Review of Jordan’s practices in measuring and monitoring gender equality

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Institutional framework of Gender Statistics GS within the Department of Statistics (DoS)

- The Kingdom has made equality for women and girls a State Priority.
  - In 2005, this priority was translated into action by establishing a separate Division for Gender Statistics in the National Authority for Official Statistics (the Department of Statistics DoS).

Gender Statistics Division GSD in DOS

- Gender Statistics Division GSD will be the mechanism that tracks women's progress in all areas of life to achieve equal opportunities for all.

GSD as a monitoring mechanism
The GSD follows well-established data processes and institutional arrangements for collecting GS.

75% of GS are collected through DoS surveys & censuses, the rest is collected from administrative records by re-calculating the indicators and formulating them in new tables.

The gender gap index is calculated to pinpoint differences between men & women to reflect on prevailing situations, so that decision-makers can take action to reduce these gaps.
### Production of GS: An Example Access to Economic Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Gender Gap</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals borrowed from commercial banks (%)</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
<td>Central Bank of Jordan, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary values of loans (%)</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depositors at the commercial banks (%)</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>Amman Stock Exchange Market, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary values of deposits (%)</td>
<td>73.0%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities (shares) owners (%)</td>
<td>55.7%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary values of Securities (Shares) (%)</td>
<td>76.4%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Production of GS: the Gaps

GSD keeps a tremendous amount of social, economic, geographic and demographic data disaggregated by sex.

However, the social development sector is in need of new gender-sensitive indicators. For example, there is nearly no public disaggregated data concerning victims of domestic violence, the poor, juveniles, the elderly, children in foster care.

Jordan also faces challenges in technically demanding or emerging areas such as measuring time use on unpaid care and domestic work.
GS Access and Dissemination

GS are regularly published using modern technologies, including electronic Dissemination on the DOS website.

A number of databases were built and made available in the form of time series to users in order to provide reliable comparisons between women and men.

These databases, housed on the DoS website, include: 1. Women Statistics, 2. Gender Indicators Database, 3. The Gender Statistics Interactive Database.
a. Women Indicators Database


Percentage Distribution of Jordanian Females Aged 15 Years and above, 2017

-- Select Status --

Marital Status
Marital Status and Education Level
Education Level
Economic Activity
Occupation
Economic Activity Status Education Level
Economic Activity Status Marital Status
Economic Activity Status
b. Gender Indicators Database


|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

Jordanian Woman Indicators Gender Perspective, 2017

Province tables:
- Select province
- Select sector

Kingdom tables:
- Select sector
- Education
- Economy
- Population
- Social Indicators
- Law

Execute
c. Interactive Gender Database:

Gender Statistics Use

• There is political will to increase the use of evidence-based data, and there is a growing understanding of the importance of good gender statistics.

• Based on this fact, Jordan has carried out substantial reforms to national laws to eliminate discrimination against women and adopted a variety of policies related to gender equality and women’s empowerment. An example of this is followed
Example of GS Use

The case of Child Marriage in Jordan

The legal age of marriage in Jordan is 18 for men and women but the chief justice's discretion this may be lowered for girls aged 15 and above if a judge deems it in their best interest.

Child marriage cases were on the rise threatening the essence of the whole marriage institution & destroying the life and dreams of children. According to the Islamic Justice Department statistics, 61,518 marriages of underage girls took place in Jordan from 2012 to 2017.
In 2017, new regulations were introduced:

1. If such marriages are considered a necessity to achieve public interest after ensuring consent and free choice provided that the married couple is fully competent in all issues related to marriage.
2. There must be a maximum 15 year age difference between man and woman,
3. The husband must have no other wives
4. The marriage must not prevent a girl from continuing her education.

As a result of these new regulations, child marriage contracts dropped significantly in 2018.
Gender Statistics Use..cont

• The Government’s National Reports to various international mechanisms use GS extensively in establishing compliance and reporting on gender equality implementation progress.

• Examples of the most visible uses of gender statistics include:

1. The 2017 Voluntary National Review on the SDGs with SDG5 as one of the thematic areas;
2. Monitoring reports for CEDAW and BPfA
3. The MDG 5 indicators (concluding report).
GS have not been included in national statistics legislation and there is no national policy for GS.

The three national strategies for statistics development made no reference for GS.
Budgetary resources for statistical activities

There is no dedicated budget for gender statistics in Jordan, although the GSD itself is funded through the DoS.

There is insufficient funding allocated for the production of gender statistics from within national budgets, or from international partners.

There is no dedicated funding for undertaking specific surveys or research.
The transformative work achieved during Jordan’s journey in Gender Statistics.
Jordan’s Membership in the IAEG-GS and the Global Forum on GS

This membership enriched GS in Jordan by identifying best practices and provided an opportunity to shed light on the gender situation in Jordan by presenting various topics relevant to the country context such as:

- Gender Pay Gap.
- Migration from a Gender Perspective.
- Engendering Population Census.
- Case of Maternal Mortality in Jordan.
- Women Access to Economic Resources....etc.
Gender Indicators at GIS website
http://gisweb.dos.gov.jo:3001/#/
Population and Family Health Survey JPFHS, 2017-2018

What distinguishes the latest survey from the previous surveys?

Jordan conducted seven JPFHS surveys since 1990
What distinguishes the latest survey from the previous surveys?
Including a Male Survey.

The added value from adding the Male questionnaire were
✓ To reflect the diversity of women and men and capture all aspects of their reproductive health
✓ To reduce stereotypes, social and cultural factors that may stimulate gender bias and impede the intended uses of gender statistics

Percent distribution of currently married women & men age 15-49 by desire for children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Want no more or sterilised</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have another later</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have another soon</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declared infecund</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have another, undecided when</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What distinguishes the latest survey from the previous surveys?

**Producing Indicators for the Syrian Population**

As a middle-income Arab States country struggling with effects of the Syria Crisis, the opportunity for Jordan to improve gender statistics would provide a good and timely example for other countries in the region. Therefore, one of the objectives of the JPFHS-7 was to produce indicators for the Syrian population.

- **Child Marriage**
  - 14% of women age 20-49 were married before age 18
  - 13% among Jordanian women
  - 35% among Syrian women
  - 17% among women of other nationalities
What distinguishes the latest survey from the previous surveys?  
**Measuring SDG Indicator 5.6.1**

DoS was able to measure the SDG indicator # 5.6.1
“Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care” by adding two questions to the women’s questionnaire. These questions were:

Q1054: Whether a women can say no to her husband / partner if she doesn’t want to have sexual intercourse

Q1055: Could you ask your husband to use a condom if you wanted him to?

In Jordan, 58% of married women freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care. This percentage is higher than the global one (52%)
JPFHS, 2017-2018 provided an opportunity to measure 17 indicators from various Sustainable Development Goals.

What distinguishes the latest survey from the previous surveys?

Measuring Different SDGs Indicators
What distinguishes the latest survey from the previous surveys?

Measuring Physical Violence Initiated by Women against Husbands

One of the noteworthy steps in the JPFHS, 2017-2018 was measuring initiation of physical violence by wives by adding the following question:

Q 1309: Have you ever hit, slapped, kicked, or done anything else to physically hurt your (last) husband at times when he was not already beating or physically hurting you

One percent of ever-married women age 15-49 reported initiating physical violence against their husband when he was not already beating or physically hurting them
Measuring Violence Initiated by Women against Husbands

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have committed physical violence against their current or most recent husband by characteristics of women

1. **Women’s experience of spousal physical violence**

   - Ever: 7.4%
   - In the past 12 months: 8.6%
   - Never: 0.2%

2. **Marital status of women**

   - Married: 1.3%
   - Divorced / separated / widowed: 3.6%

3. **Nationality**

   - Jordanian: 1.4%
   - Syrian: 0.4%
   - Other nationality: 3.5%
Measuring Violence Initiated by Women against Husbands

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have committed physical violence against their current or most recent husband, according to their husband’s characteristics & women’s empowerment indicators.

Number of marital control behaviours displayed by husband:
- 0.2 (0-1)
- 1.1 (1-2)
- 3.9 (3-4)
- 10.4 (5+)

Woman afraid of husband:
- 7.4 (Afraid most of the time)
- 1.2 (Sometimes afraid)
- 0.4 (Never afraid)
The SDG 5 Lens

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls


Jordan’s Government reported baselines for 64 per cent of the SDG 5 indicators.
Jordan has completed key activities for SDG monitoring and implementation, including a 11-point roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda, and a Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the Status of Implementation of SDGs.

The VNR did not focus on GS per se, and when it did mention disaggregated data, the focus was more on the production side of data on SDG indicators.

Point 6 among the 11-point roadmap relates to GS specifically:
“Continuing to mainstream gender in all national development plans in-line with the SDGs, mapping of gender indicator gaps and establishment of a gender databases.”
Concluding Thoughts: Towards Stronger Theories of Change

Jordan is making significant effort towards improved data collection level and policy formation. But, the critical question remains:

How do we translate advances into tangible change within Jordanian society?

Throughout the lifecycle of data collection, data use, policy making, and accountability we must strive towards increased intentionality.

Only through strong, cohesive theories of change and thoughtful collaboration between data producers, data users, and policy makers can we hope to unleash the potential of women in Jordan and around the world.
With good data and accountability, we can push for political change and solve complex societal problems.

Thank you for listening and watching

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