

# METHODOLOGY

This index is based on the most comprehensive data available for these seven indicators. There were many other indicators, for example, rates of child marriage, we would have liked to use but couldn't because full data sets are not available. More reliable gender-disaggregated data are imperative if we are to fully map and understand the needs of the many more girls who cannot be seen and therefore we cannot deliver for.

The aim of the index is to measure both the absolute conditions for women and girls with a look at their position relative to men and boys. Building on the approach of other established indices, ONE identified seven elements to represent the overall well-being for girls and women. For example, Save the Children's State of the World's Mothers Index uses indicators on maternal health, children's well-being, educational status, economic status and political status; UNDP's Human Development Index uses indicators on long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.

The datasets (listed in the table below) were selected based on the quality of their coverage and were grouped under three pillars. We have given each pillar equal weight within the index, and each indicator equal weight within the pillar.

ONE applied a ranking to each indicator, where 1 is the highest score and 0 is the lowest. For indicators where a high score signifies limits to life chances (e.g. maternal mortality or prevalence of anaemia), we converted this to our scale using the formula  $1-x$ .

ONE then created aggregate scores for each pillar by calculating an average of the indicator scores. A final ranking was calculated by taking an average of the three pillars.

## WEAKNESSES AND CAVEATS

Data gaps were a major constraint to developing a more comprehensive index. We expressly chose to focus on datasets that had the significant coverage both in terms of the choice of indicators and the data used. For example, in some cases the most recent data sets had gaps in which case the most recent available data was used. We chose not to use proxies to fill data gaps. The indicators we used had no less than 90% coverage across all 166 countries we analysed.

Where countries did not have data for up to two indicators, those indicators were removed from that country's calculations for the overall index so as not to bias the final scoring. There are 21 countries in the index for which one or two indicators were removed.<sup>1</sup>

Countries where no data were available for more than three indicators were removed from the index. In most cases these were small island states but they also included South Sudan, Togo, the Democratic Republic of Korea, Greenland, Lichtenstein and the West Bank and Gaza. In total the index reviews 166 countries.

We used GDP per capita (PPP) as a proxy to represent economic opportunities women in each country could potentially have. We recognise that there are shortcomings to this approach and that GDP per capita (PPP) does not measure personal income, but it is the best proxy when comparing living standards across countries in as it takes into account the relative cost of living and inflation rates.

Finally, legal rights, violence against women and girls, and girls' own perceptions of their situation are critical datasets to give an overall picture of the situation for women and girls. While these datasets do exist, the lack of widespread country coverage meant that ONE was not able to include them in the index.

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<sup>1</sup> Sao Tome & Principe, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, Somalia, Libya, Cuba, Suriname, Guyana, Haiti, Bosnia Herzegovina, Iceland, Brunei, Fiji, Vietnam, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste.

THEME	INDICATOR	RATIONALE	SOURCE
<b>Poverty</b>	GDP per capita (PPP) (Current US \$)	An overall proxy for the level of economic development in the country.	World Bank World Development Indicators (2014 Data) <a href="http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD/countries">http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD/countries</a>
<b>Health and education</b>	Girls' education (years in school)	Education is a critical indicator for future potential.	Original source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2015) drawn from United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report (2014 Data) <a href="http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GDI">http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GDI</a>
	Prevalence of anaemia among women (%)	Anaemia affects women more than men and has impacts on levels of energy, the health of children and other aspects of health. It has particular implications for maternal health and the intergenerational impacts of malnutrition.	World Health Organization Database on Anaemia (Based on survey data – inclusion criteria and source years outlined by WHO): <a href="http://www.who.int/vmnis/database/anaemia/en/">http://www.who.int/vmnis/database/anaemia/en/</a>
	Lifetime risk of maternal mortality	The likelihood that a girl becomes pregnant and may die in childbirth has a huge impact on both her life expectancy and the future of her child.	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank. Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2013. WHO: Geneva: 2014. (2013 Data) <a href="http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2013/en/">http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2013/en/</a>
<b>Economic empowerment and political opportunity</b>	Female seats in national parliament (%)	We consider this a proxy for the potential that a girl could reach a significant decision-making position in her country, or that her interests are represented by other women in leadership positions.	World Bank World Development Indicators/ Inter-Parliamentary Union (2015 Data) <a href="http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS">http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS</a>
	Female access to a bank account, age 15+ (%)	If a woman wants to grow a business or become financially secure, access to a bank account is critical.	World Bank Global Findex: G20 Financial Inclusion Indicators (2014 Data) <a href="http://datatopics.worldbank.org/financialinclusion/">http://datatopics.worldbank.org/financialinclusion/</a>
	Ratio of female to male labour market participation	If a woman has a paid job she is more likely to be able to lift herself and her family out of poverty.	World Bank World Development Indicators/ International Labour Organization (2014 Data) <a href="http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLFC.ACT.FM.ZS">http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLFC.ACT.FM.ZS</a>