**The 2015 Hunger Report by the Numbers**

**Progress against poverty**

Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) calls for cutting extreme poverty in half between 1990 and 2015. In 1990, almost half of the population in developing regions lived in extreme poverty (less than $1.25 a day). This rate dropped to 22 percent by 2010, achieving the MDG target five years ahead of schedule.[[1]](#endnote-1)

The absolute number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 1.2 billion in 2010.[[2]](#endnote-2) Poverty rates are falling in every developing region. Currently, the overwhelming majority of people living on less than $1.25 a day reside in two regions: South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.[[3]](#endnote-3)

**Hunger declining around the world**

Currently, 13.5 percent of the population in developing countries is undernourished (hungry). In 1990-1992, 23.4 percent of the population was hungry.[[4]](#endnote-4) If the current trend continues through 2015, hunger in developing regions will fall to 12.8 percent in 2015—1.1 percentage points above the MDG target of 11.7 percent. [[5]](#endnote-5)

About 805 million people are estimated to be chronically hungry in 2012–2014, down more than 100 million during the last decade and down 209 million from 1990–1992.[[6]](#endnote-6)

**Gender inequality slowing progress against poverty and hunger**

In the year 2000, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) estimated that improvements in women’s status explained as much as 55 percent of the reduction in child malnutrition between 1970 and 1995. Progress on women’s education alone explained 43 percent of the gains.[[7]](#endnote-7)

In 2011, some 31 million primary-aged girls and 34 million lower secondary-aged girls were out of school.[[8]](#endnote-8)

Research in India has found that boys and girls ages 15–19 in the wealthiest fifth of the population reach grade 10 on average, but the median boy in the bottom fifth reaches only grade 6 and the median girl only grade 1.[[9]](#endnote-9)

Only one in two girls in Niger attends primary school. Just one in 10 goes to lower secondary, and one in 50 reaches upper secondary school.[[10]](#endnote-10) In Niger, 75 percent of girls are married before the age of 18 –the highest rate of child marriage in the world.[[11]](#endnote-11)

Globally, there are more than 14 million new child bride every year—that’s 39,000 weddings per day.[[12]](#endnote-12)

Since 1990, maternal deaths worldwide have fallen by 45 percent. Still, every day about 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.[[13]](#endnote-13)

Girls younger than 15 are five times more likely than women in their 20s to die during pregnancy or childbirth.[[14]](#endnote-14)

In some countries, women and girls spend up to six hours of every day just fetching water.[[15]](#endnote-15) Globally, every day women devote one to three additional hours to housework than men; two to 10 times the amount of time in caring for children, elders, and people who are sick; and one to four hours fewer to income-earning activities.[[16]](#endnote-16)

Globally, women hold an average of 22 percent of seats in national parliaments.[[17]](#endnote-17)

Between 1990 and 2010, only 16 percent of peace agreements contained at least one reference to women or gender.[[18]](#endnote-18)

**Gender-based violence: a threat to women everywhere**

Globally, women aged 15-44 are more at risk of rape and domestic violence than cancer, motor accidents, war, or malaria.[[19]](#endnote-19)

One in three women around the world has experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner.[[20]](#endnote-20)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four U.S. women have suffered severe physical violence by an intimate partner.[[21]](#endnote-21)

Research shows that men from homes where the father used violence are more than twice as likely to use violence against their own partners as men who did not experience such violence growing up.[[22]](#endnote-22)

**The feminization of hunger and poverty in the United States**

In 2013, 31.5 percent of women earned poverty-level wages, significantly higher than the 23.7 percent of men who did.[[23]](#endnote-23)

The Equal Pay Act was signed into law in 1963. At the time, women were paid 59 cents for every dollar that men were paid.[[24]](#endnote-24) The most recent data show that women who work full-time, year-round are paid about 78 cents for every dollar that men in comparable positions are paid.[[25]](#endnote-25)

Closing the wage gap between men and women would cut the poverty rate among working women and their families by half. The poverty rate for working single mothers would fall from 29 percent to 15 percent.[[26]](#endnote-26)

Pay equity would make far more progress against poverty than Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The total increase in women’s earnings with pay equity, in fact, is more than 14 times as much as the federal and state governments spent on TANF in fiscal year 2012.[[27]](#endnote-27)

High-income workers are four times as likely as low-income workers to have paid sick leave.[[28]](#endnote-28) In a poll commissioned for *The Shriver Report*, 96 percent of working single mothers who were asked what workplace policy would help them most named paid leave to care for themselves or a family member.[[29]](#endnote-29)

At the start of 2014, women held a total of 18.5 percent of seats in Congress—18.2 percent in the House of Representatives, 20 percent in the Senate. And this is the highest percentage in history.[[30]](#endnote-30)

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