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UNIFEM'S ROLE AS A USER OF STATISTICS *

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PART A: Background

“The main requirement for the production and dissemination of statistics that reflect the realities of women and men is that users and producers work together to identify the issues to be addressed and the necessary statistical outputs.”

----Birgitta Hedman, Francesca Perucci, Pehr Sundstrom, *Engendering Statistics: A Tool for Change*, Statistics Sweden, 1996

UNIFEM's work in statistics and indicators has focused on promoting the production and use of sex-disaggregated data, the application of a gender perspective in their collection and analysis, building the capacity of institutions, and facilitating the dialogue between users and producers of information. Since the late 1990s UNIFEM has been bringing together researchers, regional statistical institutions, and officials from various government bodies such as Ministries of Women, Labour and Finance, as well as civil society stakeholders, especially women's organizations and advocates, and United Nations Agencies, including the economic commissions.

More specifically, the role of UNIFEM in the development of gender statistics can be described as collaboration with official statisticians at the international, regional and national levels on the following:

1. **Advocacy** activities to promote the production of statistics for gender-equality monitoring, planning and programming and support the necessary work. Often this requires sensitizing and collaborating with statisticians to reduce gender biases in the design, collection and production of statistics.
2. **Capacity building**, including training, convening and collaborating with other institutions to promote dialogue and understanding between policy makers and statisticians, but also technically supporting national statistics offices to produce gender sensitive and sex-disaggregated statistics, as well as other initiatives aimed at collecting, systematizing and re-processing statistical information to make gender-sensitive and sex disaggregated data available.
3. **Dissemination** activities, using statistics in the preparation of research reports on gender, compilations of statistics in accessible formats and assistance in the formulation of indicators to monitor progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

The following sections, that review UNIFEM's past activities and ongoing projects on gender statistics, will be organized following these different roles.

PARTS B & C: Gender Statistics Materials and Activities; Ongoing Regional or Country Projects

B.1 Advocacy and support for work on improving gender statistics

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, UNIFEM Mexico has always included sensitization sessions in the workshops they run, and the office feels that advocacy and capacity building processes have continued because gender sensitization has been taken seriously. For example, the early work of the regional office with INEGI (National Statistics, Geography and Informatics Institute, Mexico) supported the creation of a national statistical system called SISESIM that monitors the implementation of national

programmes for equal opportunities and the advancement of women. Data SISESIM has provided on school drop out rates and completion of studies among boys and girls that showed gender disparity led to the Mexican Government's anti-poverty programme to provide larger school grants for girls. The Mexico office has also produced a series of gender sensitive guidelines have been published for users and producers of statistics, particularly geared toward individuals working at statistical institutions, such as INEGI.

Titles in the series include:

- ⇒ *Gender Approach to Statistics on Education in Mexico: Guidelines for Users and References for Producers;*
- ⇒ *Gender Approach to Statistics on Political Participation and Decision Making in Mexico: Guidelines for Users and References for Producers;*
- ⇒ *Gender Approach to Statistics on Labor in Mexico: Guidelines for Users and References for Producers; and*
- ⇒ *Gender Approach to Statistics on Health in Mexico: Guidelines for Users and References for Producers.*

A result of the work in gender and statistics is the Gender and Poverty Observatory in Mexico, that developed gender indicators, analysis and research used in the national policies for poverty reduction. The observatory has been institutionalized within the Ministry of Social Development. The initiative developed a survey showing the effects of poverty reduction programs on violence. Also in Mexico, UNIFEM has been working to incorporate gender perspective in the UNDP Human Development Report. UNIFEM, INMujeres (NWM) and INEGI organized the 6th Annual International Meeting on Gender Statistics, in Aguascalientes, Mexico, attended by NSO, NWM representatives from 14 countries, and indigenous women who incorporated indigenous issues in the agenda.

In Asia Pacific, UNIFEM India has partnered with the Office of the Registrar General to undertake training and publicity measures to gender sensitize enumerators and build public awareness. These efforts have worked to institutionalize capacity to produce a continuous series of reliable and timely demographic, social and economic benchmark data that accurately reflects women's status and their contributions in Pakistan, Nepal and India. Work has focused on gender sensitizing key census personnel in India and Nepal and in India, UNIFEM distributed flyers to inform the public on what constitutes work, particularly targeting women. The institutionalization of the work began with the overhauling of the manner of collecting data on Female Work Participation Rates (FWPR) during the 2001 Census in India and Nepal. Attention has also been paid to conducting assessments of work carried out on engendering the 2001 Census exercise in India and Nepal, and disseminating results/methodologies to other countries within the region.

UNIFEM has also supported a number of time use studies, which provide a unique source of data on both economic and non-economic work in the household. Time-use surveys, once primarily done only in developed countries have more recently been done by national statistical offices in developing countries, in order to improve the measurement of women's and men's unpaid work. Support for the development of these statistics compliments the work of UNIFEM on engendering macroeconomics for it provides unique data on cooking cleaning and family care—that is on important work performed in the care economy. (See Annex 1 for a survey of UNIFEM activities on time-use data.)

B.2 Capacity-building activities to promote dialogue between producers and users of statistics

In India, UNIFEM has undertaken a comprehensive programme to work with officials on census methods and training. This work has also extended to training the public so that women's work will be more

accurately measured. The result is that the measurement of the situation of women has improved in censuses. Similar activities have been undertaken in Pakistan and Nepal.

UNIFEM has carried out capacity building workshops on gender indicators for the NSO in Mexico, Dominican Republic and Guatemala, as well as for National Women's Machineries in Guatemala, Dominican Republic and Honduras. In Venezuela and Ecuador, UNIFEM organized workshops in partnership with FAO, UNFPA, NSOs and National Women's Machineries on the need to mainstream gender in statistics and indicators. Additionally, UNIFEM supported a capacity-building workshop in Ecuador on including indigenous and ethnic perspectives in the production of statistics. In partnership with DANE (NSO) and the Presidential Council for the Equality of Women (NWM), UNIFEM organized a training course on gender and poverty in Colombia, in order to improve data collection instruments. UNIFEM and DANE are promoting the first Diploma on Gender and Statistics offered by the Centre for Superior Studies of the Andean Region (CANDANE).

B.3 Dissemination of statistics in preparation of research reports and identification of indicators to monitor progress in status of women

At the international level, Progress of the World's Women issued biennially focuses on presenting statistics in a user-friendly format. These reports have identified key indicators for measuring the progress of women and compiled and analyzed data on these indicators—most recently in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

Sex-disaggregated statistics need to be made available in easy to use forms. A number of UNIFEM publications provide easy to understand information on the situation of women through global, regional and country level statistical reports:

- ⇒ *Progress of the World's Women 2000; 2002 vol.2; 2005*
- ⇒ *Progress of South Asian Women 2005*
- ⇒ *Status of Nigerian Women and Men 2000: A Statistical Profile*
- ⇒ *Women in Mongolia: Mapping Progress under Transition 2001*
- ⇒ *Monitoring Progress of Caribbean Women: Beijing + 5 and Beyond 2003*
- ⇒ *Progress of Arab Women 2004*
- ⇒ *Progress of Brazilian Women 2006*
- ⇒ *1995-2003: Have Women Progressed? Latin American Index of Fulfilled Commitment*

At the regional level, two projects are worth highlighting. *The Story Behind the Numbers: Women and Employment in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Commonwealth of Independent States* (2006) analyses trends in male and female labour force participation since 1990 in 18 countries in Eastern Europe. Looking at labour market data from the UNECE Gender Statistics Database together with changes in the status and wage levels of public sector vs. private sector jobs, the increase in different forms of informal employment and the distribution of women and men across them it highlights the ways in which women's economic security has declined following the collapse of state socialism, and points to the data needed to fully measure the changing labour market position of women and men.

In 2000, the ECLAC Women and Development Unit with the support of UNIFEM and the Italian Government launched a comprehensive project to strengthen the capacity in the region in the use of gender indicators in the formulation of public policies. The project has improved the availability of statistics in the region through 1) a web site where users have access to a set of 22 statistical country profiles with comparable gender indicators on a range of issues 2) time series prepared for selected indicators for five-year periods since the beginning of the 1990s until approximately the year 2000; 3) technical assistance to a number of countries in the region, including assistance with the special issue on

MDG and Gender in Peru; 4) inclusion of specific activities promoting gender indicators in the programme of work of the Statistical Conferences of the Americas of ECLAC.

At the national level an important example is *NAFTA's Impact on the Female Work Force in Mexico*—one of the most thorough assessments through statistics of the impact of macro-economic trends on women and men in a country's labour force.

Another example is *A Fair Share for Women: Cambodia Gender Assessment*, which is the result of several years of collaboration between UNIFEM and UN partners in cooperation with the Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs of Cambodia (UNIFEM et al. 2004). The assessment is based on information on gender issues collected as part of national economic and social planning, specifically in connection with the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) report, national planning to achieve the MDGs as well as on economic empowerment, livelihood and employment. Extensive data are reviewed and recommendations are included on gender and national policies, including those related to putting in place mechanisms to collect and analyse gender-responsive information as part of the monitoring process for both the NPRS and MDGs. Employment issues feature prominently in both the analysis and recommendations, which include attention to the role of women in agriculture and the sex industry. The gender assessment led to the formulation of policy briefs to guide policy makers and other officials in addressing gender dimensions in their respective sectors.

PART D: Gaps and Recommendations

One of the most challenging areas to influence in statistics is economic statistics. There is still great resistance among economists and statisticians dealing with systems of national accounting for instance. Increased numbers of workshops that bring users and producers together from many government offices, line ministries, and different parts of national and international statistical offices and UN agencies is an indication of progress in capacity building and awareness raising. Institutional change is a priority, but requires serious investment of time. Capacity building and awareness raising is also necessary at the grassroots level. Publications on sex-disaggregated data may be used to mobilize and inform women's groups, which can increase demand for better, more reliable and timely gender sensitive data. This was one of the objectives for publishing the Progress of the World's Women report; to inform women about the latest global statistics and let them take charge in using the information in their communities and countries.

Strengthening Partnerships. Over the last decade, UNIFEM work to eliminating gender biases in statistics has engaged major partners, including Regional Economic Commissions' statistical offices, UNDP, National Statistical Offices (NSO) (commissions, directorates), Government Offices, and Women's Affairs Offices. At a regional level, work has largely been taken up with Economic Commissions in Latin America (ECLAC), Africa (ECA), Western Asia (ESCWA), and Asia Pacific (ESCAP); collaboration with the ECE in Europe is yet to begin. Collaboration with Economic Commissions originated within gender units. However, as gender mainstreaming in regional commissions improved, statistical units have become increasingly open to addressing gender issues, though these issues are still understood in an isolated way as "gender statistics". In changing their own statisticians' approach to compilation and tabulation of statistical information, these agencies play a crucial role in influencing the work of National Statistical Offices. Better and more prioritized collaboration with UN Regional Economic Commissions, NSOs and some UN Agencies such as UNDP and UNFPA will be required to move work on "engendering statistics" forward and achieve concrete results. A major problem faced in this area has been discontinuity due to limitations in funding.

Influencing perceptions and policy change: UNIFEM Mexico's advocacy in partnership with INEGI, supported the creation of a national statistical system (SISESIM) that monitors the implementation of national programmes for equal opportunities and the advancement of women. In South Asia, groundbreaking work with National Statistical Offices on the census brought out importance of women as workers. As a result, NSOs in India and Nepal have been influenced to gather better data on women's contributions through market and non market work. The shift in the understanding of NSOs has had policy implications at the level of the statistical office this work now needs to be linked to the larger policy environment.

Replication and Upscaling: UNIFEM's work in Somalia on an innovative district level survey on gender and household food security collected sex disaggregated data on incomes, priority expenditures, coping strategies and access and control over resources. While the survey sample was small, the study contributed to advocacy work within the Somali Food Security Network, which has decided to use the survey as a prototype for its future work. This is a good example of how small scale surveys can be used effectively—although a larger sample size might enable more significant conclusions to be drawn.

As far as gaps in data is concerned, the UNIFEM supports the generation of data and statistics that would contribute to the monitoring of progress the seven strategic priorities to ensure that MDG 3 is met by 2015 that are recommended by the Task Force on Gender Equality of the Millenium Project. These strategic priorities are discussed in the publication entitled *Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women*.

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Annex 1: Unpaid Work and the Economy, UNIFEM and Time Use Studies

UNIFEM's work in statistics and indicators has focused on promoting the production and use of sex-disaggregated data, the application of a gender perspective in their analysis, building this capacity within institutions, and facilitating the dialogue between users and producers of information. Since the late 1990s UNIFEM has been bringing together these users and producers, including academics, researchers, regional statistical institutions, and officials from various government bodies such as Ministries of Women, Labour and Finance, as well as civil society stakeholders, especially women's organizations and advocates, and United Nations Agencies, including the economic commissions.

UNIFEM applies the following strategies in its work on statistics, (i) supporting gender sensitization and capacity building of users and producers of statistics to encourage more gender responsive work in the area and the implementation of results for planning, monitoring and advocacy; (ii) building knowledge and understanding through applying a gender sensitive lens to the collection, compilation and analysis of data that highlights the particular situation of women, using existing national data, as well as promoting the inclusion of time use data.

Mexico and Central America: Research and Survey on Time Use: UNIFEM is providing technical assistance to INEGI (National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics of Mexico) in the design of survey and data generation for indicators. UNIFEM supported its partners, INEGI and Mexico's Women's Institute (INMUJERES), in organizing two international expert seminars on experiences with Time Use Surveys (TUS). During the September 2005 seminar, participants agreed to define a classification of time use activities for Latin America that will be presented during a regional meeting of Statistical Office Directors. UNIFEM provided support to the development and implementation of TUS in Cuba with the National Statistical Office (ONE) which has already been carried out and analyzed.

Ecuador: UNIFEM will support the development and implementation of TUS, for the purpose of providing information for the analysis and proposals

to implement gender sensitive labour policies. This includes developing a methodology of recollection of statistical information, capacity building among government officials and civil society on use and analysis of TUS, as well as using the results in a proposal for improving labour policies with a gender, ethnic and human rights focus.

Brazil: UNIFEM has supported the development of studies on time use and measurement of working days in women and men from different races for auto-consumption work and non paid work in economic entrepreneurs. The studies used the data from an annual national survey by domiciliary sample developed by the Brazilian institute for statistics and geography – IBGE. The studies determined how much time is used in auto-consumption work in rural communities and the time spent in non paid activities and domestic chores. The data shows that women's working days were longer than men's: 90% women spend an average of 20 hours of work per week in non paid domestic chores, and 45% of men do some type of domestic unpaid work at an average of 7 hours of work per week.

South Asia: UNIFEM has worked to improve the visibility of women in national accounting systems by providing technical support to a number of countries in the region. I.E., in partnership with Governments, UN agencies and NGOs, UNIFEM has supported engendering the census exercises in India, Nepal and Pakistan. Efforts have been made to generate and improve data disaggregated by sex in 14 countries for the book on statistics "Women and Men". In the Maldives, UNIFEM supported the Ministry of Planning and Environment to conduct a national survey with sex disaggregated data for the first time, and in Bhutan, UNIFEM supported the first gender disaggregated survey, through a time allocation survey, conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

In 2002, UNIFEM collaborated with partners to organize an international seminar on the applications of TUS in India, with the objective to discuss and validate the concepts and methodologies, share experiences of a pilot

initiative, disseminate the results of TUS, and foster consensus on the need for accurate estimation of contribution of women to the economy.

Tanzania: UNIFEM supported a TUS in Tanzania, through the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP). The TUS is being conducted as an integral module of the National Labour Survey that is being undertaken by the government to provide relevant and current labour related data for implementation of its PRSP and MDGs. The programme is providing technical guidance on the gender content of this module. UNIFEM is providing overall support to the TUS, as part of the government process of monitoring the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and to facilitate the advocacy and technical input from the women organization, as well as to the dissemination of results through its networks in communities.

Palestine: UNIFEM supported the Gender Statistic Programme of the Palestinian Central Bureau of statistics that conducted its first time study in 1999/2000. A total of 8,038 individuals participated, half female and half male of 10 years old or older. One of the major findings is that men spend an average of 21% of their day on paid labour, while Palestinian women only spend 2%, and women spend on average 4 hours and 7 minutes a day on household maintenance, compared to 20 minutes a day for men.

Unpaid Care Work

In Southern Africa UNIFEM commissioned a guidebook entitled "Why Should We Care About Unpaid Care Work" in 2002 and published it in 2003. The guidebook was intended as a basis for research and advocacy on unpaid care work, and discusses care work, tools and methodologies for data collection, production and analysis of unpaid care work. It also discusses different approaches of assigning economic values to unpaid care work as well as putting it into the national accounts. The book has been translated to Chinese and Spanish to facilitate use by women's organizations and research institutions in Chinese and Spanish speaking countries.

In Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique,

UNIFEM supported the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE) to undertake research on unpaid care work, as a follow up action to the production of the guidebook "Why should we care about unpaid care work?" published by UNIFEM in 2003. The objective of the research was to stimulate advocacy on addressing needs for home based care without placing unbearable and inequitable burdens on women. The research project focused on time and money costs of home-based care (HBC) for people living with HIV and AIDS, and looked, in particular, at the 'costs' of unpaid (and underpaid) labour of the various actors involved.

UNIFEM supported **Zimbabwe** Women's Resource Centre and Network (2004) and Forum Mulher (Mozambique - 2005) to host capacity building and dissemination workshops on unpaid care work. The capacity building workshops were targeted at women's organisations, to equip them to lobby around unpaid care work using the research findings and the dissemination workshops were targeted at policy makers. As a follow up to the dissemination workshop on unpaid care work, Parliamentarians in Zimbabwe tabled motions in Parliament advocating for the channeling of the AIDS Fund towards HBC and establishment of strong monitoring systems on the use of funds; the Government appointed a national coordinator for home-based care to ensure urgent response to HBC issues and a Home-Based Care Coalition was established and is led by Seke Rural, one of the case study organisations on HBC in Zimbabwe to lobby for the recognition of care work. In 2005 UNIFEM supported the Gender and Media **Southern Africa** (GEMSA) Network to design and implement an advocacy campaign on the links between violence against women, HIV/AIDS and unpaid care work and the importance of unpaid care work to economic growth and development in **Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe**. The project will facilitate the creation of an environment that promotes gender equality and reduced women's and girl's vulnerability to human insecurity through their empowering and to take control of their own sexuality. The campaign will include dissemination and application of the guidebook: "*Why should we care about unpaid care work?*" based on findings of previous research in the region and the results of the UN Secretary-General's Special Taskforce on Women and Girls and HIV and AIDS. Implementation is in progress.