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**Meeting of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations
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Notes on Violence against Women Indicators¹

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¹ Issued without formal editing.

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Introduction

1. VAW is a serious problem in all countries. The issue on intimate violence differs from other crimes because it happens at home. It is one of the most difficult crimes to prevent because people generally consider that home is one of the safest places. Family members mostly women are often lax about exercising cautions and putting in place defense mechanisms, as they do not think of family members as potential aggressors. As a result, greater opportunities for violence exist. When intimate partner violence happens, household member often hide it to protect the family's name. The victims thus have to remain in situation of violence in silence and often in isolation.
2. Statistics/indicators on violence against women are still scattered and unsystematically collected by countries, mostly due to the unstructured or decentralized statistical system. Many studies related to VAW found that violence happened to women is still invisible in almost all societies especially less developed ones.

1. Review sources of information on VAW

3. The followings are possible sources available on violence against women.
 - Media reports, including opinion columns and documentary reports from daily newspapers, magazines, radio programs, television programs, and related organizations working on Women. Reported Violence against women on Medias is much on only the extreme forms of domestic violence. Cases that can be obtained from this source are such as cases resulted in rape from perpetrators (family members), cases resulted in personal injuries by male partners and by the women themselves, cases of murder of the children by the mother and by the father or cases of suicide of the wife.
 - Information collected by Women's non-government organizations (NGOs): emergency home, shelter operated by these organizations. Cases in this form mostly are; women faced domestic violence, women seeking help because of intimate partner violence, women experienced violence perpetrated by their partners.
 - Rape and Sexual assaults statistics compiled by the National Office of Police. Information on rape and sexual assaults from such source is mostly incomplete in terms of producing relevant statistics on VAW, such as not age-disaggregated.
 - Statistics on medical treatments for children and women suffering from physical violence and sexual assaults in hospital nationwide: girls, teenagers and women admitted in hospital by cause of their admission, esp. sexually assaulted, suffering from physical violence, pregnant women suffered from beatings by their husbands

- Statistics on legal cases concerning violence against women reaching the court and judges' decisions on these cases. Mostly this source is obviously incomplete in terms of its coverage: The Documentation Center of the Justice System makes available reports on types of criminal civil wrongdoing. Criminal court, cases concerning sexual violence namely rape and sexual assaults are filed with. Civil court, family matters such as divorce from incidences of domestics' violence.
- Research reports on intimate violence: In many countries including Thailand, there are a large number of reports on this topic, mostly masters' theses. This source is not population-based researches. Statistics derived are such as Domestic violence. Cases of wives killing their husbands in self-defense or in reaction to the husbands 'violent act. Legal provisions concerning domestic violence and sexual violence, especially rape.

2. Comments

2.1 General Comments

4. With the importance of VAW, it is worth to the country to tackle this issue seriously. Especially on how to understand clearly the current situation, causes or determinants of the problem etc. This question can be answered by good quality and timely statistics and indicators. I would like to look at this issue in two levels.
5. First is on national level, it is important for the country to have as much information as possible to be able to tackle VAW problem. All sources of information must be improved and used integrately.
6. FOC should discuss more on what should be an appropriate set of VAW indicators at national level and how to improve sources of information and the utilization of such information to calculate quality VAW indicators.
7. For example how to improve population-based survey like CVS. Should the construction of the sampling frame be discussed in detail, as CVS is a complicate and rare cases survey nature. Interviewing process needs careful attention both the methodology and qualification of interviewers. Should it be carried out at an ad-hoc or regular basis?
8. How to make use of reported data?
9. How to compare, within the country, situation of VAW over time? Should it be on absolute or relative terms?
10. These issues should be discussed further by FOC or UNSD if FOC think that VAW is important to countries.

11. The second level is on regional or global indicators. A general comment on VAW indicators proposed by EGM is that they are subject to differences in culture, religion, level of development etc. of each country. Important thing is that each factor related to VAW does not imply any correlated difference in level of VAW across countries.
12. Therefore, it might be necessary to discuss in more detail on this set of VAW indicators on the point whether they can reflex VAW across countries. On this issue, indirect indicators such as amount of budget used in tackling VAW problem as percentage of total social budget may imply that the problem on VAW is recognized and undergone solving process in each country and that the comparison with other countries might make more sense on difference in level of VAW. Number of Laws or National Regulations etc. related to VAW were issued last year may also illustrate different attention on this issue across countries.

2.2 Issues on Measuring VAW

13. What is the standard and appropriate methodology to collect sound and meaningful data as it seems that VAW indicators are rather difficult or inappropriate to measure directly from survey on victim although the questionnaire of this survey has been well designed with some filter questions, still the results of this kind of survey is still in doubt in terms of accuracy.
14. In case of Thailand, I agree with Linda Laura Sabbadini's ideas regarding violence in childhood since it is too sensitive to seek information for such incidents via survey.
15. What kind of survey is the best for VAW, whether, the ad hoc surveys, health demographic surveys, surveys on women conditions, where the condition is not on crime? Although CVS is a complicated to interview survey, it needs to have a good series to check trend and pattern of VAW, one snap shot may provide meaningless figure.

2.3 Issue related to VAW Indicators

16. The meaning of partner should be clearly defined; who he is? Whether it refers to husband, boyfriend, and fiancé to make data refer to the same situation in all cultures.
17. The indicators related to psychological violence are one of the most difficult to measure, countries should take high consideration on this issue. It is very sensitive and could not be directly measure from the survey.
18. In order to lessen violence against women, fund sensitivity training for psychologist and social workers on issues concerning violence against women should be desirable measures for country to adopt.

19. All laws concerning violence against women should be reviewed and assessed to expand women's legal rights and remove provision that are gender discriminatory and can possibly cause violence against women.
20. The questions related to women's perception should be discussed to or not to add up into the questionnaire, i.e. questions concerning number of currently wives that husbands have may be given different impact to different culture.

3. Measuring indicators as proposed by the Expert Group Meeting: An example from Thailand case.

3.1 Physical violence

- The percentage of women (over the total number of women) who have experienced physical violence during the last year.
This indicator should be disaggregated further by severity (moderate/severe); perpetrator (intimate/other relative/other known person/stranger/state authority); and frequency (one/few/many time(s)).
- The percentage of women (over the total number of women) who have experienced physical violence during lifetime.
This indicator should be disaggregated further by severity (moderate/severe); perpetrator (intimate/other relative/other known person/stranger/state authority); and frequency

21. According to the proposed indicators on Violence Against Women (VAW) by the Expert Group Meeting, the followings are some example on how indicators can be calculated from the Crime and Victimization Survey (CVS) in Thailand
22. National Statistical Office (NSO) in collaboration with the Office of Justice Affair (OJA) has launched the first Crime Victimization Survey in 2008, two pilots survey were conducted in Bangkok Metropolis and in Nakorn Srithamarath province, Southern part of Thailand in 2006 and 2007 respectively. The survey shows that the incidents of VAW, esp., physical violence caused by drunken offender. While statistics from the survey on cigarette smoking and alcoholic drinking behavior in 2004 -2007 showed that more than 51% of Thai male aged 15 years and over were currently drinking alcohols. In such situation, the issue on how to measure VAW is relevant to Thailand. The topic on physical violence is also relevant and is one form of the important violence

against women in Thai Society. Events of physical violence included in 2008 CVS were injured from being shot, cut with knife/sharp weapon, grasp, push, throwing objects etc. However, it was concluded by the interviewer that it was too hard to exercise the interview and the quality data related to VAW obtained was still in doubt. If we have to pursue this survey, much more afford and resources must be put into it.

23. From CVS, the above proposed indicators on physical violence can possibly being calculated through questions on crime that we asked whether anyone were attacked or threatened by someone during last year. We had more than 10 questions of which only 2 were screening questions for physical violence. The survey did not ask the experiencing physically violence during lifetime.
24. Regarding the severity of the violence, since the definition of severity given in the report is not so clear, so in our survey, severity can be approached from questions on impact and frequency of the attack, in broad categories i.e. whether or not there is an injury, and if so whether medical treatments is needed, whether the incidents occurred more than once.
25. Regarding the perpetrator, the CVS also asked one of the questions to capture information on the relationship to the perpetrator i.e. what was the perpetrator's relationship to you? (Such as husband or wife, ex-husband/wife, lover/ex-lover, roommate, neighbor, friends, employer, employee, etc.)

3.2 Sexual violence

- The percentage of women (over the total number of women) who have experienced rape/sexual assault during the last year.
This indicator should be disaggregated further by perpetrator (intimate/other relative/other known person/stranger/state authority); and frequency (one/few/many time(s)).
- The percentage of women (over the total number of women) who have experienced rape/sexual assault during lifetime.
This indicator should be disaggregated further by perpetrator (intimate/other relative/other known person/stranger/state authority); and frequency (one/few/many time(s))

26. In Thailand, sexual violence is one of the most difficult data to measure. From CVS, questions asked in order to measure sexual violence is about kind of sexual crime that anyone was forced or attempted to force into unwanted sexual by verbal threat of rape, verbal threat to kill, unwanted

sexual assault. With/without force to unwanted sexual contact. We had also more than 10 questions on sexual violence with only 2 screening questions.

27. Regarding the disaggregating by perpetrator, and frequency, questions ask is the same as the physical violence.

3.3 Intimate partner violence

- The percentage of women (over the total number of women who have ever had an intimate partner) who have experienced physical or sexual violence by current or former partner during the last year.
This indicator should be disaggregated further by frequency (one/few/many time(s)).
- The percentage of women (over the total number of women who have ever had an intimate partner) who have experienced physical or sexual violence by current or former partner during lifetime.
This indicator should be disaggregated further by frequency (one/few/many time(s)).

28. From the CVS, questions to capture violence from intimate partner are physical and sexual crime, relationship of perpetrator to the victim women as woman's husband, ex-husband or lovers, etc.

29. Regarding the disaggregating by frequency, question is the same as the physical violence.

3.4 Harmful practices

- Female genital mutilation/cutting
The percentage of women (over the total number of women) subjected to female genital mutilation/cutting.
This indicator should be disaggregated further by age.
- Early marriage
The percentage of women (over the total number of women) whose age at marriage is below 18 years.

30. In Thailand, indicator on female genital mutilation/cutting is not included in the CVS. However, indicator on early marriage can be calculated from questions of the survey i.e. marital status and age of the interviewee.