

The project outputs will be:

- (i) Additional Africa-specific MDG targets and indicators on socially excluded groups (women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS) and health equity and sexual and reproductive health to facilitate the formulation of more comprehensive development strategies; and
- (ii) Knowledge networks to discuss and disseminate relevant information on social exclusion and the MDGs.



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Economic Commission for Africa

**Strengthening**  
**social inclusion,**  
**gender equality &**  
**health promotion**  
**in the Millennium Development**  
**Goals in Africa**

**A United Nations Development Account**  
**Interregional Project**

Being implemented by the African Centre for  
Gender and Social Development of the ECA

## Background

Mid-term reviews towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have highlighted the need to measure the progress made towards reaching them in a way that truly represents the empowerment of women and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in society. The reviews also indicate that existing MDG targets and indicators may not fully capture progress with regards to the inclusion of socially vulnerable groups.

This interregional project involving all the five UN Regional Commissions, ESCAP (lead agency), ECE, ESCWA, ECLAC, and ECA, provides a unique opportunity for developing region-specific additional targets and indicators to strengthen policies and programmes for the inclusion of socially vulnerable groups and for promoting gender equality. Building on existing capacity in the Regional Commissions, it would also provide an opportunity to supplement existing targets and indicators with additional indicators and targets covering areas related to social inclusion.

## Main Objective

The main objective of this project is to increase the capacity of governments to promote the social inclusion of vulnerable groups and address gender equality concerns and health promotion in national the development plans through development of contextualized targets and indicators in the MDG process.

ECA is identifying supplementary targets that can help ensure inclusion of socially excluded groups including women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS; and promote health equity and sexual and reproductive health in the MDG framework.

## Project activities

The project activities involve a combination of secondary and primary research and face-to-face and electronic consultations with member states to identify the additional targets and indicators. The secondary research involves using desk assessment of existing information to identify targets/indicators that are needed in the issue areas. The primary research consists of the development and administration of a questionnaire to solicit additional information from selected member states and specific stakeholders working on women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS. Electronic discussion groups will also be used to create 'communities of practice', where discussions will provide guidance on the additional targets/indicators. A report based on the outcome of the desk review, the case study country consultations and electronic discussions will be presented, reviewed and discussed at an expert group meeting (EGM) to be held in 2008. The EGM is also expected to validate the identified targets/indicators.