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning) is almost the same - 90 and 91 percent, respectively.
- The situation is similar related to violent discipline. There are no differences between the percentage of boys and girls aged 1-14 years who experienced violent discipline in the 30 days preceding the survey (66 percent).
- 63 percent of girls and 71 percent of boys aged one year younger than the official primary school entry age attended an early childhood education programme or primary education.
Every Adolescent Girl & Boy Survives & Thrives: The Second Decade of Life

While adolescence carries new health risks for both girls and boys, girls often face gender-specific vulnerabilities, with lifelong consequences. Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of death worldwide for adolescent girls age 15 to 19. Preventing adolescent pregnancy not only improves the health of adolescent girls, but also provides them with opportunities to continue their education, preparing them for jobs and livelihoods, increasing their self-esteem and giving them more say in decisions that affect their lives. Yet, too often, adolescent girls lack access to appropriate sexual and reproductive health services, including modern methods of contraception. Additionally, despite having a higher risk of contracting HIV due to both greater physiological vulnerabilities and gender inequalities, adolescent girls are often less knowledgeable than adolescent boys about how HIV is transmitted. However, gender norms adversely impact adolescent boys as well. For example, norms around masculinity that encourage risk taking may heighten adolescent boys’ use of alcohol and tobacco, increasing their likelihood of developing noncommunicable diseases later in life.

### Live Birth or Pregnancy with First Child among Girls Aged 15-19 years

- **Total**: 1%
- **Poorest**: 5%
- **Richest**: (0)%

### Early Childbearing - by Age 18

- **Total**: 3%
- **Urban**: 3%
- **Rural**: 3%

### Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV

- **Boys**: 25%
- **Girls**: 23%

Percentage of women aged 15-19 years who have had a live birth or are pregnant with first child, by wealth quintile

( ) Figure based on 25-49 unweighted cases

Percentage of women aged 20-24 years who had a live birth by age 18, by urban/rural residence

Percentage of adolescent girls and boys aged 15-19 years who know of the two ways of HIV prevention (having only one faithful uninfected partner and using a condom every time), who know that a healthy looking person can be HIV-positive, and who reject the two most common misconceptions, and any other local misconception.
Every Adolescent Girl & Boy is Protected from Violence & Exploitation: The Second Decade of Life

Adolescence presents unique vulnerabilities to violence and exploitation for girls. In many countries, marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for girls due to the interaction of several factors that place a girl at risk, including poverty, social norms, customary or religious laws that condone the practice, an inadequate legislative framework and the state of a country’s civil registration system. Child marriage often compromises a girl’s development by resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupting her schooling, and limiting her opportunities for career and vocational advancement. It also often involves a substantial age difference between the girl and her partner; thus further disempowering her and putting her at greater risk of partner violence, sexually transmitted diseases and lack of agency. Attitudes about wife beating serve as a marker for the social acceptability of intimate partner violence. Acceptance of wife beating among adolescent girls and boys suggests that it can be difficult for married girls who experience violence to seek assistance and for unmarried girls to identify and negotiate healthy and equitable relationships. Gender-based discrimination may be one of the most ubiquitous forms of discrimination adolescent girls face, and it has long-lasting and far-reaching effects on their personal trajectories as well as on all aspects of social and economic development. While in most regions, girls and boys are equally likely to be involved in child labour, gender is a determinant of the types of activities boys and girls engage in, with girls more likely to be involved in domestic work.

Child Marriage, SDG 5.3.1

Percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18, by residence and wealth quintile.

Child Labour, SDG 8.7.1 and Hazardous Work

Percentage of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour, by sex, age group and type of activity

* Note: The indicator includes children in the first & second decade of life

**The definition of child labour used for SDG reporting does not include hazardous working conditions. This is a change over the previously defined ILO6 indicator. Additionally, the threshold of the amount of hours for household chores was changed during MICS implementation, due to a change in the SDG indicator definition: From 28 to 21 hours for both children age 5-11 and 12-14 years. In the new definition, there is no longer a maximum number of hours for chores of children age 15-17 years.

Feelings of Safety, SDG 16.1.4 Age & Sex Disaggregate

Percentage of adolescents aged 15-19 years who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, by sex.

Attitudes toward Domestic Violence

Percentage of adolescents aged 15-19 years who justify wife beating for any of the following reasons: she goes out without telling him; she neglects the children; she argues with him; she refuses sex with him; she burns the food, by sex and age group.
To become empowered, adolescent girls and boys need to be engaged as civic participants in the decisions affecting their lives and communities. People’s sense of security and freedom from the fear of crime influences how they move about those communities, access services and economic opportunities and participate in public life. Adolescent girls and boys are likely to have different perceptions of personal safety due to different gender-based vulnerabilities to sexual violence and other crimes. Life satisfaction measures an individual’s perceived level of well-being or how an individual feels about their life as a whole. Measuring adolescent girls’ and boy’s satisfaction with their lives can provide important insights into their mental health during a stage of life when gender norms consolidate and girls and boys experience different risk factors for mental health disorders.

Among adolescents aged 15-19 years, average life satisfaction score on a scale of 0 to 10, by sex and age group:

- Girls: 9.0
- Boys: 8.2

Percentage of adolescent girls and boys aged 15-19 years who in the last 12 months have felt discriminated against or harassed for any reason:

- Girls: 7%
- Boys: 3%

Among adolescents aged 15-19 years, average life satisfaction score on a scale of 0 to 10, by sex and age group:

- Girls: 8.5
- Boys: 8.6

Percentage of children of secondary school age attending secondary school or higher (adjusted net attendance ratio), by sex, wealth quintile and area:

- Girls:
  - Total: 91
  - Poorest: 68
  - Rural: 61
  - Urban: 97

- Boys:
  - Total: 85
  - Poorest: 66
  - Rural: 65
  - Urban: 91

Percentage of children who aged 3 to 5 years above the intended age for the last grade of secondary school who have completed secondary education, by sex:

- Girls: 90
- Boys: 83

While participation in secondary education is expanding, progress lags behind primary education. Gender disparities disadvantaging girls are also wider and occur in more countries at the secondary level than at the primary level. Yet, advancing girls’ secondary education is one of the most transformative development strategies countries can invest in. Completion of secondary education brings significant positive benefits to girls and societies – from increased lifetime earnings and national growth rates, to reductions in child marriage, stunting, and child and maternal mortality.
Exclusion from Activities during Menstruation: Among adolescent girls age 15-19 who reported menstruating in the last 12 months, percentage using appropriate menstrual hygiene materials with a private place to wash and change while at home.

The ability of adolescent girls to safely manage their monthly menstrual cycle in privacy and with dignity is fundamental to their health, psychosocial well-being and mobility. Girls in low-resource and emergency contexts without access to adequate menstrual hygiene management facilities and supplies experience stigma and social exclusion while also forgoing important educational, social and economic opportunities.

Key Messages

• There are no major differences in the percentages of adolescent girls and boys aged 15-19 years with comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention (25 and 23 percent, respectively).
• 3 percent of adolescent girls and 7 percent adolescent boys aged 15-19 years have felt discriminated or harassed for any reason in the last 12 months.
• Among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years, 98 percent who reported menstruating in the last 12 months, use appropriate menstrual hygiene materials with a private place to wash and change while at home.
• Additionally, 12 percent of adolescent girls aged 15-19 years who menstruated did not participate in social activities, school or work due to their last menstruation in the last 12 months.
• 91 percent of girls and 85 percent of boys of secondary school age attended secondary school or higher (adjusted net attendance ratio).
• The percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were first married or in union before age 15, or before age 18, is the highest among the poorest population. First marriage/union before age 15 is reported among 11 percent of women aged 20-24 years, while first marriage/union before age 18 is reported among 19 percent of women this age.
Gender Equality in Adulthood

To survive and thrive, all children require care and support from women and men. Care and support can be substantively improved by fostering gender equality, an important goal in its own right, and by reducing the gender-related barriers. Gender-related barriers include women’s and girls’ disproportionate lack of information, knowledge and technology, resources, and safety and mobility, as well as the gender division of labour and gender norms. For example, a mother’s lack of mobility, due to prohibitive norms or lack of transportation, may impede birth registration, nutrition, and other child outcomes. The internalization of gender norms around masculine and feminine expectations and behaviours may influence women’s and men’s attitudes toward intimate partner violence and physical punishment of children as well as self-perceptions of well-being, including life satisfaction and expectations for the future.

Access to Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td></td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of adults aged 15-49 years who are literate, by sex

Time on Household Chores: Water Collection

Who collects water?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women 15+</th>
<th>Men 15+</th>
<th>Div/ Missing/Members do not collect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent distribution of household members without drinking water on premises by person usually collecting drinking water used in the household

Time spent on water collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Up to 30 mins</th>
<th>31 mins to 1 hour</th>
<th>Over 1 hour to 3 hours</th>
<th>Div/ Missing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>(22)</td>
<td>(78)</td>
<td>(10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent distribution of average amount of time spent collecting water per day by sex of person primarily responsible for water collection in households without drinking water on premises

( ) Figures that are based on 25-49 unweighted cases
Gender Equality in Adulthood

Safety & Security

Feeling safe while walking alone, SDG 16.1.4 sex disaggregate

- In Montenegro, 98 percent of men and 97 percent of women aged 15-49 years are literate.
- Among household members without drinking water on-premises, men older than 15 years of age collect drinking water for the household in 61% of cases.
- 84 percent of women in both urban and rural areas feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood after dark. The proportion of men who feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood after dark is slightly higher than among women (96 percent in rural and 97 percent in urban areas).
- 94 percent of women and 97 percent of men years aged 15-49 in urban areas feel safe being home alone after dark. The percentages in rural areas are 92 for women and 99 for men this age.
- 10 percent of women and 4 percent of men believe that physical punishment is needed to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly.

Key Messages
Gender Equality in Adulthood

Feminine & masculine attitudes & expectations

Attitudes toward domestic violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richest</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poorest</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of adults aged 15-49 years who justify wife beating for any of the following reasons: she goes out without telling him; she neglects the children; she argues with him; she refuses sex with him; she burns the food, by sex, wealth quintile and area.

Attitudes toward physical punishment

Percentage of caretakers who believe that physical punishment is needed to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly, by sex of caretaker.

Life satisfaction

Among adults aged 15-49 years, average life satisfaction score on a scale of 0 to 10, by sex, wealth quintile and marital status. Higher scores indicate higher satisfaction levels.

Perceptions of a better life

Percentage of adults aged 15-49 years who expect that their lives will get better in one year, by sex, wealth quintile and marital status.

The Montenegro Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2018 by the Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT) as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UNICEF, the Government of Montenegro, and UNHCR provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the 2018 Montenegro MICS related to Gender Equality. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables TC.10, TC.11.1, PR.2.1, PR.2.2, PR.3.3, PR.3.4, PR.6.1W, PR.6.1M, PR.7.1W, PR.7.1M, PR.8.1W, PR.8.1M, EQ.3.1W, EQ.3.1M, EQ.4.1W, EQ.4.1M, EQ.4.2W, EQ.4.2M, LN.1.2, LN.2.3, LN.2.6, LN.2.7, TM.2.2W, SR.6.1W, SR.6.1M, WS.1.3, WS.1.4, WS.4.1 and WS.4.2.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other MICS surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.