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Gender: the hidden dimension of Millennium Development Goals

September 21, 2010. By Jerome Cukier

World leaders have been at the UN in New York this week to assess, and hopefully breathe new life into, efforts to achieve the so-called Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Most of the goals are in danger of being missed. Is there a way to jumpstart efforts to make the deadline by 2015? Gender may hold part of the answer. The third goal explicitly aims to "promote gender equality and empower women" (MDG3), but research by the OECD Development Centre suggests that gender issues have a direct and profound impact on several other MDG targets. Tackling gender would help reach other goals too.

The OECD Development Centre has developed a framework to monitor the discrimination against women by social institutions. These so-called SIGI indicators ([Social Institutions Gender Index](#)) include variables such as violence against women, acceptance of polygamy or ownership rights of women ([12 indicators in total](#))

The study shows that countries in which societies strongly discriminate against women tend to score poorly in several of the Millennium Development Goals.

Read the complete article at <http://blog.oecdfactblog.org/?p=229#more-229>