

EDGE initiative summary

Programme description

1. The first Interagency and Expert Group on the Development of Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) was convened in 2006 by the United Nations in New York to review and identify key initiatives and programmes that support and enhance national statistical systems' capacity to develop gender statistics. In 2009, a subgroup of the IAEG-GS was established to work on the development of a minimum set of gender statistics and indicators. In 2011, a programme review of gender statistics, prepared by Ghana (E/CN.3/2011/3), was considered by the 42nd session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC). In its recommendations, the UNSC requested the implementation of a global programme on gender statistics with the IAEG-GS serving as the coordination mechanism.
2. The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) Initiative is a new partnership that seeks to push existing efforts to have comparable gender indicators on education, employment, entrepreneurship and assets. This initiative was launched by the United States at the OECD Ministerial Session on Gender and Development and builds on the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). The joint initiative will establish a flexible mechanism co-managed by UN-Women and the UN Statistics Division.
3. Initially, this initiative will cover three years from March 2012 to February 2015. Activities during this first phase will include the development of a database for international data and metadata compilation covering basic education and employment indicators, the development of standards and guidelines for entrepreneurship and assets indicators and piloting data collection in several countries. While the first phase focuses initially on the aforementioned areas, the same model could be used to collect data on important yet traditionally neglected areas such as violence against women and time use.
4. As a first step, a technical expert group composed of national and international statistical experts will be convened to develop operational definitions and conduct capacity assessments to identify data collection programmes where gender questions can be incorporated. In order to integrate the activities into existing data production programmes, EDGE will, to the extent possible, prioritize data collection that builds on existing survey mechanisms.

Timeline, Activities and Outputs

The initiative will cover three years – March 2012-February 2015.

5. *March 2012-February 2013 (Year 1): Inception phase*

During the first phase, the initiative will focus on the development of a database for international data and metadata compilation covering basic education and employment indicators; and methodological work to define standards and methods for data collection related to entrepreneurship and asset ownership.

6. *March 2013-February 2014 (Year 2): Pilot data collection*

The second phase of this programme will build on the results from the first year to begin data collection in some pilot countries. It is anticipated that the programme will collect data in 10 pilot countries – 5 in Year 2 and 5 in Year 3 (the final list of participating countries will be determined following capacity assessments and more in-depth consultations with partner countries that have expressed interest).

7. *March 2014-February 2015 (Year 3): Pilot data collection and final project assessment*

Pilot data collection will be conducted in the remaining 5 countries, along with 2 data review meetings analogous to those organized in Year 2. A larger workshop that includes all stakeholders will also be organized towards the end of 2015 to discuss the results and make recommendations to policy makers and the larger statistical community for next steps.

EDGE List of indicators

		Indicators
Health	1	Life expectancy at age 60, by sex
	2	Adolescent fertility rate
	3	Under-five mortality rate by sex
Education	4	Adjusted net enrolment ratio in primary education, by sex
	5	Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education, by sex
	6	Gross enrolment ratios in tertiary education, by sex
	7	Share of tertiary education graduates in science, engineering, manufacturing and construction who are women
Employment	8	Labour force participation rates for 15-24 and 15+, by sex
	9	Percentage distribution of the employed population by sector, each sex
	10	Youth unemployment, by sex
	11	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Entrepreneurship	12	Percentage of firms owned by women
	13	Proportion of employed who are employer, by sex
	14	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers, by sex
Assets	15	Proportion of population with access to credit by sex
	16	Proportion of (adult) population who own land, by sex
Family-friendly policies	17	Length of maternity leave (weeks)