Toolkit on Producing and Using Disaggregated Gender Statistics: Making Every Woman Counted and Visible

International Workshop on the Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals
13 January 2022
Why the Counted and Visible Toolkit?

• **CALLS** from Member States (e.g., IAEG-SDGs, ISWGHS, CSW)
  
  o **IAEG-SDGs**: UNSC50 paper on *Data Disaggregation and SDG Indicators: Policy Priorities and Current and Future Disaggregation Plans* (for women and girls)
  o **ISWGHS**: UNSC50 paper on Achieving the Full Potential of HH Surveys (1/3 of SDG indicators)
  o **UN Women**: Making Every Woman and Girl Count

• **OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSE**: Make tools and good practices on gender data disaggregation available and accessible
  o Focus on official statistics
  o Holistic
  o Sustainable
  o “Nothing about us, without us”
Operational Framework

**How-to's**
- **Production** of disaggregated gender statistics
- **Assessment** of validity of estimates

**Must-do's**
- **Commitment** of NSS leadership to LNOB
- **Prioritization** of gender equality indicators
- **Advocacy and use**
How-to's on production of disaggregated gender statistics

13 disaggregated gender-specific SDG indicators

- Multi-level disaggregation (at least three variables)
- Providing codes in **STATA, R, and SPSS**
**Example indicator:** Proportion of women aged 18–49 who married as children

### What to do?

- **Identify dataset, reference population, and level of disaggregation**
- **Identify variables of interest and code them**
- **Generate binary variables reflecting intersections between groups**
- **Tabulate variables**

### How to do/operationalize it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Demographic Health Survey (DHS), Cameroon, Female dataset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denominator</td>
<td>Keep only respondents older than 18 and younger than 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levels of disaggregation</td>
<td>Richest, Poorest, Urban, Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable of interest</td>
<td>Binary variable specifying whether they take their own decisions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Disaggregation variables | - Wealth index (v190), coded into binary variables: poorest and richest  
- Geographical location (v125) coded into two categories: urban and rural |
| First level of disaggregation – Urban/Rural | 1) married as children among urban respondents, and 2) married as children among rural respondents |
| Second level of disaggregation – Poorest/Richest | 1) married as children among poorest, and 2) married as children among richest |
| Intersection of the two levels of disaggregation | 1.1) married as children among urban and poorest respondents, 1.2) married as children among urban and richest respondents, 2.1) married as children among rural and poorest respondents, 2.2) married as children among rural and richest respondents. |

Tabulate the variable of interests and the binary variables reflecting the disaggregation.
Disaggregated gender statistics must be:

- sufficiently reliable, as measured by the coefficient of variation (CV)
  - Function of standard error
What CV is acceptable?

- **No** internationally agreed standards or recommendations
- CV thresholds vary country to country and in some cases, from surveys to surveys
  - Philippine Statistics Authority: greater than 20% are shown with caveats (poverty statistics)
  - Statistics Canada: greater than 33% are "not considered sufficiently reliable to be published" (expenditure data)

Suggested “rule of thumb” of the Counted and Visible toolkit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VALUE OF CV</th>
<th>SUGGESTED CLASSIFICATION OF ESTIMATES (x)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x ≤ 10%</td>
<td>Highly reliable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% &gt; x ≤ 20%</td>
<td>Sufficiently reliable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% &gt; x ≤ 33%</td>
<td>Still acceptable but should be used with caution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x &gt; 33%</td>
<td>Caveats should be provided in terms of the level of reliability of the estimate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How-to's on assessment of validity of estimates

One Variable
- Age

Two Variables
- Age
- Wealth quintile

Three Variables
- Age
- Wealth quintile
- Urban-rural

Marriage before age 18
- CV: 6%

Among the poorest women
- CV: 8%
- Among poorest women residing in urban areas
  - CV: 30%
- Among poorest women residing in rural areas
  - CV: 8%

Among the richest women
- CV: 20%
- Among richest women residing in urban areas
  - CV: 20%
- Among richest women residing in rural areas
  - CV: NA (no obs)
How-to's on assessment of validity of estimates

To publish OR not to publish....
That is the question!

MORE
Disaggregation variables

LESS
number of observations

LESS
precise (standard error)

LESS
reliable (coefficient of variation)
Summary of assessment of validity of estimates

To publish OR not to publish?

- Disaggregated Gender Statistics
  - Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment
    - Acceptable: PUBLISH!
    - With questions or concerns:
      - Ignorable: PUBLISH... with caution and supporting documents!
      - Non-ignorable: DO NOT PUBLISH but mention in publication.
Leadership is essential to Leave No One Behind

- Commitment and political will
- Engaging stakeholders
- Stakeholder cooperation
- Coordination of the NSS

Practical tools/mechanisms

- Gender statistics unit and focal points in the GSO
- Multi-year work plan for disaggregated gender statistics
- Inter-agency working group
- Legislation and strategies

**Viet Nam case**
Must-do’s on prioritization of gender equality indicators

Which indicators must be disaggregated and by which dimensions

- Clearly specify key gender indicator requirements
- Guide the development needs
- Guide development partners on areas of support
- Assist in meeting the country’s global and reporting requirements

Tools and mechanisms: Uganda case

- National priority GE indicators
  - Developed in 2016
  - Updated in 2019

- Disaggregated gender statistics in the VNR
  - Produced 11 in 2016
  - Produced 28 in 2020

Increase of 150%!
Must-do’s on advocacy and use

• Process should be **user-oriented** rather than product-oriented
• Targeted dissemination and communication

Colombia case: **Women and Men: Gender Gaps in Colombia 2020**

• Role of **partnerships**
  o with government stakeholders, media, UN Women and other development partners
• **Sustained and institutionalized** efforts
  o Annual publication
  o Subnational gender data production
1. Full publication version:
https://data.unwomen.org/publications/counted-and-visible-toolkit

2. Enhanced digital version
- Tutorials on generating 13 disaggregated gender-specific SDG indicators using STATA, R, and SPSS
  - Technical guidebook
  - Video on STATA

3. Advocacy activities
- Regional training for Africa: November 2021
- Regional webinar for Asia and the Pacific: December 2021
- Regional webinar for Europe and Central Asia: February 2022

4. Enhancements in the Training Curriculum on Gender Statistics

Online version:
https://data.unwomen.org/resources/counted-and-visible-toolkit
THANK YOU

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