## UNITED NATIONS

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### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



E/ESCWA/SD/2016

May 2016

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

4th Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group

on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries

Dead Sea, 9-10 May 2016

**Progress made on implementing gender statistics activities in the period between the third and fourth Inter-agency and Expert Group Meetings on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries**

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| **Summary** The report contains a brief review of main gender statistics-related activities and accomplishments made by the Statistics Division at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia since the 3rd Meeting of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries, Beirut, 2011.  The report also provides a brief account on the progress made on Resolution 297 (XXVI) on Arab MDG monitor for societal progress adopted at the twenty-sixth session in May 2010. Moreover, the report gives a brief description on the new Development Account Project on “Interregional cooperation to strengthen national capacities to measure progress in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment” and current and future plans. The IAEG is invited to take note of what has been accomplished in implementing those recommendations and to review the report and discuss and provide feedback on the achievements and progress made by the Commission. |

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**INTRODUCTION**

1. The current report presents briefly a review of the Statistics Division main activities and accomplishments in the field of gender statistics, since the 3rd Meeting of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries[[1]](#footnote-1), Beirut, 2011. These activities include main technical publications, reports and materials issued, a review of the capacity building activities, and technical advisory services provided to member countries. Finally, it provides a brief review of the gender statistics-related resolution adopted at its twenty-seventh session of the Commission and recommendations and observations made on gender-related areas by the Statistical Committee at its tenth session.

1. **TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS**

2. The Statistics Division prepared four main publications on Gender Statistics: the second Bulletin of Gender in Figures 2013-2014, the chapter on Gender Equality in the Annual Statistical Abstract, the Arab Gender Statistics Framework and Handbook, and the pocket book Country Profile: Gender lens. Below is a description of each publication:

1. The second issue of Gender in Figures Bulletin 2013-2014, released in 2015. The Bulletin focuses on 10 areas of concern in the region: *Human Rights, Population Demographics, Poverty and Inequality,*  Education and learning, *Power, Influence and Decision Making, Violence against Women, Health*, *Refugees, Paid and Unpaid,* *Research and Development, and Science and Technology.* It brings about gender issues in the Arab region, through sex- disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators from comparable national and international sources. The new issue presents in addition to the tables a number of analytical charts and graphs produced by the Statistics Division. It attempts to contextualize Arab gender issues through evidence, and where possible pair those with relevant national policies and practices. With this publication, ESCWA aims to raise issues in gender equality, exhort stakeholders to conduct in-depth analysis and formulate policies for more accountable and transparent commitment to human rights. The Bulletin may be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/sites/gif14/>
2. In its annual Statistical Abstract, the chapter on Gender Equality, included since 2008, was updated in an effort to mainstream gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data through the Division’s publications.
3. The Arab Gender Statistics Framework and Handbook was reviewed and published in 2015. The Handbook is a tool for data producers and aims to build on synergies from ongoing work in the area of gender statistics by forging a common methodological knowledge among stakeholders in order to facilitate the production of comparable statistics for evidence-based policymaking and planning. The e-copy of the Handbook can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/sites/GISINHANDBOOK/index.asp>
4. Country Profile: Gender lens pocket book is a new publication prepared in 2014. It provides readers with a statistical portrait of the western area region through main sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators that touches upon population, education, inequality, health, power, and work. The data presented originates from national sources extracted from various publications issued by ESCWA in addition to United Nations databases. The national statistical offices also reviewed and confirmed the data upon receipt of the questionnaire.
5. **TECHNICAL MATERIALS**

3. The Statistics Division concentrated its activities during the reporting period on capacity building initiatives; a concise description of each is presented below:

1. Dashboard on Arab Development Monitor on Societal Progress, relation to equitable and sustainable development in the Arab region, ESCWA continued its efforts in building a repository of data on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) especially promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, and the situation of youth. The dashboard provides a regional picture on the latest status of key development indicators and three profiles for 22 Arab countries with a focus on national development indicators, gender and youth. The Dashboard maybe accessed on the following link:[**http://www.dataforall.org/dashboard/escwa/index.php/home/indexIn**](http://www.dataforall.org/dashboard/escwa/index.php/home/indexIn)
2. E-Catalogue of Gender Statistics 2016 developed in response to the recommendation of the second Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries (2008). It is a compilation of gender statistics related activities and outputs implemented by the Arab countries. The catalogue aims to promote good practices in compiling and disseminating gender statistics. It is an incentive tool which encourages countries to exert further effort towards improving compilation and dissemination of their national statistics. Moreover, the catalogue serves as a strategic tool providing ESCWA with valuable information on the development stage of gender statistics at the country and regional levels. This information serves in the design of technical assistance missions to countries and the development and implementation of ESCWA Gender Statistical Programme (GSP) in the Arab region. The e-catalogue maybe accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/sites/acgs/index.asp>
3. “Ensaf” Newsletter on Gender Statistics is a collaborative effort between ESCWA and the National Statistical Offices to produce a newsletter in the Arabic Language that provides national and regional information on the latest activities and products related to promotion of equity through the production of gender statistics. The 1st issue of the biennial Newsletter was published in June 2012 and all issues can be accessed on ESCWA Statistics Division Homepage. The 8th and latest issue was released in January 2016 and can be accessed on the following link: <https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page_attachments/ensaf_8th_issue_16.pdf>
4. The electronic version for Violence Against Women (VAW) Toolkit (2012), which can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/scu/vawtoolkit>. The toolkit includes a survey module and guidelines to help national statistical offices in Arab countries measure the VAW. With help from regional experts, the Commission has translated the survey into Arabic and adapted it to the local cultural context. The VAW toolkit was launched at the Fourth Global Forum on Gender Statistics and CDs are available for distribution.
5. The Statistics Division has maintained the updated of the Glossary on Gender Terms. In its third revision, new terms have been added and the Glossary now contains 1537 terms in both the English and Arabic languages in various areas, such as: health, education, violence, economy, agriculture, poverty, work, technology and human rights, etc....
6. The Statistics Division has maintained the update of the knowledge sharing Virtual Library on Gender Statistics hosted on ESCWA Statistics Division Homepage. The library can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/scu/themes/index.asp>

In addition to increasing the range of topics and resources in the knowledge sharing platform, it has also succeeded in linking the gender e-learning site to major internet sites in areas related to gender advocacy, concepts and context of gender equality, gender bias, gender and agriculture, gender and engineering and science and Technology, gender budgeting, gender statistics and indicators, population, and work.

1. **CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

4. The Statistics Division concentrated its activities during the reporting period on capacity building initiatives. Eleven workshops and training meetings took place by ESCWA and some with partner agencies. A concise description of each is presented below:

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| 1. The regional workshop on Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries held in Istanbul from 19 to 21 May 2015, was organized by ESCWA. The workshop aimed at exchanging the experience among the participating countries; Enhancing the capacities of member countries to either start or strengthen an existing gender statistics programme through following specific steps and actions; Developing draft national plans of action to improve the production of gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link:

https://www.unescwa.org/events/workshop-development-national-gender-statistics-programme-arab-countries;1. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), in collaboration with the Jordan Department of Statistics (DOS), organized a regional workshop on Integrating a Gender Statistics in the Production of Statistics, (Amman 1-4 December 2014). The regional workshop aimed to train national statisticians on the production and use of gender statistics, as well as discuss the newly developed UN manual: Integrating a Gender Perspective into Statistics. Participants also benefited from the training on the use of census data for gender analysis, based on the UNFPA Guide on Gender Analysis of Census Data. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link:

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/regional-workshop-integrating-gender-perspective-production-statistics-cooperation-department>; 1. The Interregional Workshop on Good Practices in Gender Statistics held from 5 to 7 November 2014 in Aguascalientes, Mexico was organized by the Statistics Divisions of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and ESCWA. The Interregional Workshop brought together national experts in official statistics, gender issues, and/or gender policy and programme design and implementation, who have technical and management expertise in producing, analyzing, utilizing and developing gender statistics in each of the above-mentioned three world regions. The workshop was part of the ESCAP-led United Nations Development Account project "Interregional Cooperation to Strengthen National Capacities to Measure Progress in Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2013-2015). The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link:

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/inter-regional-workshop-good-practices-gender-statistics>1. Workshop on Development of Gender Indicators in the Arab Countries from 1 to 3 April 2014, Istanbul. The meeting was directed at middle and high level experts on gender statistics from the national statistical offices and women machineries/planning ministry. The objective of the workshop was the development of a regional framework for a core set of gender indicators and raise awareness among national stakeholders about the importance of gender statistics in policy-making. The workshop finalized a Technical Paper on The Arab Framework of Core Set of Gender Statistics and Capacity Building Activities. The paper included a conceptual framework for developing a gender statistics framework; and processes to maintain it to meet emerging priority issues in harmony with international frameworks. The workshop finalized the first major output of the project by updating the Arab Gender Statistics (GIsIn) framework of Core Set of Gender Statistics, which is the first strategic step in developing gender statistics, and an important tool for monitoring and reporting for evidence based policy making at the national, regional and international levels. Moreover, UNESCWA provided guidelines to member countries on how to extend the regional framework to a national context through localization and customization process. Currently there are a minimum of 10 countries working actively to develop their national frameworks. The Workshop also reviewed the assessment's results of the national statistical offices' capacity in the region and concluded with recommendations for a regional plan of action. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link: http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=3331E
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| 1. In cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), ESCWA has jointly held a three-day training workshop on “Gender Analysis of Census Data” in Amman during the period 7 to 9 March 2013. The focus of the training was on the analysis of existing data bases from the 2010 round of Population Censuses, including some discussion of questionnaire design for gender issues. Specifically, the objectives of the training were: To familiarize the participants with the challenges and opportunities of constructing gender indicators from census data; Provide guidance on the compilation of gender monographs from census data and on more complex analyses of census data using multivariate methods and their interpretation; and finally, To Confront and possibly adapt/complement the material thus far developed with the realities of the ESCWA region. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link: https://www.unescwa.org/events/training-gender-analysis-population-census-data
2. Furthermore, the Statistics Division organized the Arab Working Group on Time Use Statistics (WG\_TUS) Workshop at the Sofitel El Gezirah Hotel in Cairo, Egypt from 13 to 15 November 2012 as per recommendations of the Workshop on TUS in Arab Countries, organized by ESCWA in close collaborating with UNSD in 2011.The objective of the Workshop was to develop the first draft of toolkit on time use survey towards harmonizing the production and dissemination of time use statistics in the Arab countries for national use and regional comparison. The workshop was attended by participants from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Oman and Yemen. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/time-use-surveys-working-group-workshop>
3. The Regional Office for the Near East of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/RNE), and the Statistics Division at UNESCWA organized a regional “High Level Expert Consultative Meeting to Develop the Near East Action Plan to Implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Development Statistics in the Near East and North Africa Region”, in Cairo from 17 to 19 September 2012. The meeting discussed the way forward on the implementation of the Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural development statistics in the countries of the Near East Region. The Meeting site can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=1920E>
4. The Fourth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, held in Jordan from 27 to 29 March 2012, was organized by UNESCWA and UNSD, in collaboration with the UNFPA, UN-Women, and the World Bank and hosted by the Department of Statistics (DoS) in Jordan. The Forum aimed at addressing issues related to gender mainstreaming into the national statistical system and measuring the autonomy and empowerment of women. The 2012 Global Forum focused on Women’s Empowerment, including: economic empowerment, autonomy and physical empowerment, adolescent girls, and knowledge empowerment. Representatives of national statistical systems presented national experiences and best practices on how to collect gender empowerment statistics and their uses in policy making. International agencies presented initiatives to assist countries in the production and analysis of gender statistics. The Forum site can be accessed on the following link: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/4th-global-forum-gender-statistics>
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1. The 8th Regional Training on DevInfo for Gender Analysis, held in Beirut from 5 to 9 March 2012, was organized by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) in the Arab region. DevInfo is a database system that harnesses the power of advanced information technology to compile and disseminate data on human development. It provides methods to organize, store and display data in a uniform way to facilitate data sharing at the country level across government departments, UN agencies and development partners. Moreover, DevInfo contains simple and user-friendly features that produce tables, graphs and maps for inclusion in reports, presentations and advocacy materials. The workshop trained 33 participants from UN organizations and International agenciesand different Arab countries: Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Somalia. The objectives of this workshop were to promote gender equality which is one of the eight stated Millennium Development Goals, and concerted efforts made around the world to achieve desired targets. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link: https://www.unescwa.org/events/regional-workshop-devinfo-gender-analysis
2. Moreover, the Regional office of the United Nations Fund for
Population Activities (UNFPA)in cooperation with the Statistics Division at UNESCWA organized a three-day training workshop on "Engendering Official Statistics in Iraq", at the UN House in Beirut from 29 November to 1 December 2011. The workshop is part of the public sector reform project led by UNDP Iraq and implemented by a number of UN organizations. The Workshop was attended by 27 representatives from the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office (KRSO), along with participants from the Central and Regional governments’ ministries of Woman, Health, Education, Higher Education and Planning and NGOs. The Workshop focused on the International Frameworks for gender mainstreaming and gender analysis. The Workshop site can be accessed on the following link: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/workshop-engendering-statistics-and-quantitative-analysis>
3. The below table is a summary of the number of meetings organized with implementing partners, number of countries and participants by year.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Partners** | **Number of meetings** | **Number of participants From NSOs** | **Number of Female participants** | **Percentage of Female participants** |
| 2011 | UNFPA | 1 | 31 | 13 | 42% |
| 2012 | UNSD, UNICEF, UNCT, FAO/RNE, UNFPA, WB, UN Women, DoS | 4 | 82 | 50 | 61% |
| 2013 | UNFPA | 1 | 25 | 16 | 64% |
| 2014 | SESRIC, DoS, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNSD | 2 | 21 | 16 | 76% |

1. **TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES**

13. Part of the activities implemented by the Statistics Division is to provide technical advisory services to member countries upon their request. Five technical advisory missions (a total 18 days) were undertaken during the past period to advise member countries, upon their request, on gender-related activities as follows:

1. Sudan – One mission was completed during the period 28- 30 April 2014, to advise on the set up of the Gender Statistics Programme, training the focal points in the ministries on Gender Statistics and advice on the development of the national gender statistics framework.
2. Qatar – Two missions were undertaken; the first was to advise on the preparation of the national gender statistics framework (18-20 March 2014), and the second was to train the gender statistics team and IT personnel on developing a gender Statistics database through the use of DevInfo technology (20-23) October 2014
3. Egypt – Two missions were completed; mainly to participate and train the field workers on the violence against women survey. The training extended over two visits combined the first from 23-26 February and the second from 30 March to 2 April 2015.

Mission reports were prepared for all the above missions in consultation with the respective country.

14. The following is a summary of the missions undertaken during past period, the number of beneficiaries duration and outputs:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Technical Advisor | #Days | #beneficiaries | Outputs |
| Sudan | Ms. Neda Jafar | 3 | 37 | Training and advice on gender statistics programme objectives and tasks and development of national gender statistics framework |
| Qatar | Ms. Neda Jafar | 3 | 15 | Development of GS framework and briefing on DevInfo |
| Qatar | Mr. Roy Doumit | 4 | 12 | DevInfo training |
| Egypt | Ms. Neda Jafar | 4 | 128 | Training potential field workers and review of questionnaires |
| Egypt | Ms. Neda Jafar | 4 | 143 | Practical Training field workers and finalization of VAW questionnaires and instructions  |

**V. OBSERVATIONS ON GENDER-RELATED AREAS MADE SINCE THE NINTH**

**STATISTICAL COMMITTEE**

15. The following observations on gender related areas were made in the last three sessions:

**a) Eleventh Session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee**

Participants were informed that the Arab Gender Statistics Framework has been completed, in collaboration with statistical experts from national statistical offices in the Arab region. The Framework comprises of 10 goals that complement the Millennium Development Goals. The secretariat encouraged member countries to apply the Framework,[[2]](#footnote-2) provide comments thereon and inform the secretariat if they required any technical or advisory support for its implementation.

**b) Tenth Session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee**

The discussions addressed a number of such issues as the wish of countries to continue the implementation of ongoing projects in the field of international comparisons, population and environmental statistics, gender statistics, and evidence-based policies; the need to ensure adequate funding through the provision of additional extra budgetary resources; and the need to strengthen partnerships with international and regional organizations. Participants agreed on the recommendations included in the reports related to this item, underlining that capacity-building and advisory services should not be affected by any change in the programme of work.

1. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Region and 2nd Meeting of the Task Force on Gender Statistics, Beirut, 14-16 November 2011 <https://www.unescwa.org/events/3rd-meeting-inter-agency-and-expert-group-gender-statistics-and-2nd-meeting-gender-statistics> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Available from www.escwa.un.org/sites/GISINHANDBOOK/index.asp. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)