Snapshot of Women Worldwide: Facts and Figures

Advancing Women in the Global Marketplace
5 March 2009
Women at Risk

- More people have been lifted out of poverty in the last 50 years than in the previous 500; yet more than **1.2 billion** still subsist on **less than $1** per day.

- **7 out of 10** of the world’s hungry are women.

POVERTY HAS A WOMAN’S FACE
Women at Risk

- Approximately 80% of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked across national borders each year are women and girls.

- An estimated 72% of the world’s 33 million refugees are women and children.
Women at Risk

- Women own **less than 15%** of property worldwide. In the developing world that percentage drops to **below 2%**.

- Only **17.7%** of all legislators in parliament are women – and that is an all-time high.
Women at Work

- Women in the U.S. currently earn only **77 cents** for every $1 earned by a man. In the developing world, that ratio is just **73 cents**.

- In 2007 the global female unemployment rate stood at **6.4%** - compared to the male rate of **5.7%**.
Spotlight on Rural Women

- Rural women are particularly vulnerable to poverty.

- In some regions, especially sub-Saharan Africa, women provide **70%** of agricultural labor and produce over **90%** of food.
Women at Work

- Approximately 60% of the world’s working poor are women, primarily clustered in part-time, contract and other forms of informal employment, which are badly paid, and lack job security and all forms of social protection.
Over the past decade, the services sector has overtaken agriculture as the prime employer of women. In 2007, 36.1% of employed women worked in agriculture and 46.3% in services. In export industries, women provide up to 80% of the labour force in sectors such as textiles or electronics.
Women in Business Leadership

- Only 10% of directors of UK’s FTSE 100 firms are women.

- Women account for less than 1% of directors on corporate boards in Japan.

- Of the top 10 Asian companies - drawn from the latest Fortune Global 500 listing - only 1 woman sits on an executive committee.
Women in Business Leadership

- The total number of women on FTSE 100 corporate boards is 131, or 12% of the total, up from 7% in 2008.

- 22 FTSE 100 companies still do not have a single woman on their boards.
Costs of Gender Inequality

- Inadequate reproductive health care limits female labour productivity -- in some cases by 20%, costing the world 250 million years of productive life annually, according to one 2004 estimate.

- Every minute somewhere in the world a woman dies due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Access to quality health care services, including maternal and reproductive services, saves women’s lives.
Costs of Gender Inequality

- The cost of intimate partner violence in the U.S. alone exceeds US$5.8 billion per year.

- In Canada, the direct costs of violence against women have been estimated at Can$1.2 billion annually; in the UK, the direct and indirect costs are an estimated £23 billion per year.
Spotlight on Women and Productivity

- When women are afforded equality of opportunity, the results are striking. In 2006, the *Economist* estimated that over the past decade, women’s work has contributed more to global growth than China.

- The *Economist* further noted that if Japan raised the share of working women to American levels, it would boost annual growth by 0.3% over 20 years.

*Progress for women, progress for all*
Violence against Women

- At least **1 in 3** women is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in her lifetime.

- It is estimated that, worldwide, **1 in 5** women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.
Violence against Women

- Many women face multiple forms of discrimination and increased risk of violence. Indigenous women in Canada are 5 times more likely than other women of the same age to die as the result of violence.

- Violence against women during or after armed conflicts has been reported in every international or non-international war-zone.

- In Europe, North America and Australia, over half of women with disabilities have experienced physical abuse, compared to one-third of non-disabled women.
Violence against Women

- Women experience sexual harassment throughout their lives. Between 40% and 50% of women in the European Union reported some form of sexual harassment in the workplace.

- In Malawi, 50% of schoolgirls surveyed reported sexual harassment at school.
Two Pandemics: Violence and HIV/AIDS

- The prevalence of violence and HIV/AIDS is interlinked -- women who are beaten by their partners are 48% more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS.
Women and HIV/AIDS

- **Over half** of the estimated 33 million people living with HIV worldwide are women.

- More than **3 in 4** adult women with HIV globally live in sub-Saharan Africa.
Women and Education

- About **two-thirds** of the estimated 776 million adults who lack basic literacy skills are women.

- In developing countries, nearly **1 out of 5** girls who enrolls does not complete her primary education.
Women and Education

- It has been estimated that worldwide, for every year beyond the fourth grade that girls attend school, wages rise **20%**, child deaths drop **10%** and family size drops **20%**.