Measuring intra-household power and decision-making
Progress so far

Fiona Willis-Núñez
UNECE Statistical Division

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The story so far

• Not a new idea
• Official Statistics on 'power and influence’ or 'women in decision-making’ usually limited to public sphere
• Access to power outside the home will always be limited if power is gender-divided within the home
• Concept note, literature review, business case…
The story so far

• Business case gave arguments for
  • why intra-hh power & decision-making is a distinct topic
  • why it merits investigation
  • what mandate there is for the work
  • what the value-added of statistics on this topic would be
• Linked to but different from division of labour (unpaid and paid)
• SDGs refer to ‘all levels’ of decision-making

• End 2016: ToRs developed & consulted across CES member countries
• Feb 2017: CES bureau established Task Force
• NSOs of all CES member countries were invited to participate
• 19 members
• 16 countries and organizations
• Chaired by Pierre Turcotte, Status of Women Canada

Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Serbia, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Turkey, Mongolia, Colombia, Belarus, Montenegro, Philippines, Armenia, Russian Federation, EIGE
Objective: to make an inventory of indicators and sources and provide recommendations to statistical offices on measuring the gendered dimensions of intra-household power and decision-making
ToRs: activities

- **Activities**
  
  a) Compile an *inventory of existing indicators*, including information about the statistical surveys in which they are included;
  
  b) **Evaluate the existing indicators** in terms of conceptual validity, coverage, frequency, quality and standardization across sources and UNECE countries;
  
  c) Identify aspects of the topic for which there are currently **no adequate indicators**;
  
  d) Make proposals for **methodological work to fill gaps** where indicators do not exist or are poorly defined or where data availability is limited: such as by developing and testing new survey questions, or by conducting research to investigate how better to pose questions to collect valid data;
  
  e) Define **headline and supporting indicators**;
  
  f) Evaluate the prospect of the production of these indicators as **official statistics**;
  
  g) **Analyze** intra-household power and decision-making in selected countries, using available indicators;
  
  h) **Draft recommendations** for statistical offices based on findings from above activities
Review of TF countries: topics covered

• Reproductive decision-making
• Health care
• Labour market participation
• Social life and leisure time
• Child-related matters
• Household finances
  • Expenditure and saving
  • Resource allocation/sharing
  • Control over household finances and permission-seeking
  • Asset ownership
• Perception of control, satisfaction, resolution of disagreements
Review of TF countries: gaps & challenges

• Thematic gaps: lots! Esp health, child-raising, satisfaction & perceived control

• Methodological challenges, e.g.
  • Perception of q’s as intrusive → non-response
  • Need for respondent to be alone
  • Inaccuracy/impossibility of proxy responses

• Variation in wording, purpose, surveys in which they are included, samples and units of analysis

• Very little dissemination & communication through power & decision-making lens
TF established

Collect info on current practice from TF members

Present to WSGS

Gather more info, analyze

‘Test’ analysis

Formulate, draft, consult & revise recommendations

Present to CES plenary for endorsement

Tentative timeline

Feb 2017
May-Sept 2017
Nov 2017
Dec 2017-Mar 2018
2018
2018
...
...
2019
Jun 2019

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Where next?

- Present to Work Session on Gender Statistics in Belgrade
- Face-to-face side meeting of TF in Belgrade
  - More country inputs → richer view of existing practice
  - Assign leads for work streams
- Looked at surveys, sources, questions, now need to look at indicators (what already exists, what could be done?)
Thank you for your attention!

fiona.willis-nunez@unece.org

UNECE Statistical Division