

Teleconference 25 January 2011

Report of the conference call
Proposed core set of indicators for gender statistics
UNSD, 25 January 2011

Attendance:

In-person:

Erlinda Go, UNSD
Linda Hooper, UNSD
Francesca Perucci, UNSD
Claudia Cappa, UNICEF
Karen Judd, UN Women
Papa Seck, UN Women
Tina Nebe, UNFPA

Teleconference:

Cara Williams, Canada
Marcella Jones-Puthoff, USA
Sylvie Cohen, UN Women
Fatouma Sissoko, ECA
Andres Vikat, ECE
Nathalie Brisson-Lamaute, ECLAC
Sulekha Patel, World Bank
Anvi Amin, WHO

Written comments on the proposed core set of indicators received from:

Sharita Serrao, ESCAP
Jessamyn Encarnacion, Philippines
Lina Castro, Philippines

This report summarizes the discussions into two parts. First, the comments related to the framework, criteria and preamble are presented. The second part contains a more detailed discussion on the indicators. At the end of the report, there is a list of materials received by UNSD used to prepare the original suggested list of indicators.

UNSD will :

- Draft preamble proposal and circulate to the group.
- Schedule another meeting/conference call for Mid-March
- Revise the list of indicators based on discussions and criteria.

Main points of the meeting/teleconference

- 1) Need an overarching framework and selection criteria for the indicators
 - a. criteria
- 2) Define more clearly the ultimate goal and purpose of the exercise
 - a. for international compilation?
 - b. Guidelines for national statistical offices and approval through the statistical commission?
- 3) Include/address important international commitments
- 4) Include sources of data and rationale for measures
- 5) Write and include a preamble with principles, aim of project and what we are attempting to cover and not cover
- 6) Review proposed additional domains and indicators
 - a. Access to safety and security
 - b. Conflict areas
- 7) Consider approaching the exercise through a life course perspective

Framework, Criteria and Preamble

Questions were raised about the **framework** for the indicators. The framework (three domains) was proposed by the World Bank. It results from their work on mainstreaming gender which attempts to increase women's participation into the work force and examines where discrimination starts: at the household level, economy and market place, and at the societal level (public life).

Some participants argued the importance to reflect the Beijing and related work. Regional work being undertaken in ECE has adopted Beijing as the framework which has made significant contribution and assisted policy makers. Others found that the proposed framework and Beijing are not too different and that the proposed indicators clearly fit into the Beijing list of criteria areas of concern. Additional critical areas of concern from Beijing that should be considered include poverty, armed conflict, institutional mechanisms, human rights and environment (Philippines).

There was also a call for establishing **selection criteria** for the indicators. In defining the criteria, it ensures that all indicators meet the criteria. In order to discuss the indicators, we need to have the criteria set. An example of the standards adopted by the Philippines in their work on gender indicators was provided in written form. It was proposed that the indicators should have agreed international definitions address, universal coverage, and address all policy issues, including important international commitments for which we don't have indicators. It is important also to consider the indicators relevance to gender equality (i.e., what aspect does the indicator address). It was also suggested to include a rationale for the inclusion of each indicator (UNICEF, WHO). WHO requested to have the sources of data articulated.

An initial concern raised by participation was about the **process and purpose** of developing this core set, of indicators for gender statistics. What will the list be used for and what is the end goal? To address these concerns, UNSD agreed to develop a **preamble** (or concept note) with the principles, aim of the project and coverage (what is and is not included).

UN Women would like for the political context, international commitments and SG resolutions to be taken into consideration in prioritizing the indicators.

Gender equality vs. focus on women

It needs to be stated whether we are focusing on women as there are a lot of attention given to women. We need to consider what does gender equality mean and how does the indicator reflect it? Are we limiting it to women and gender equality? E.g., access to ART, less access for men.

Question raised on how this exercise stands with other sets of indicators – MDG, ECE GSDB. 19 of the 36 are in the UNECE GSDB. What is the added value to existing data sets? Why include more – need justification on including them.

Overall, it was agreed that we need to clearly understand what we are measuring and why. For example, with fertility, are we measuring timing? Childlessness? Is the average useful for gender-equality? The population structure gives general background, do we need it? More general (TFR) vs gender-equality as criteria. (ECE)

Overall, there needs to have **balance** between the indicators. In some domains, this list contains very specific and detailed indicators, while others are more general. Overall, there cannot be multiple indicators on a topic. Remember that this is to be a core list of indicators.

It was discussed whether we are considering an intermediate (women's work load) vs end indicator (Time use) (UN Women – Papa).

From the Philippines: On the assessment of the measurability/operationalization, it might be useful if at least the member country of the working group can undertake a data assessment of each of the proposed indicators. This will provide useful inputs in assessing whether the proposed indicators are measured, compiled by both developed and developing countries/national statistical systems.

Discussion on Indicators

It was recommended to consider a **life cycle** approach across the domains (<5, adolescent, adult) (UNICEF, Canada, ECA).

For the **population structure**, it is recommended to have sex ratios by different age cohorts (UNICEF).

Age at first marriage – need to get at child marriages (ECA)

Age of mother at first birth (ECA)

It was proposed to include **Safety and Security** as a domain (UN Women) and also include indicators on conflict areas (UN Women). UN Women (Sylvie) agreed to come up with 1-2 indicators for this domain.

There was discussion about the inclusion of the **TFR**. The TFR is a basic indicator that many use to get a national context. There was strong support to keep the TFR as a core indicator.

There was support for including **basic demographics** as a foundation. Their inclusion will not overburden the countries as they are already collected and add to the quality.

ECLAC proposed the inclusion of **Population without incomes** as an important indicator which shows how women do not have means to economic autonomy. While there has been significant work at the regional level, UNSD did not include the proposed indicator as data is difficult to obtain and income data is unreliable. Work in the ECLAC region is advanced compared to other regions where surveys would need to be restructured (which is beyond the scope of this exercise).

Time Use:

suggested to move it to economy

include **paid and unpaid work** (ECLAC, Canada, UN Women)

total work load of women (ECLAC)

type of unpaid work divided into care and non care work (ECLAC)

number of hours fetching water (UN women -Sylvie)

unpaid/paid work inside/outside boundaries (UN Women, UNSD)

care giving and elder care. How to get at what kind of caring? (Canada)

Link between education and time use - getting at child labor (UN Women – Papa)

LF Participation rates: suggested life cycle approach by level of education (ECLAC)

Add **Gender gap in income** independent work – own account workers (ECLAC)

Gender gap in wages – hourly average wage by age - Life cycle approach – older workers have a larger gender gap (Canada)

Self employment (Canada)

Temporary employees – big age and sex differences (Canada)

Access to credit / credit to entrepreneurs:

The Access to credit was proposed by the World Bank. Data is obtained from household surveys. *Access to bank accounts by sex* (UN Women -Sylvie); this information is from household surveys which the info is not generally collected. The Bank does enterprise surveys in about 60 countries; there are lots of data gaps. Overall, there is no source of the data. The question of who is going to collect the data and report the data was raised.

Economic:

Include agriculture resources (ECA)

Proposed indicator from ECA:

21a. indicators on agricultural activities that are major field of women economic contribution and gender bias in Africa is missing. There is need to have indicators on resource agricultural access like:

- Proportion of women to men who are proprietor of agricultural land;
- Proportion of women to men with access to agricultural credit;
- Proportion of women to men with access to agricultural inputs;
- Proportion of women to men with access to extension services;

Proportion of women to men with access to agricultural training

Education:

Completion of 2ndary and post-2ndary education (Canada, UN Women - Sylvie)

Need to consider vocational training/skills (UN Women – Papa).

Enrollment vs attendance gross vs net. Girls go later into school (UNICEF)

Health:

e(0) and e(65) as there are large gender differences (Canada; ECE supports)

Mental health –data on suicide (UN Women)

Hemoglobin is difficult to measure at a national level. Canada is just starting to do this. WHO confirmed that it is hard to measure this at a global level (WHO).

Can be obtained from DHS (<5, 15+) (UNICEF)

Smoking – tobacco use outside of smoking is an important gender issue in many countries (WHO).

Obesity – need to consider undernutrition, low bmi <18.5 (UNICEF, ECA)

Stunting or underweight – UNICEF recommended stunting as the key indicator to measure this.

Gender based violence needs to be called VAW? Move it out of health. Consider the proportion of women 15-49 subjected to physical/sexual violence in the last 12 months (WHO)

Consider emotional violence (UNICEF)

focus on last 12 months (UNICEF)

beyond domestic partner (include rape not just by domestic partner) (ECA)

HIV/AIDS –

Share of the population living with HIV/AIDS in the 15-24 age group (WHO)

Need to have both m/f to compare (UNICEF)

Knowledge of prevention/transmission (UNICEF)

Condom use (UNICEF)

Access to ART – women have more access to ART in some countries. Men have less access (UN Women – Sylvie)

Access to drinking water/sanitation – HH level indicators with no gender perspective (UNICEF)

Public life

Local government quota (UN Women Sylvie)

Decision making in the household can be obtained from DHS (UN Women – Papa)

Proposed indicator from ECA:

In addition to cabinet ministers and parliament it is also important to consider under that domain indicators on the following positions:

- Higher position in civil services (government institutions, governors, ambassadors);
- Higher position in private sector (chief of enterprise, high position in private sector etc);
- Higher position in political parties bureau (since that position is instrumental for women political empowerment and decision making);
- Higher position in trade union;
- Higher professional syndicates.

Access to basic infrastructure (i.e., water, electricity) as there are political commitments to have these as part of the list (UN Women - Sylvie). UNSD agreed to have one non-gender background indicator.

Access to land is considered important (UN Women – Papa)

Materials provided to UNSD:

- ESCAP: Consultative Meeting to Develop a Regional Programme on Gender Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, 22-23 September 2010
- ECE: ToR for the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality
ECE/CES/BUR/2010/NOB/8/Add.1
Indicators and website for monitoring Working Group on Ageing, 2nd meeting of the Bureau, Malta, 27-28 May 2010
Gender Relevant Statistical Indicators – 13 December 2010
- ECLAC: Gender and Poverty Indicators
- ESCWA: Prefinal GIsIn engendered/localized MDG framework, a product of user and producer dialogue
- UNSD: Report of Friends of the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission on Indicators on Violence against Women E/CN.3/2011/5
Preliminary Balance on the Global Database of Statistics and Indicators on Gender: Gender-Info Version 2007 Prepared by Mexico for discussion of the IAEG-GS (Accra: January 2009) including excel table of common indicators of 7 databases
GenderInfo 2007
- IAEG-MDG Indicators – Gender Indicators Subgroup: Proposed Gender Sensitive Development Indicators to Monitor Progress toward MDG 3: An Attempt to Prioritize, 26 April 2004