



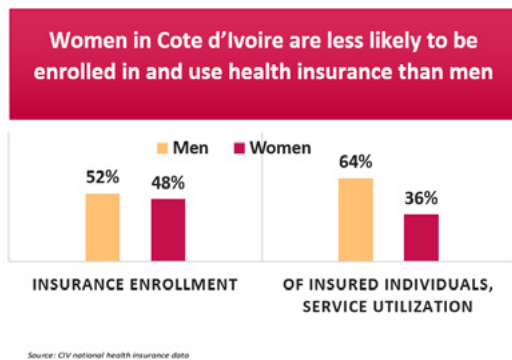
GLOBAL MEASUREMENT UPDATE

Progress in Gender-Responsive Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

WHY GENDER EQUALITY IN HEALTH SYSTEMS?

Gender inequality in health systems affects access to care, health outcomes, and resource distribution, with women and girls particularly disadvantaged. Health systems often reflect gender imbalances in leadership, with men overrepresented and women bearing the burden of unpaid care work. Addressing these inequalities is essential for equitable, inclusive healthcare and improved health outcomes. Yet, different definitions and approaches to monitoring gender equality and health have made it challenging to implement gender-responsive programs.

WHY IS GENDER-RESPONSIVE M&E IMPORTANT?



Gender-responsive M&E intentionally integrates “the needs, rights, preferences and power relations among women and girls, men and boys, and gender minority individuals, as well as across social, political, economic and health systems, in M&E processes.”¹ It is crucial for identifying disparities in program participation and outcomes, ensuring inclusivity, and improving health systems. [The Monitoring for Gender and Equity \(MAGE\)](#) initiative, a partnership between the Global Financing Facility and Johns Hopkins University, and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, supports gender responsive M&E efforts for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH+N) outcomes.

WHAT KINDS OF INDICATORS ARE IMPORTANT?

Gender-responsive indicators measure: 1) the ways in which women and girls are disadvantaged compared to men, 2) whether women's and girls' needs, preferences, and rights are being met, and 3) the extent to which health systems are responding to and addressing women's and girl's needs, preferences, and rights. Gender-responsive M&E includes three different types of gender indicators that can be incorporated within systems and processes as presented in Table 1. These indicators are overlapping and complementary. A visual example is presented above; additional examples of these indicators are available [here](#).

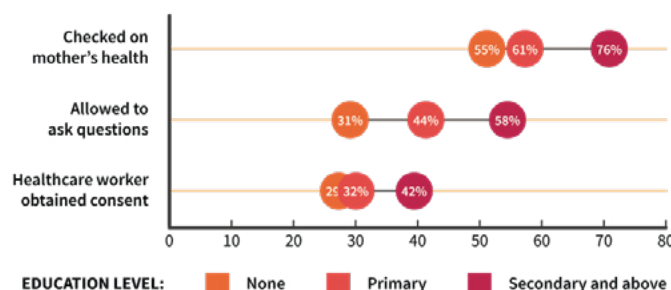
Table 1. Types of Gender Indicators

TYPE	WHAT THEY EXPLORE	EXAMPLE
Sex- or gender-specific indicators	Pertain to only one sex/gender	% women receiving antenatal care per standards on quality of care
Sex- or gender-disaggregated indicators	Measure differences between different sex and gender groups	% women vs. men benefiting from health insurance
Gender power relations and systems level indicators	How gender power relations and systems manifest as inequities (e.g., resources, practices, policies)	% of health facilities managed by a female supervisor

WHAT TO MEASURE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND HEALTH?

Gender indicators should integrate a needs, rights, and preferences lens throughout the process. Deciding which gender indicators to integrate depends on factors like existing gender integration, data availability, and contextual constraints such as resources or cultural considerations. For example, examining gender differences in health insurance enrollment and utilization can help countries identify gender equity gaps to address to achieve universal healthcare coverage. Similarly, assessing whether women receive care that reflects their needs, preferences, and decision-making can guide improvements in maternal health service quality.

In Ethiopia, education inequalities shape women's experiences of respectful maternal care



Source: PMA Ethiopia, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.34976/8r5s-dx31>

WHAT'S AHEAD?

Gender-responsive M&E provides a framework for health programs, systems, and decision-makers to become more responsive, improve access, and tackle inequities. The MAGE project hosts a number of very helpful resources to support stakeholders in taking forward gender responsive M&E including:

[Gender tools library](#) to find tools that will help integrate gender into M&E focusing on gender mainstreaming, gender integration, gender analysis, and gender assessment across different health topics.

[Gender data portals](#) which is a comprehensive listing of different gender data portals that can be used to explore and analyze global, regional, and county level gender and health data.

[Resources](#) including short technical briefs that focus on implementation of gender responsive M&E.

Ministries of Health and program implementers, such as those working on MOMENTUM awards, are encouraged to assess and integrate gender responsive M&E and consider priority actions to improve their systems. Likewise, **health program evaluators and researchers** can consider gender-responsive M&E when assessing intervention effectiveness and impact. The Global Financing Facility supports countries to advance gender equity, including through gender-responsive M&E approaches. They [monitor specific gender and RMNCAH+N indicators](#), which emphasize the role of current gender inequalities as determinants of RMNCAH+N outcomes. Learn more at <https://data.gffportal.org/key-theme/gender-equality>

This fact sheet was prepared in collaboration with the MAGE project team.

REFERENCES

1. Morgan R, Kalbarczyk A, Decker M, et al. Gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation for health systems. Health Policy Plan. 2024 Aug 21;:czae073. doi: 10.1093/heapol/czae073.
2. Morgan R, Decker MR, Elnakib S et al. Gender Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for health programs, interventions, and reforms. 2023. Available: <https://www.mageproject.org/resource/gender-responsive-monitoring-and-evaluation/>, accessed 8 September 2024.

MORE INFORMATION

MAGE project: www.mageproject.org

GFF: data.gffportal.org/key-theme/gender-equality

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