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**RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ARAB GENDER
ISSUES AND INDICATORS "GISIN" FRAMEWORK
AND HANDBOOK**

Summary

This report is prepared for discussion in the 3rd Meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries, held in Beirut from 14 to 16 November 2011. The report presents the results of assessment made on the proposed Gender Issues and Indicators (GISIn) Framework with regard to data availability and accuracy of its draft metadata Handbook.

The aim of this assessment is to finalize the Arab GISIn Framework and accompanying metadata Handbook, to provide countries with a tool to compile relevant and comparable information on critical gender equality and women empowerment areas of concern in the region.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Statistics Division at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in an effort to finalize the draft e-Handbook on Gender Statistics¹, a tool for data producers, and the outcome of consultations since the second Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries (Beirut, 12-14 October 2009), has implemented an assessment of the Handbook in collaboration with 11 Arab countries. The participating countries were requested to confirm data availability, and provide missing national data in particular those disaggregated by sex in order to test the completion of the GIsIn Framework and related methodologies as presented in the e-Handbook.

2. The results of the assessment are presented in this paper and will be open for discussion during the meeting for finalization and adoption of the Handbook.

I. OBJECTIVE

3. The aim of this assessment is to finalize the e-Handbook for GIsIn Framework² - a regional list of gender indicators- aims to build 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 information on critical gender equality and women empowerment areas of concern to the Arab countries for evidence-based policymaking and planning.

4. The assessment of the proposed GIsIn Framework and accompanying draft metadata Handbook appraised the following:

- Feasibility of making data available from national and / or international sources
- Accuracy of the metadata and degree of compliance with national metadata

II. METHODOLOGY

5. The Statistics Division at ESCWA sent the GIsIn Questionnaire to 22 Arab countries in July 2011. ESCWA also provided the countries with the draft GIsIn Handbook for the proposed GIsIn Framework. Out of the 22 countries 11 countries responded to the questionnaire, namely they are: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tunisia. Participating countries were requested to complete information for 86 indicators for the proposed GIsIn Framework.

¹ The e-Handbook includes metadata for each indicator in the Gender Issues and Indicators (GIsIn) Framework. It includes definitions, rationale, concepts and sources, as well as methods of calculation, and is available on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/projects/gisinhandbook/index.asp?goal=0>

² The e-Handbook for GIsIn (E/ESCWA/SD/2011/WG.1/5)

6. Countries were requested to provide two data points for each indicator; early 1990s and late 2000s. For indicators with available data countries were requested to indicate whether their data were compliant with the metadata as presented in the Handbook and provide comments/feedback where needed. ESCWA also requested countries to indicate the justification for incomplete data, and to specify either one of the following justifications:

- Data was compiled but not calculated;
- Data was available but not compiled;
- Data was not available

III. ASSESMENT OF RESULTS

7. The 11 pilot countries that participated in the assessment exercise provided detailed data and information for the indicators in the GIsIn Framework. However, the number of countries vis-à-vis indicator varied. This information is compiled and presented in Annex I.

8. Almost all the indicators had at least one country with data information. It is therefore logical to say that the indicators in principle could be collected and computed if data collection tools; such as surveys, censuses, or administrative records were incorporated in the processes of national statistical offices.

9. The frequency of countries compiling data for each of the listed indicators is shown in Table 1 below. For example, only one country provided information on seven specific indicators; only two countries provided information on 13 other indicators, while three countries were able to provide data on five more indicators, and four countries provided data on 13 indicators, and so on.

Table 1. Frequency of countries by number of available indicators

| Countries | #Indicators |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 13 |
| 3 | 5 |
| 4 | 13 |
| 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 0 |
| 8 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 |
| 10 | 8 |
| 11 | 23 |
| Total | 86 |

10. Almost all the pilot countries reported availability of data for most of the indicators in the Framework. Over 50% of the indicators are available at the national level. With regard to disaggregated data, there were only two indicators that were not reported with disaggregated data by all the reporting countries. None of the nine countries reported on Indicator “1.4.2 Women and men below minimum level of dietary energy consumption” had data disaggregated by sex. Neither the indicator “8.2.1 Share of women and men in technical managerial positions at national newspapers and television channels”, reported by one country, had disaggregated data by sex. However, both indicators can be compiled for women and men.

11. Table 2 provides a review of selected 37 indicators reported by a maximum of four countries³. The review facilitates better judgment on whether a country is able to integrate these needs in their data collection processes in the future or not based on data availability in other countries and data sources. The review also takes note of availability of disaggregated data, and country feedback on metadata. The table also presents ESCWA comments on each indicator and proposed changes to be made on the metadata for some indicators, as per feedback of the responding countries.

Table 2. Summary of indicators available in 1 to 4 countries, and national / regional comments

| Indicators | Compiled Calc. | Disag. data | Country comment /metadata compliance | Source of indicator | ESCWA Comment |
|---|----------------|-------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 1.1.4 Gender parity indicator for hh living below national poverty line, and recipients of poverty alleviation grants | 1 | N.A | 3 Compiled not calc | Household survey | Maintain |
| 1.5.2 Gender equality in house ownership, and proportion of houses jointly held | 1 | N.A | | Censuses, Household survey, Administrative Records | Maintain |
| 3.1.4 Gender pay gap in earnings in wage ad self-employment by occupation in hours | 1 | N.A | 2 Compiled not calc | labour force surveys, Working conditions surveys, enterprise censuses and surveys, administrative records | Maintain |
| 3.1.7 Access of women and men to credit | 1 | Yes | | Administrative records | Maintain |
| 3.3.2 Political will index for gender equity and empowerment of women | 1 | N.A | | Administrative records, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance | Maintain |
| 3.5.2 Proportion of public officials trained annually in human rights and humanitarian law for women and men | 1 | N.A | | Administrative records | Maintain |
| 6.1.10 Total and age specific rate of women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner | 1 | N.A | 18-64 yrs | VAW survey | Maintain |
| 5.1.10 Proportion of women aged 15 years and over who undergo a cervical cancer screening examinations annually be health systems | 1 | N.A | 1 compiled but not calc. Tunisia 35-60 yrs | Household surveys, Administrative records | Maintain, change Tunisia group |
| 1.5.1 Gender equality in farm ownership by area, and proportion of farms jointly held | 2 | Yes | | Agriculture survey | Maintain |
| 3.1.2 Proportion of scientific and TVET programme graduates, with jobs | 2 | Yes | | Population census, household and labour force surveys | Maintain |
| 3.1.5 Proportion of workers, with health insurance | 2 | Yes | | labour force surveys, household surveys and | Maintain |

³ It is to be noted that nine of the 11 pilot countries provided some comments on unavailability of data and metadata. Not all countries, however, provided feedback on each indicator. These countries are: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, and Tunisia.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | administrative records | |
| 3.3.1 Share of ministerial gender units or focal points | 2 | N.A | 2 compliant | | Administrative records, Ministry of planning | Maintain |
| 3.4.1 Number of programmes currently in operation designed specifically to provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women | 2 | N.A | | | Administrative records | Maintain |
| 6.1.6-9 Total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual/ physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 m/ during lifetime | 2 | N.A | Tunisia 18-64 yrs | | VAW survey | Maintain |
| 6.1.16 Proportion of female domestic workers who have experienced physical abuse or sexual harassment | 2 | N.A | Tunisia 18-64 yrs | | VAW survey | Maintain |
| 8.2.1 Share of women and men in technical managerial positions at national newspapers and television channels | 2 | No | | | Administrative records | Maintain |
| 3.1.8 Time spent on unpaid work | 3 | Yes | | | Time Use survey | Maintain |
| 3.5.1 List of laws prescribing legal action against domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape and the sex trade | 3 | N.A | | | Administrative records | Maintain |
| 6.1.11 Annual rate of femicides | 3 | N.A | Tunisia 18-64 yrs | | Administrative records | Maintain |
| 6.1.12 Total and age specific rate of women subjected to female genital mutilation | 3 | N.A | | | VAW survey | Maintain |
| 6.1.14 Number of women and children annually using shelter for victims of violence | 3 | N.A | Tunisia 18-64 yrs | | VAW survey | Maintain |
| 1.1.2 Poverty gap ratio for women and men headed hh | 4 | Yes | Iraq will be available this yr | | Household survey | Maintain |
| 1.2.2 Proportion of employed women and men living below national poverty line | 4 | Yes | | | Consumption and expenditure survey, Labour force survey, Household survey, Administrative records | Maintain |
| 1.3.1 Proportion of children (5-7) employed in productive activities | 4 | Yes | | | Household survey, labour force surveys, Time use surveys | Maintain |
| 3.1.6 Proportion of workers with retirement benefits | 4 | Yes | | | Household survey, Labour force survey, Administrative records | Maintain |
| 3.2.6 Gender parity index in local government bodies | 4 | N.A | | | Administrative records | Maintain |
| 5.1.5 Proportion of women with access to postpartum care up to 42 days | 4 | N.A | Egypt: women whose most recent live birth occurred in 5 yrs preceding the survey receipt of postpartum care | | Household Surveys | Maintain, review metadata to reflect Egypt comment |
| 5.1.8-9 Incidence of breast /cervical cancer among women 35+ yrs diagnosed | 4 | N.A | 1 compiled but not calc. Tunisia # of new cases a year | | Household surveys | Maintain, similar to Tunisia review metadata to measure |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6.1.3-5 Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical / sexual violence in last 12 m/ lifelong | 4 | N.A | Tunisia 18-64 yrs | VAW survey | number c cases in a Maintain |
| 6.1.13 Proportion of women aged 20-24 yrs married before age 18 | 4 | N.A | Tunisia 18-64 yrs | Household survey, Censuses | Maintain |
| 6.1.15 Rate of women to men in prison | 4 | N.A | Tunisia 18-64 yrs | Administrative records | Maintain |
| <i>N.A. = Not Applicable</i> | | | | | |

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The regional assessment of the proposed Gender Issues and indicators “GIsIn” Framework and accompanying draft metadata Handbook confirms availability of over 50% of the indicators in most Arab countries. The assessment also shows that when national statistical offices incorporate required compilation of data in their collection processes, whether from administrative records or surveys / censuses, disaggregated data can be compiled and gender indicators calculated.
13. For selected indicators, It is therefore recommended to take into view some of national practices of tested indicators to adjust the metadata accordingly in the draft handbook.
14. It is also recommended that countries adopt the GIsIn Framework along with the final GIsIn Handbook and incorporate it into their regular data compilation processes in order to produce regional comparable and harmonized information on gender critical areas of concern.