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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group  
on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries  
Beirut, 14-16 November 2011

**REVIEW OF STATISTICAL WORK CARRIED OUT SINCE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING  
OF THE INTER-AGENCY AND EXPERT GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS  
IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES:**

**PROGRESS MADE ON GS RELATED-ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 2<sup>ND</sup>  
AND 3<sup>RD</sup> IAEGM INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION  
OF THE 2ND IAEGM ON GS IN ARAB COUNTRIES**

**Summary**

The report contains a brief review of main statistics-related activities and accomplishments made by the Statistics Division at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries, Beirut, 2009. The report also give a brief account on the progress made on the implementation of recommendations of the last IAEG and highlights gender statistics-related resolution adopted at its twenty-sixth session of the Commission and the observations made at the ninth session of the Statistical Committee

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The current report presents briefly a review of the Statistics Division main activities and accomplishments in the field of gender statistics, during the period October 2009-December 2011. These activities include main technical publications, reports and materials issued, and a review of the capacity building activities. Finally, it provides a brief review of the gender statistics-related resolution adopted at its twenty-sixth session of the Commission and recommendations and observations made on gender-related areas by the Statistical Committee at its ninth session.

### I. TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

2. The Statistics Division completed, or in the process of completing and publishing the following technical documentations by end of 2011:

(a) A gender sensitive MDG publication titled: Charting the Progress of the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region: A Statistical Portrait was published in 2009/10. The publication provides an assessment of the prospects of achieving the MDG goals and targets, and sets out the need for targeted policymaking where necessary. Highlighting disparities at the subregional, national and subnational levels. The report focuses on inequality between urban and rural areas, women and men, and girls and boys. It also reveals data gaps at the country level for statistical capacity-building;

(b) Gender in Figures 2011, is the first Arab gender-related publication produced by the Statistics Division. It is a compilation of sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators covering a wide range of topics and emerging issues such as human-rights, refugees, research and development, etc. The publication, planned to be issued every five years, is based on international comparable data, and where not available, on national data. The Statistics Division aims to produce analytical studies in the interim years in an effort to advocate for more dissemination of national gender data. It also uses this tool to assess data availability for planning capacity building activities in the region;

(c) This GIsIn Handbook, a tool for data producers, is the outcome of consultations of the three Inter-Agency Expert Group Meetings on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries. The Handbook builds on synergies from ongoing work in the area of gender statistics by forging a common methodological knowledge among stakeholders in order to facilitate the production of comparable statistics for evidence-based policymaking and planning in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment. The GIsIn Handbook maybe accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/projects/gisinhandbook/index.asp?goal=0>;

(d) Final Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries, Beirut, 12-14 October 2009 (E/ESCWA/SD/2009/WG.2/5);

(e) Final Report of the 1st Meeting of the Task Force on Gender Statistics, Beirut, 15-16 October 2009 (E/ESCWA/SD/2009/WG.3/3);

(f) The recommendations emanating from the Workshop on Time Use Statistics, held in Jordan, May 2010, requesting the United Nations Statistics Division to explore the following:

- i. Developing a project for harmonizing time use surveys in the region, including well-defined objectives of the survey, thus allowing for better regional comparison and exploitation of data, primarily from the perspective of building sound and reliable national and regional gender statistics;
- ii. Calls on UNSD to update and modify ICATUS in view of countries' feedback during the workshop;

- iii. Establishing a task force for Arab countries on time use Statistics to develop an action plan to convene capacity building workshop, expert group meeting and developing related materials.

3. In addition, the Statistics Division has been continuously making an effort to mainstream gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data through its publications. Since 2008, it has maintained a chapter on Gender Equality in its Annual Statistical Abstract.

## II. TECHNICAL MATERIALS

4. The Statistics Division concentrated its activities during the reporting period on capacity building initiatives; in two areas: the Gender Glossary and the development of the Virtual Library including other specialized site on Arab Time Use Statistics. A concise description of each is presented below:

(a) Glossary on Gender Terms, the first revision was released in 23 February 2011. The Glossary contained 1303 in both the English and Arabic languages. The Division during the following period worked on extending the glossary and included new areas related to violence against women and agriculture and presented to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the IAEG on GS in the Arab Countries its second revision for adoption.

(b) The Statistics Division has maintained the update of the knowledge sharing Virtual Library on Gender Statistics hosted on ESCWA Statistics Division Homepage, and can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/scu/themes/index.asp>. In addition to increasing the range of topics and resources in the knowledge sharing platform, it has also succeeded in linking the gender e-learning site to major internet sites in areas related to gender advocacy, concepts and context of gender equality, gender bias, gender and agriculture, gender and engineering and science and Technology, gender budgeting, gender statistics and indicators, population, and work;

(c) A specialized site on Time Use Statistics was also developed during 2011 to provide users with Arab Time Use activities in addition to some good practices from the globe. It includes available international guidelines and handbooks; classifications; national methodologies; diaries and questionnaires; specialized papers and survey reports, useful links, in addition to meetings and workshops. The site can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/projects/tus/index.asp>.

## III. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

5. The Statistics Division implemented the interregional project “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities” in collaboration with the Center of Women at ESCWA. The project was carried out by the five United Nations regional commissions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA), the United Nations Statistics Division and UN Women. It was coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The project sought to strengthen the capacity of countries all over the world to measure violence against women regularly and appropriately and to monitor and evaluate the effect of legislation, policies and programmes to eradicate this kind of violence. The interregional project aims to involve countries in the voluntary testing of a short survey module on VAW to estimate the United Nations approved core indicators on VAW. The activities and outputs of the project are as follows:

(a) Regional Commissions' *Training of Trainers on Violence against Women and adaptation Workshop*, held in Beirut (3-7 May, 2010) was organized by the Statistics Division, and the Centre for Women at the ESCWA in cooperation with the other United Nations Regional Commissions, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Account project on “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of knowledge communities”. Thirteen participants from Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, and Morocco were trained. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=1269E>;

(b) Final Report of the *Training of Trainers on Violence against Women and Adaptation Workshop for Arab Countries*, Beirut, 3-7 May 2010. The Report is available on the following link: <http://css.escwa.org.lb/sd/1281/VAW10E.pdf>;

(c) *Tool kit for VAW Survey Module* and its accompanying guidelines were adapted to the Arabic region through a consultative Adaptation Workshop for Arab Countries held in May 2009. It is developed for use either in a stand-alone dedicated survey on violence against women or in a population surveys on other subjects. This survey module aims to offer an instrument that enables responding to unfulfilled needs of measurement of violence against women. In particular, it will enable data collection and analysis to estimate the core indicators on violence against women approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission (from here on referred to as UN VAW indicators). The Toolkit is distributed;

(d) *E-training on "Measurement of violence against women through statistical surveys"* was organized in response to the resolution A/RES/61/143 of the General Assembly, which called upon member States and the United Nations system to intensify efforts tending to eradicate violence against women and urged member States "to ensure the systematic collection and analysis of data on violence against women, including with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors". The bilingual training kit offers an e-course that concentrates on the topic of understanding and measuring violence against women through statistical surveys that allow the calculation of the indicators recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission with a view to monitor and evaluate the effect of policies, legislations, plans and programmes to eradicate this kind of violence. The course will be held in English in the five UN Regional Commissions from 3 October to 26 November 2011. The target audience for the course is the professional and technical staff from national statistical offices and mechanisms for the advancement of women from the member states of the five United Nations Regional Commissions, whose functions are related to the production of information on violence against women. The training course for e-tutors took place in English between the 20<sup>th</sup> of June and the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2011. This 30-hours course was offered free of charge with the objective of training a set of e-tutors from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia to support the e-learning course "Measuring violence against women through statistical surveys" for two months. <http://elearning.cepal.org>;

(e) *Regional study on VAW in the ESCWA region* is an input to a global publication of comparative information on VAW collected by the five Regional Commissions and consolidated into one report. The study provides detailed information on the efforts made at the national and regional level towards the eradication of VAW providing overview of national data on different forms of VAW including legislation issues in this regard;

(f) The *Wiki VAW* platform was an ECLAC initiative established for knowledge sharing on the measurement of violence against women. It addresses the need to strengthen the capacity of the countries to regularly and appropriately measure violence against women to obtain a baseline and up-to-date diagnosis from which to monitor and evaluate the effect of policies, legislations, plans and programmes to eradicate this kind of violence. International, regional and national resources including survey, reports and studies on VAW were uploaded on this platform. The user interface for this platform is found on the following link: <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/cepal/default.asp?idioma=IN>.

6. Other capacity building activities included organizing the 1st Meeting of the Taskforce on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries at the United Nations House in Beirut on 15 and 16 October 2009. 23 participants Women Machineries and National Statistical Offices attended the meeting from 14 Arab countries, namely; Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The meeting site can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=1092E>.

7. Moreover, the Statistics Division held a workshop on Arab Time Use Statistics in collaboration with UNSD and the Department of Statistics in Jordan in Amman from 25 to 28 April, 2011. The workshop

trained 22 participants from 11 Arab countries, namely: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=1551E>.

#### IV. TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

8. Part of the activities implemented by the Statistics Division is to provide technical advisory services to member countries upon their request. In this regard, a mission was undertaken to Saudi Arabia to provide training on Gender Statistics upon the request of the Statistics and IT Authority in KSA, during the period, 6-10 Feb. 2011. A total of 15 participants were trained for three days on concepts, methods, analysis and presentation of sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators.

9. Moreover, the Division reviewed two gender statistics databases developed by Iraq and Yemen national statistical offices using DevInfo application. Feedback and advice on how to improve quality of content and structure of the databases were given to both statistical offices.

#### V. GENDER-RELATED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

10. As a follow up to resolution 286 (XXV) on gender statistics for equality and empowerment adopted the following gender statistics-related resolutions at its twenty-fifth session, the Commission adopted: resolution 297 (XXVI). Arab MDG monitor for societal progress at its twenty-sixth session, requests the secretariat to develop an MDG monitor for societal progress towards realization of MDGs, including gender equality and youth empowerment. The full text of the resolutions is included in the annex to this report.

#### VI. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE IAEG ON GS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

11. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IAEG on GS held in 2009 requested the Commission implement a set of 11 recommendations. Below is the list of recommendations and status of implementation for each as follows:

Recommendation	Status
(i) Regularize the organization of the Arab IAEGM and Task Force on Gender Statistics meetings of the Statistics Division programme and provide required resources to implement them;	<b>Implemented</b>
(ii) Present the outcomes of the meetings IAEGM and Task Force on Gender Statistics meetings to the Statistical Committee for adoption, and use towards the preparation of the Executive Secretary's report on resolution 286 (xxv): Gender Statistics for Equality and Empowerment;	<b>Implemented</b>
(iii) Follow up on the global program on Gender Statistics through continuing its participation in the IAEGM on Gender Statistics and the global forum and report to the Arab IAEGM and Task Force on Gender Statistics on the findings and recommendations made;	<b>Implemented, however participation in the last meeting was not possible due to shortage in funds at the Division level.</b>
(iv) Finalize the "G Is In" framework revision and related metadata to produce the Handbook as per the feedback received during the meeting;	<b>Implemented</b>

Recommendation	Status
(v) Provide training for gender focal points at the country and agencies level in the Arab Countries on DevInfo in 2009;	<b>In process, planned in first quarter of 2012</b>
(vi) Further enhance the capacity building and networking among experts and statisticians in gender statistics at the national level for NSO, United Nations Country Team (UNCT), women machinery etc.;	<b>Implemented</b>
(vii) Disseminate ESCWA English/Arabic "Glossary of Gender Statistical Terms" through the web to make it available for users and producers and to elicit further contributions;	<b>Implemented</b>
(viii) Publish the "Glossary of Gender Statistical Terms", in collaboration with the regional and international agencies after completing the definitions of terms;	<b>In process</b>
(ix) Submit the "Glossary of Gender Statistical Terms" to the ninth Statistical Committee to be held in 2010 to for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the region to standardize the Arabic terms used in gender statistics;	<b>Implemented</b>
(x) Hold an exhibition on Gender Statistics products in the Arab Countries in parallel to the IAEGM on Gender Statistics;	<b>Implemented</b>
(xi) Approach regional and international agencies and private institutions to support the activities of the Gender Statistics Programme led by ESCWA.	<b>On going</b>

## VII. OBSERVATIONS ON GENDER-RELATED AREAS MADE BY THE NINTH STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

12. The Statistical Committee of ESCWA held its ninth eighth session at the United Nations House in Beirut (13-15 October 2010) and discussed progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations made at its eight session and statistics-related activities in the framework of the programme of work since the eighth session. Participants made a number of observations related to the nature of implemented activities, meeting the needs of countries in order to draw lessons for the future, particularly in the field of gender statistics.

13. The secretariat presented document (E/ESCWA/SD/2010/IG.1/9) contains the progress report on monitoring advancement towards Millennium Development Goals and gender equality, available at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IAEG on GS site under Background Papers on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=1699E>.

**GENDER STATISTICS-RELATED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION  
AT ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION**

**297 (XXVI). Arab MDG monitor for societal progress**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Noting with deep concern* that the lack of requisite data and information in some member countries on development indicators, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the goals of promoting the gender equality and empowering women, and the situation of youth, and the impact of that lack on official statistics, thereby hindering the planning and implementation of evidence based policies, and undermining the ability of countries to monitor their national development indicators,

*Recognizing* the fundamental importance of national statistical capacity in producing reliable and timely indicators of societal progress,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 of 24 July 2006, which expressed deep concern for the lack of adequate data to assess national trends in the context of monitoring progress towards the realization of all internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs, and the lack of capacity at the national level to use existing data to inform and monitor the implementation of national development policies and strategies,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/27 of 28 July 2000, in which the Council reaffirmed the importance of national efforts to build statistical capacity in all countries, including through statistical training, and of effective international support in that regard for developing countries and countries emerging from conflict,

*Affirming* the importance of intensifying cooperation between the countries of the region in order to realize MDGs by 2015,

*Commending* the efforts exerted by the secretariat in following up the realization of MDGs, in particular reports on the progress made towards realizing MDGs in the ESCWA region,

1. *Calls upon* all member countries to enhance coordination between national statistical offices and implement national strategies for statistical development, with a view to improving the coverage and transparency of indicators and methods of reporting on them and disseminating effective methods of monitoring nationally and internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs, by:

- (a) Defining priorities and developing a strategy to provide data for all indicators;
- (b) Identifying ways, including through capacity-building to improve monitoring and reporting on development indicators, including indicators relating to MDGs;
- (c) Ensuring that the supporting metadata comply with standard guidelines;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to develop an MDG monitor for societal progress towards realization of MDGs, including gender equality and youth empowerment by:

- (a) Supporting member countries, according to their needs and requirements, in realizing MDGs through capacity-building in compiling and disseminating statistics, integration of MDGs into development



plans, monitoring the progress made and measuring its impact, and preparing national and regional reports in coordination with relevant parties;

(b) Assessing the quality of national data and development indicators, including MDGs, and providing adequate resources to improve data quality and convergence with international standards. E/ESCWA/26/9/Report,

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on improving gender and youth statistics at the regional level, and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.

7<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
19 May 2010