Monitoring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls: From MDGs to SDGs

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Outline

I. Difference between SDGs and MDGs
II. Advances and remaining challenges in gender statistics
III. Lessons for monitoring SDGs
IV. UN Women plans for statistical cooperation
Strong content on GE & EWG in 2030 agenda

- Declaration: Realizing GE & EWG will make a crucial contribution to progress
- Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”: 9 targets, addressing multiple concerns (e.g. 5.1; 5.2, 5.3, 5.a, 5.c)
- More than 25% of Targets explicitly or implicitly addressing GE & EWG
- Strong emphasis on disaggregation, including by sex and other relevant characteristics to capture intersecting inequalities (TG 19.18; para 74.g)
From MDGs to SDGs

**MDGs – 5 targets**

- Target 3A: Target: Achieve gender parity in education
- Target 1B: Employment
- Target 2A: universal primary education
- Targets 5A and 5B: Maternal and sexual and reproductive health

**SDGs – 40 targets**

- SDG5 Addresses fundamental concerns that were missed by MDGs:
  - Ending discrimination (5.1); ending violence (5.2); unpaid care and domestic work (5.4) etc.
- And many gender related targets in other goals
  - poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, peaceful societies
Monitoring of GE & EWG in SDGs: Significant developments and many tools

- Many new tools to draw from, including:
  - Minimum set of gender indicators (52 Outcome + 11 Norms indicators) agreed by UNSC in 2013 + adaptations in most regions
  - Core set of 9 VAW indicators (UNSC 2009, 2011, 2013)
  - Technical resources: guidelines on gender statistics (UNECE/WB, UNSD); VAW data (UNSD); census (UNFPA); Gender data navigator (WB); gender and STEM (UNESCO) etc.
  - Various collaboration forums, coordination mechanisms and partnerships, (IAEG-GS, EDGE, DATA2X etc.)
But many existing and new challenges for statistics

- Issues covered go beyond the Minimum set – need new tools
  - e.g. measuring discrimination (Target 5.1): indicator should be about results but we cannot just ask people if they are discriminated against!
  - MOI targets: address policies but be universally relevant
- Going beyond sex disaggregation: disaggregate also for marginalized groups, people with disabilities, migrants, etc. but with finite sample sizes.
- Environment – brand new issues to think about such as gender and climate change (e.g. Target 13b)
- Doing justice to it all with a limited number of indicators
Added challenge: gender statistics not always prioritized!

Based on 2013 review in 126 countries:

- Over 2/3 of countries have gender stats focal point in NSO, but only 37% have coordinating body for gender stats at national level;
- Gender statistics are governed by statistics or gender-related laws and regulations in more than 4/5 of countries, But less than 1/5 have specific legislation requiring the NSS to conduct specialized gender-based surveys;
- 13% have dedicated budget for gender statistics.
And some challenges are fundamental

- Based on 2014 review conducted for 20th Anniversary of Beijing Platform for Action
  - Lots of data gaps when it comes to the indicators in the minimum set; quality also varies widely
  - Lack of adequate human and financial resources to collect, analyze and disseminate GS data, particularly VAW and TUS
  - Lack of political will and limited awareness of the importance of gathering data on gender equality in NSOs
  - Limited capacity of stakeholders, including government ministries (especially gender) and civil society to analyse data
Some lessons for SDGs monitoring

1. Lesson from history: Rome wasn’t built in one day – it will take time and many iterations to get indicator framework and measurement right

2. Lesson from future: Progress in measurement will take place – need to be ready to adjust when necessary

3. Lesson from MDGs: we will achieve more if we work together – statistical cooperation is a necessity
Doing more together to improve gender statistics and monitor SDGs

Ambitious new flagship programme initiative from UN Women with 3 objectives:

- Address weak policy space and legal and financial environment
- Address technical challenges within NSS that limit the production of gender statistics
- Address lack of access to data and limited capacity on the part of policymakers and other users to analyse them to inform policies
Supportive policy environment in place to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs

 Outputs

1.1. An assessment of gender statistics and identification of gaps is conducted at the national level

1.2. Enabling legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, and adequate resources for gender statistics are in place

1.3. National plans to localize gender-related SDGs targets and indicators are developed
2. Quality, comparable and regular gender statistics are available to address national data gaps and meet commitments

Output

2.1. Capacity of the national statistical system (NSS) strengthened to compile Tier I indicators in the minimum set and SDGs

2.2. Capacity of the NSS strengthened to collect Tier II indicators in the minimum set and SDGs

2.3. Capacity of the NSS strengthened to produce Tier III indicators in the minimum set and SDGs
3. Addressing availability, accessibility and use to inform policies and promote accountability

 Outputs

3.1. Increased dissemination of data at national, regional and global levels

3.2. User-producer dialogues institutionalized to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics

3.3. Capacity of civil society, government and other actors to use and analyse gender statistics to inform decision-making is strengthened
Happy WSD 2015 from all of UN Women!