Technical Meeting on the UN Draft Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

4-5 May 2017

New York, United States

Report of the Meeting [1]

Prepared by

United Nations Statistics Division

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background and objective of the meeting

The Technical meeting on the UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective was held in New York on 4-5 May 2017. The meeting was organized by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project.

Building on the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), the EDGE project is a multi-year joint initiative of UNSD and UN Women that seeks to accelerate existing efforts to generate internationally comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership. Key partners include National Statistical Offices, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the national statistics offices of Georgia, Mexico and South Africa, the ADB, the FAO, the United States Department of Agriculture, UNSD, and the World Bank. Consultants to the EDGE project also attended the meeting as experts in gender statistics, sampling methodology, data collection and data analysis. (See Annex I for the list of participants)

The two-day meeting presented the key sections of the draft UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective and solicited input on technical issues requiring resolution before the guidelines are finalized in 2017.

B. Organization of the meeting

The meeting was conducted according to the document "Agenda" (Annex II). The meeting commenced with opening remarks from Ms. Keiko Osaki-Tomita, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, UNSD. Ms. Osaki-Tomita welcomed the participants and thanked them for their support of the EDGE project as well as their technical contributions to the development of the draft UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective. Ms. Francesca Grum, Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section, UNSD, then presented the objectives of the meeting and an overview of the Guidelines, including their purpose and intended audience. The introductory presentation was followed by a presentation by Ms. Lauren Pandolfelli and Ms. Ionica Berevoescu, Statistician and Consultant to the EDGE project, respectively, on Part I of the Guidelines: A Conceptual Framework for Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective. Following discussion of the technical items proposed for consideration, Ms. Berevoescu presented an overview of Part II of the

Guidelines: The Role of Household Surveys and other Sources of Data in Collecting Individual-level Data on Asset Ownership. Ms. Pandolfelli and Ms. Haoyi Chen, Statistician, Social and Housing Statistics Section, UNSD, then presented an overview of Part III of the Guidelines: Guidance for Implementation, soliciting input on the proposed data collection strategies, sampling designs and interviewing protocols.

The second day of the meeting focused on Part IV of the Guidelines: Data Processing, Analysis and Dissemination. Ms. Pandolfelli presented an overview of the indicators recommended in the Guidelines for global and national monitoring and solicited input on how to reconcile reporting discrepancies when more than one household member is interviewed. Ms. Chen presented an overview of how to derive weights for population-based and asset-based indicators. The final presentation, by Ms. Berevoescu, focused on data analysis and dissemination, followed by a discussion of the types of intrahousehold analysis that countries could undertake if they interview more than one household member. The meeting concluded with a summary of key decisions made during the meeting and next steps for finalizing the Guidelines.

II. SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS[2]

Session 1. Overview of the UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

The presentation provided an overview of the draft UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective, produced by UNSD, under the EDGE project in collaboration with the ADB, the FAO, the World Bank and the seven national statistical offices that piloted the EDGE methodology: Georgia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, the Philippines, South Africa and Uganda. Targeted to NSOs, the Guidelines provide guidance on collecting, processing, analyzing and disseminating individual-level data on asset ownership to understand: (1) the gender asset gap; (2) the gender wealth gap; and (3) intrahousehold inequality in asset ownership. It was noted that the draft Guidelines were presented to the 48th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission and well-received. With a view toward finalizing the Guidelines by the end of 2017, the Technical Meeting was held to present additional findings from the EDGE pilots and to solicit input from the participants on the key remaining technical issues requiring resolution.

Session 2. A Conceptual Framework for Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

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[2] The presentation is available on the EDGE website at: https://unstats.un.org/edge/meetings/

The presentation provided an overview of the conceptual framework presented in the Guidelines for measuring asset ownership from a gender perspective. The framework focuses on assets held by households, including female and male adult household members. Assets may be owned exclusively or jointly by two or more persons. Ownership comprises a bundle of ownership rights, including reported ownership, documented ownership, the right to sell and the right to bequeath. Both the type and the form of women's and men's ownership of assets are influenced by the initial context, including the legal framework and social norms, as well as the modes in which the assets were acquired. Individual-level data on women's and men's ownership of assets can provide important insights for the design of evidence-based policies and programmes, including those on women's empowerment, sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation. In addition, countries are encouraged to collect information on the value of assets to reflect additional attributes of assets, such as size, quality or location, that are not revealed by a simple count of women's and men's asset holdings, including for the purpose of understanding differentials in the individual wealth held by women and men.

The presentation also provided the rationale behind a key recommendation made in the Guidelines that self-reported, not proxy, data should be collected from survey respondents. Based on findings from the Methodological Survey Experiment for Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective (MEXA, implemented by the World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study, EDGE and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, proxy reporting underestimates women's and men's ownership of key assets. Further, proxy reporting assigns ownership to people who do not consider themselves owners.

Next, the session discussed four technical items. First, the exclusion of economic ownership from the bundle of ownership rights based on analysis of the EDGE pilot data which found a high overlap between reported and economic ownership, suggesting people's interpretation of reported ownership may be linked to who controls the economic proceeds from the asset. Second, the identification of "core" assets based on whether they are universally applicable and proposed for global monitoring (e.g. under the Sustainable Development Goals). Third, the decision to collect data on the assets belonging to the enterprise rather than the enterprise itself in order to align with the System of National Accounts. Fourth, the guidance that should be proposed in the Guidelines on valuing assets given the challenges of collecting such data.

Session 3. The role of household surveys and other sources of data in collecting individual-level data on asset ownership and control
The presentation provided a brief overview of the data sources featured in the Guidelines for collecting individual-level data on asset ownership, including household surveys and population censuses, agricultural surveys and censuses and administrative data. It was explained that the Guidelines focus on household surveys for the collection of the data because household surveys: are often the most developed and frequent source of data in many countries; flexible in adopting the conceptual framework presented in the Guidelines; enable coverage of the full range of assets; enable population-based estimates of asset ownership (among other measures)p; and often collect data on other topics of analytical interest to asset ownership (decision-making, livelihoods, poverty). No technical items were presented for consideration.

Session 4. Guidance for Implementation

The session presented a brief overview of the guidance for implementation featured in the Guidelines, including planning the survey, data collection strategies, modes of data collection, sample design, questionnaire design, and field operations. It then presented two technical items, and supporting evidence from the EDGE pilots, for consideration by participants. First, refining guidance on whom to interview (1 randomly selected adult household member, all household members or a modified approach of 1 randomly selected respondent and his/her spouse partner) based on costs, the quality of the data collected, and the feasibility of NSOs implementing the recommended approach. Second, whether to recommend that respondents be simultaneously interviewed when more than 1 household member is interviewed.

Session 5: Data processing, analysis and dissemination

The session presented an overview of the topics addressed in Part IV of the Guidelines on data processing, analysis and dissemination, including data processing and weighting, recommended indicators for global and national monitoring, including the proposed methodology for SDG Indicator 5.a.1,[3] data analysis and dissemination of results.

The following four technical items were presented to participants for consideration. First, proposed approaches for reconciling reporting discrepancies in asset ownership when more than 1 household member is interviewed, including ignoring discrepancies and overriding discrepancies at the analysis stage. Second, the proposed set of indicators for global and national monitoring and their rationale. Third, the consideration of asset-level indicators, including weighting requirements, among the recommended set of indicators. Fourth, proposed recommendations for intrahousehold analysis of asset ownership when more than 1 household member is interviewed.

Session 6. Wrap-up and conclusions

The technical meeting concluded with a review of the key decisions agreed to by participants over the course of the two days, as depicted in Table 1. It was noted that the Guidelines will be finalized by the end of 2017 and that UNSD will circulate the revised Guidelines to the participants for their feedback as well as the report of the meeting.

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[3] SDG Indicator 5.a.1 is (a) the proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex ; and (b) the Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

Table 1. Key decisions and related follow-up

Item for Consideration	Decision	Follow-up
Part I of Guidelines: Conceptual Framework		
The exclusion of economic rights from the bundle of ownership rights	Participants agreed to exclude economic rights from "bundle of ownership rights"	The Guidelines will include a box on additional rights countries may wish to collect data on, including economic rights, highlighting management and use rights.
The classification of assets as "core" or "additional" assets for data collection	Participants agreed that the Guidelines should categorize financial assets as a "core" asset and recommend that countries prioritize data collection on the prevalence of women's/men's ownership of financial assets.	The Guidelines will relabel "core" assets as "priority" assets and reclassify financial assets as a priority asset.
The decision to collect data on the assets belonging to the enterprise rather than then enterprise itself	Participants agreed to collect data on: (1) non-incorporated enterprises; (2) non-agricultural enterprises; and (3) the assets belonging to the enterprise rather than the enterprise itself.	The questions identifying whether the enterprise is incorporated will need to be further developed prior to inclusion in the Guidelines.
Valuing assets: • Which assets to value? • Who to collect valuation data from? • How to deal with high missing values?	Participants agreed that the items for consideration cannot be answered satisfactorily based on the evidence from the EDGE pilots because collecting valuation data warrants methodological development and testing beyond the scope of the EDGE project. The Guidelines cannot provide guidance beyond the current "state of the art" recommendations on valuing assets. However, calculation of the gender wealth gap is an important component of the methodology to measure asset ownership from a gender perspective and thus should be encouraged since the guidelines aim to push the agenda forward in this area. As such, the guidelines will present best practices; i.e. what should be done in principle, but will also address the current challenges/	The Guidelines will revise the section on valuing assets to: 1) further reflect the best practices and challenges of valuing assets; 2) address challenges specific to valuing different types of assets; 3) discuss whom valuation data should be collected from, including a brief discussion of the evidence from the EDGE pilots.

	limitations to these approaches. For example, the guidelines will recommend valuation data be collected for all assets but note the operational challenges of doing so.	
Roster of assets	Participants agreed that when more than 1 household member is interviewed in the household, the roster of assets belonging to the household should be collected from 1 knowledgeable household member in the household questionnaire, which would then be fed forward to the individual questionnaires, as was the approach adopted by the Gender Asset Gap Project and the World Bank LSMS team in Malawi. This decision was adopted due to the challenges of matching assets across respondent rosters created by different household members in MEXA and evidence from the EDGE pilot studies that very few additional assets (with the exception of financial assets and liabilities) were yielded when household members created their own asset rosters. It was also agreed that rosters of financial assets should be collected at the individual level, not the household level, given the presence of "hidden" financial assets.	No follow-up indicated.
Part II of Guidelines: Data Sources		
No items for consideration	No changes proposed	FAO will send additional comments on Part II, particularly in relation to agricultural censuses and surveys, and UNSD will revise, accordingly.
Part III of Guidelines: Guidance for Implementation		
Who to interview: • 1 randomly-selected respondent; • 1 randomly-selected	Participants agreed that if a the host survey interviews 1 randomly selected adult household member or all adult	UNSD will calculate sample size requirements and related cost estimates for the 3 proposed respondent selection strategies

respondent + partner • All household members	household members, then the minimum set of questions or module for measuring asset ownership can be appended to the host survey and the main respondent selection protocol followed. For all other surveys, additional information is needed to assess the costs of randomly selecting 1 respondent, 1 + partner or all adult household members (i.e. a maximum number based on household composition dynamics), before final recommendations can be given.	before providing final guidance on whom to interview. The revised guidance will be shared with the technical group for their feedback.
The need for simultaneous interviewing when more than 1 household member is interviewed	Participants agreed that the guidelines should relax the requirement for simultaneous interviewing but stress the need to interview respondents alone.	The section in the Guidelines on within-household selection will be revised to reflect the decision to relax the requirement for simultaneity and the corresponding discussion of the pros/cons will be reweighted.
Part IV of Guidelines: Data processing, analysis and dissemination		
Reconciling discrepancies when more than 1 household member is interviewed	Participants agreed that respondent's self-reporting should be taken as "truth" when deriving individual-level indicators on asset ownership; i.e. discrepancies in self-reporting when more than 1 household member is interviewed should be ignored. For the derivation of the gender wealth gap, participants noted that there is no straight-forward approach to resolving discrepancies in the reporting of ownership status but that it will be necessary to recommend an approach in the Guidelines in order to identify a measure of household wealth that can be allocated among men and women in the household.	Based on additional analyses of the data, UNSD will present to the technical group a recommended approach for calculating the gender wealth gap when more than 1 household member is interviewed.
Weighting for non-response	Participants requested that the	The Guidelines will add a section

	Guidelines include guidance on how to use the propensity score method to adjust for non-response	on weight-adjustment using propensity score modeling/method.
Asset-level indicators	Participants agreed that asset-level indicators should not be included among the recommended set of indicators for core and national monitoring given the complexities of calculating asset-level weights and the related requirement to reconcile reporting discrepancies when more than 1 household member is interviewed.	The Guidelines will include a box on asset-level indicators and the related weighting requirements to inform countries of the relevant issues.
People-based recommended Indicators	Participants agreed with the proposed list of recommended indicators but would also like to include an indicator on exclusive ownership.	An indicator on exclusive ownership will be added to the recommended set.
SDG Indicator 5.a.1	Participants discussed how best to define and operationalize the agricultural population. Options discussed include measuring agricultural land ownership among the rural population and defining the agricultural population as all those individuals who live in a household in which at least one member is "involved in" agriculture.	FAO will consult internally on defining the agricultural population and revert back to UNSD with suggestions.
Intrahousehold analysis	Participants discussed the types of intrahousehold analysis that can be undertaken when multiple members of the household self-report their ownership of assets and the extent to which the Guidelines should provide guidance in this area. It was agreed that since intrahousehold analysis of asset ownership based on self-reported data collection is a relatively new area, the Guidelines can only offer basic illustrative examples of the types of analyses that can be done.	UNSD will draft the section in the Guidelines on analysis and dissemination and circulate it to the EDGE technical group for their feedback.

Annex 1

List of Participants

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
1.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	1.	Mr. Kaushal Joshi Principal Statistician Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
2.	Georgia	2.	Mr. Tengiz Tsekvava Deputy Executive Director Geostat (National Statistics Office of Georgia)
3.	Mexico	3.	Mrs. Ma. Eugenia Gómez Luna Deputy Director General Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
4.	South Africa	4.	Ms. Isabelle Schmidt Chief Director Social Statistics Statistics South Africa
5.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	5.	Ms. Chiara Brunelli Statistician
6.	UN Statistics Division	6.	Ms. Francesca Grum Chief, Social Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
		7.	Mr. Herman Smith Chief of the National Accounts Section Economic Statistics Branch
		8.	Ms. Haoyi Chen Statistician, Social Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
		9.	Ms. Harumi Shibata Salazar Statistician Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
		10.	Ms. Lauren Pandolfelli Statistician, EDGE Project - Social Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
		11.	Ms. Ilaria Di Matteo Statistician, National Accounts Section Economic Statistics Branch
		12.	Mr. Andrew Smith Associate Statistician, Social Statistics Section Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
7.	USAID	13.	Ms. Krista Jacobs Gender Advisor Bureau of Food Security
8.	World Bank	14.	Ms. Caren Grown Senior Director, Gender
		15.	Mr. Talip Kilic Senior Economist, Survey Methods Team Leader

No.	Country / Organization		Contact Person Information
			Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) Program Development Data Group
		16.	Ms. Heather Moylan Survey Specialist Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) Program Development Data Group
9.	Expert	17.	Ms. Ionica Berevoescu Consultant
10.	Expert	18.	Ms. Urmilla Bob University of KwaZulu-Natal
11.	Expert	19.	Ms. Cheryl Doss Oxford University
12.	Expert	20.	Ms. Hitomi Komatsu Consultant
13.	Expert	21.	Mr. Jim Lepkowski University of Michigan

Annex II

AGENDA

Technical Meeting on the UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

United Nations Statistics Division
16th Floor Conference Room
New York
4 and 5 May 2017

4 May 2017

9.00-9.15   **1. Welcome and objectives of the meeting**

9.15-10.00   **2. Overview of UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective**

The session will provide an overview of the purpose of the Guidelines, the intended users of the Guidelines and the main objectives of data collection.

10.00-12.30   **3. Part I: A conceptual framework for measuring asset ownership**

(with coffee   **from a gender perspective**

break)   The session will provide a review of the components of Part I of the Guidelines and solicit input on the following items:

- The exclusion of economic ownership from the bundle of ownership rights
- The classification of assets as "core" or "additional" assets for data collection
- The decision to collect data on the assets belonging to the enterprise rather than then enterprise itself
- The challenges of valuing assets, including specific challenges by type of asset and who valuation data should be collected from (respondent owner or proxy)

12.30-13.30   **Lunch**

13.30-14.00   **4. Part II: The role of household surveys and other sources of data in collecting individual-level data on asset ownership and control**

The session will provide a review of the components of Part II of the Guidelines.

14.00-17.00   **5. Part III. Guidance for implementation**

(with coffee   The session will provide a review of the components of Part III of the Guidelines,
break)   summarise how the substantive comments received on Part III are being addressed and solicit input on the following items:

- Refining guidance for choosing among data collection strategies (stand-alone, appended module or integration of minimum set of questions);
- Proposed sample designs for estimating the prevalence of women's and men's asset ownership and intrahousehold inequality in asset ownership including within household selection;
- Simultaneous interviewing

5 May 2017

9:00-11:00   **7. Part IV: Data processing, analysis and dissemination**
The session will provide a review of the components of Part IV of the Guidelines and solicit input on the following item:
- Developing guidance on reconciling reporting discrepancies when more than 1 household member is interviewed
- Proposed indicators for global and national monitoring, including SDG Indicators 5.a.1 (a) + (b)
- The consideration of asset-level indicators, including weighting requirements
- Proposed recommendations for intrahousehold analysis of survey data

11:00-11:15   **Coffee break**

11:15-13:00   **7. Part IV (continued)**

13:00-14:00   **Lunch**

14:00-17:00   **7. Part IV (continued)**

17.00-17:30   **8. Wrap-up and conclusions**