RESOURCES FOR EMPOWERMENT IN WOMEN’S LIVES

No society can prosper without providing equal access to resources from women and men so that they are empowered to shape their own lives and contribute to their families and communities. Resources and opportunities that act as building blocks for empowerment include education, employment, and health care. Demographic and Health Surveys® collected data on aspects of women’s and men’s access to resources in 47 countries during the years 2000-2012.

**Education**

Despite Millennium Development Goal 2 – universal primary education for both girls and boys – 14% of girls aged 15-24 in 12 of 47 countries and 14% of boys in 6 of 41 countries have no education.

In nearly every surveyed country, more men than women can read and have completed primary or secondary school.

**Employment**

Almost everywhere, more men are employed than women.

Over time, more women are completing secondary school. However, less than half of women in 42 countries have completed secondary school.

In 33 of 45 countries, more than 50% of women work, including 13 countries where more than 70% of women are employed.

Fewer employed women are paid in cash than employed men in 20 of 34 countries.

**Health Care**

At least 50% of women receive 4 or more antenatal care visits from a skilled health provider in 28 of 47 countries.

More than half of women aged 15-49 in 31 of 41 countries report at least one problem accessing health care, such as getting permission to go, getting money for treatment, distance to health facility, or not wanting to go alone.

In 31 of 47 countries, more than half of births are delivered by skilled health providers. In 28 countries, half or more of births take place in health facilities.

At least 1 of 10 girls age 15-19 has started childbearing in 35 of 47 countries.

**Children’s Health and Development**

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1 Respondents are women and men age 15-49.
2 Respondents are women and men age 0-24.
3 Respondents are women age 15-49 who had a live birth in the 5 years before the survey.

Demographic and Health Surveys® (DHS) are used to generate information and data for health planning and decision making. DHS is a program managed by Macro International, Inc. in association with ICF, the Ministry of Health and Population of the Government of Egypt, the Ministry of Health of the Government of Indonesia, the Egyptian Health Development Fund, and the Evaluation and Research Institute for Women and Children, Egypt. DHS is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).