

Advancing Methodology on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective



United Nations Statistics Division

UN Women

Seminar on the UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of
Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective
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Defining assets

Defining assets – anchored around the 2008 SNA

- An asset is “a store of value representing a benefit or a series of benefits accruing to the economic owner by holding or using the entity over a period of time” (2008 SNA)
 - Economic benefits: possible income or holding gains/losses due to changes in the prices of assets
 - Economic assets, not human or social assets

Defining assets – EDGE specific

- Limit to assets hold by households and individuals living in households, incl. unincorporated enterprises run by households
- Consumer durables: not in SNA (service provided not within SNA production boundary) but covered by EDGE
 - Its impact on measuring size and distribution of wealth across households
 - Balancing out with loans for major consumer durable items (e.g., cars)
 - Women’ s empowerment, e.g., ownership of cellphone

Assets: priority and additional (1)

- Methodological guidelines distinguish between “priority” and “additional” assets:

- Principal dwelling
- Agricultural land
- Other real estate, incl. non-agricultural land
- Financial assets

Priority assets

- Livestock
- Agricultural equipment
- Other real estate
- Valuables
- Consumer durables
- Non-agricultural enterprise assets
- Liabilities for calculation of net wealth

Additional assets

Assets: priority and additional (2)

- Priority assets:
 - important for global monitoring (ag. and non-ag. land)
 - relevant across all countries (e.g. dwellings and financial assets).
- Countries are to determine the assets and sub-categories of asset most relevant for data collection by assessing
 - policy needs
 - The prevalence of the asset via existing data