Global Review of Gender Statistics: Preliminary Results for the ESCAP Region

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Outline

- Preliminary findings of the survey in the ESCAP region
- Some needs and priorities as identified by countries
- Initial conclusions
- Linking to the regional programme on gender statistics
Countries that responded in Asia-Pacific

- 20 out of 53 Member States & 9 Associate Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-regions</th>
<th>East and North-East Asia</th>
<th>South-East Asia</th>
<th>South and South-West Asia</th>
<th>North and Central Asia</th>
<th>The Pacific</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>Hong Kong, China*</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Niue*</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>Macao, China*</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
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<td>Viet Nam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
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Note: * associate members
Institutional Arrangements: Entity & budget

- Institutional set-up exists in most countries:
  - Mostly appointed focal points in NSO or Ministries/agencies
  - 80% of countries have at least one type (one or several focal points or dedicated office) of gender statistics entity within the NSO
  - More than 90% of above report to the chief statistician
  - Dedicated office in NSO in 8 countries

- Gender statistics dedicated office in different governments ministries/agencies usually uncommon
- Most NSOs rely on ad hoc sources of funds
- Dedicated budget at agency/national level in one country only
Institutional Arrangements: Main tasks

- Most NSOs engaged in:
  - Answering user requests
  - Production of publications
  - Data compilation
  - Data dissemination

- Training and methodological work usually least widely performed
Institutional Arrangements: Coordination mechanism

- Majority of countries have a coordination mechanism:
  - Coordinating body at national level (50%)
  - Other formal/informal mechanism (20%)

- Coordinating body at national level:
  - NSO
  - National coordinating body for statistics
  - National mechanism for the advancement of women

- Coordinating functions: compiling inputs from other agencies or organizing consultations among producers-users

- Weak institutionalization of training - in most cases the coordinating institution does not provide training/guidance
Institutional Arrangements: Inter-ministerial coordination

☐ NSO collaboration with Ministries of health, education, labour is most common

☐ *Most NSOs do not indicate collaboration with ministries related to other aspects of the economy e.g. agriculture, commerce*

☐ Collaboration usually covers data compilation and dissemination

☐ *Setting priorities for data production and analytical work usually not covered*
Production of gender statistics: 
Areas & regularity

- Regular programmes and production:
  - Labour force
  - Unemployment
  - Mortality
  - Poverty

- Gaps in production:
  - Child marriage, agriculture, VAW, disability, unpaid work, informal employment
  - Other emerging issues: e.g. media, satellite accounts, entrepreneurship, power and decision-making, information and communication technology
Production of gender statistics: 
Primary sources of data

- Most commonly used sources (90-100% cases):
  - Population census
  - Demographic and health surveys (e.g., DHS, MICS, etc)
  - Labour force surveys
  - Health administrative records
  - Education administrative records

- Sources less used or not available (55% or less cases):
  - Time use surveys
  - Violence against women surveys
  - Judiciary records

- Usually only available sources are used - special surveys/data collection not very common
Addressing user needs: 
User-producer collaboration & dialogue

- Well-defined/structured/formal mechanism exists in most cases (40%)

- Informal/less structured mechanisms used for organization of ad hoc meetings & development of publications

- Areas most influenced by the user-producer dialogue:
  - Choice of topics related to gender statistics
  - Dissemination of statistical outputs

- User-producer collaboration & dialogue lacking in:
  - Methodological work: concepts/definitions/measurement
  - Data collection programmes
Mainstreaming gender into the NSS: Objectives and strategies

- Familiarity with concept of gender mainstreaming seems to exist & national programme documents available:
  - strategy for the development of statistics
  - strategy on mainstreaming a gender perspective in statistics

- However, in more than 40% cases, no such document exists

- Some types of objectives for mainstreaming gender perspective:
  - Public dissemination: sex-disaggregated data/ gender indicators
  - Monitoring progress on gender equality
  - Use in policy advocacy

- In most countries mainstreaming objectives only partially achieved

- Not enough signs of mainstreaming going beyond traditional gender areas - to sectors such as economics, trade, and finance.
Mainstreaming gender into the NSS: Objectives and strategies

- Some success factors in achieving objectives:
  - Successfully improved concepts/definitions in existing data collection
  - Regular production/dissemination of sex-disaggregated data
  - Collaboration/user-producer dialogue
  - Training and capacity of the staff

- Some impediments/challenges in achieving objectives:
  - Lack of awareness of gender issues
  - Lack of gender sensitivity in collection/analysis/dissemination of data
  - Lack of expertise/trained statisticians
  - Inadequate new data collection to fill gaps
  - Inadequate user-producer dialogue
  - Limited budget
Mainstreaming gender into the NSS: Priorities

- Almost half the number of countries have national priorities related to gender statistics:
  - Raising awareness on gender equality/sensitivity
  - National plans/goals for gender statistics
  - Gender-focused survey
  - Gender database development
  - Gender-related data dissemination

- Priority thematic areas:
  - Time use survey
  - Women in decision making
  - Women in entrepreneurship
  - Gender-based violence
  - Early marriage
Legal framework

- Laws and regulations governing the production and/or dissemination of gender statistics:
  - National statistical action plan (60%)
  - Statistics law; Gender-related law, Gender-related national action plans (45%)

- No laws/regulations exist in about 20% of the countries
Some needs and priorities as identified by countries

- International standards, guidelines and indicators
- Gender statistics in new/emerging areas
- Best practices in production/use of gender statistics
- Gender database in line with international standards
- International training programmes/seminars
- Fund mobilization - national budgets and international donors
- Thematic priority topics: time use, women in decision making, women in entrepreneurship, gender-based violence, early marriage, disability, the situation of women and children, women and ageing
Overall...(initial conclusions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>What is...</th>
<th>Filling in gaps e.g.....</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have a more active programme on gender statistics</td>
<td>Have made progress in gender mainstreaming</td>
<td>Methodological improvements</td>
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<td>GS entities exist</td>
<td>Expand GS in wider data collection system</td>
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<td>Collaboration mechanisms work well</td>
<td>Adjust national programme to changing needs/priorities</td>
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<td>Gender statistics produced in several areas</td>
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<td>Building work on gender statistics, but lack certain elements for a long-term strategic plan</td>
<td>Familiar with gender mainstreaming</td>
<td>Streamline institutional arrangements</td>
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<td>GS entities in place</td>
<td>Strengthen user-producer collaboration</td>
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<td><strong>But:</strong></td>
<td>More training</td>
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<td>Collaboration mechanism weak</td>
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<td>Lack of legal frameworks; lack of political will</td>
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<td>Data gaps exist in new &amp; emerging issues</td>
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<td>Ad hoc budget</td>
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<td>Very limited or no progress</td>
<td>Overall weak appreciation of gender issues and gender statistics</td>
<td>Advocacy on importance of gender statistics</td>
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<td>Weak integration of gender statistics in national/organizational mandates, structures and business processes</td>
<td>Guidance for institutional arrangements for GS</td>
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<td>Basic training</td>
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</table>
Linking to the regional programme on gender statistics...

- Improve capacity of countries in the region by say 2020 to:
  - Produce and use gender statistics
  - Monitor, measure & analyse progress in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment

- Improve overall availability of gender statistics for:
  - National policy development
  - Progress assessment towards international goals and commitments

- Assessments/consultations conducted by ESCAP during 2010-12:
  - Regional survey on gender statistics activities/programmes (2010, selected countries)
  - Regional consultative meeting (2010)
  - Two in-country assessments (2011, Indonesia and Bhutan)
  - Global review of gender statistics (2012)

- Towards implementation: proposal submitted for UN Development Account project 2012-14 (subject to final approval)
Key components

- Framework of core gender statistics and indicators

- Strengthening national capacity - “doing” and “training”
  - National action plans
  - Analysis of existing data
  - Pilot data collection
  - Legislation/mandates
  - Advocacy

- Sustainability
  - Training curriculum
  - Capacity building of national training institutions
  - Good practices
  - Knowledge communities
Thank You

http://www.unescap.org/stat/gender-stat