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## Narrative Reporting

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### *Purpose*

It was noted above that the concept gender, as we define it here, refers to power relations between men and women, a quality of a relationship that is not easily captured with quantitative data. The Scorecard therefore includes a systematic analysis of the narrative reports that countries are requested to submit as part of their reporting to UNAIDS. The reports submitted by countries differ greatly in ambition and scope – from brief sketches of 3-4 pages to engaging 100-page analyses by Brazil and a few other countries. These reports provide countries with the opportunity to elaborate on the nature and drivers of the epidemic as well as discuss various aspects of their response. The purpose of the analysis was to establish whether countries took the opportunity in these narrative reports to discuss the gender dimension to AIDS in their respective countries, and what was the quality of that discussion.

### *Data analysis and grading*

The analysis was done on the 145 narrative reports that were submitted to UNAIDS by end of January 2008, the most recent round of UNGASS reporting. The analytical framework was developed and discussed among a group of five researchers. The majority of reports are written in English. One of these researchers analyzed the reports written in French. Reports submitted in other languages (Russian, Portuguese or Spanish) were first translated and then analyzed by the group of researchers.

The purpose of the analytical framework was to apply a set of decision criteria that would enable the researchers to assess the quality of the narrative reporting with the five letter-grades used for the six elements (A to E). This was done in a number of steps. Countries that in no way at all commented on the gender dimension to the epidemic or in the response to AIDS were given an E. If countries did mention the gender dimension to their epidemic, even if only in a minimal fashion, they were given a D. Countries received a C if this discussion was elaborated somewhat in scope and/or depth of reflection. If the narrative also discussed the gender dimension in the country response to AIDS and how the country seeks to counter gender-based inequities through that response, countries received a B or an A depending of the quality of that discussion. The grading was discussed between the researchers and boarder-line cases were decided by AAI's Scientific Director to ensure coherence.

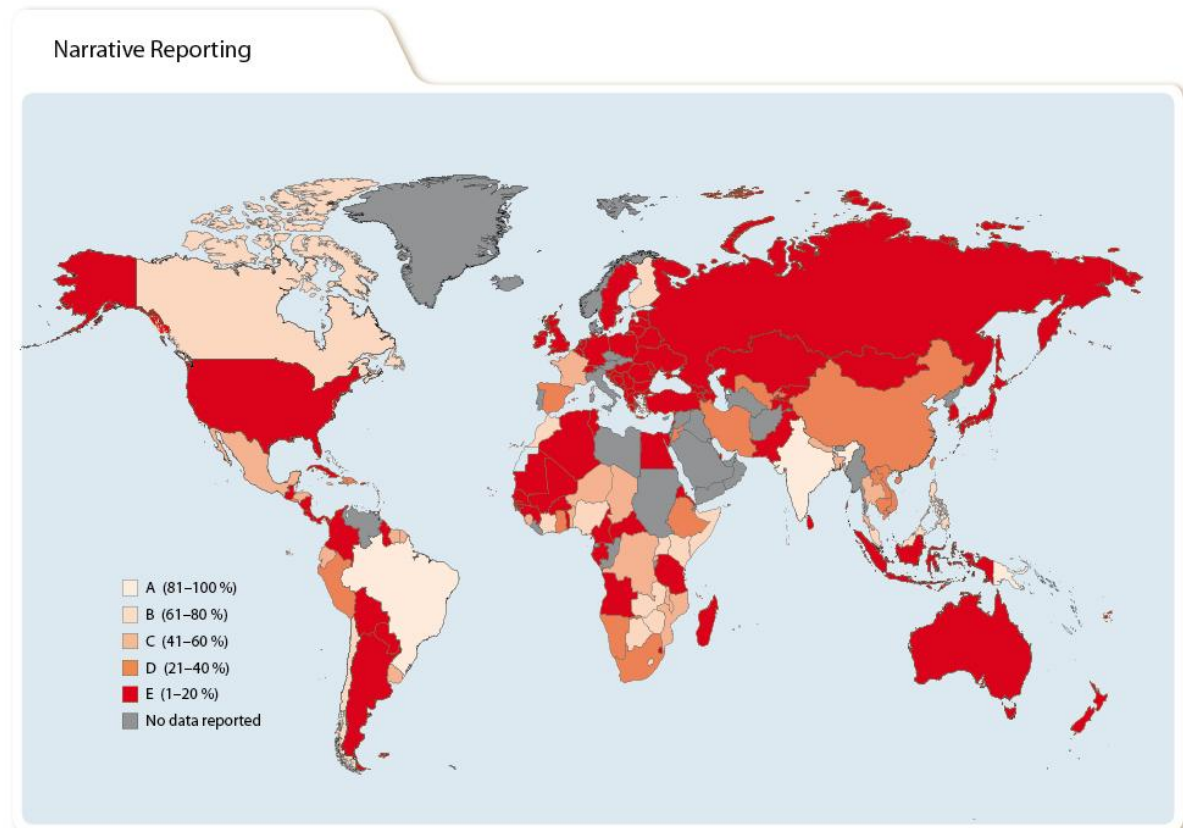
### *Issues*

Qualitative analysis is always subject to potential bias that can become problematic if it systematically pushes the analysis in a particular direction. Such systematic bias can only be countered by the careful application of an objective analytical framework, in combination with the transparency that allows for scrutiny of the research by its critics.

AAI is confident that our research on the narrative reports held no systematic bias. The analysis correctly identifies the country narrative reports that contained a discussion of the gender dimension and it captures the quality of that discussion with a relevant degree of precision.

Our research generated an 'analytical log' which identifies the sections and paragraphs in the texts that were used for assigning the grades. This log will be made available on the AAI website for anyone who wishes to check the accuracy of the research. We believe the analytical log will become a useful research resource in its own right as it, to the best of our knowledge, provides the only available 'index' of gender discussions in country narrative reports in the 2008 round of UNGASS reporting.

## Results



As many as 83 (or 57%) of the 145 countries that submitted narrative reports failed to discuss gender at all. The low average score (1.3) shows that few countries used their narrative reporting as an opportunity to share essential qualitative information and arguments on the gender dimension to AIDS in their countries. As in the case of the reporting on the other six Scorecard elements, the high-burden countries out-scored the others, with more than twice the average score.

For the majority of countries the inclusion of their scores on the narrative report did not change their composite score in the *Woman Reporting Index* (see section below). In all, the composite scores of 35 countries were downgraded as a result of poor narrative reporting on women, and the scores of five countries were upgraded (Belize, Chile, Finland, Malaysia and Sierra Leone).



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