Advancing Methodology on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

Seminar on the UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective
Rome, 1-2 November 2017
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 held 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
Methodological guidelines distinguish between “priority” and “additional” assets:
- Principal dwelling
- Agricultural land
- Other real estate, incl. non-agricultural land
- Financial assets

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