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of National Gender Statistics Programmes
in the Arab Countries
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**THE DEVELOPMENT OF
NATIONAL GENDER STATISTICS
PROGRAMMES IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES**

(Project RAB/96/007/A/01/55)

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I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

A. ORIGIN OF THE PROJECT

The lack of statistics related to critical gender issues in the region was underscored in the "Review and assessment of the progress achieved for the Advancement of Arab Women in the Light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies"¹ and the *Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005*² discussed at the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Amman from 6 to 10 November 1994.

There are two problems associated with the dearth of statistics: first, the available statistics are not presented in a format that is accessible to a wide range of potential users; second, data are collected on topics relevant to the population as a whole, but issues that are important for the advancement of women relative to men are often ignored.

The Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, implicitly and explicitly recognizes the significance of mainstreaming a gender perspective by incorporating it in general policies relating to all areas of society. The Platform clearly states that the advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men are the only ways to build a sustainable, just and developed society.

One strategic objective that was given particular emphasis during the Conference was the generation and dissemination of gender disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation purposes. A note by the Secretary-General on "Proposals for consideration in the preparation of a draft declaration: draft platform for action" submitted to the Fourth World Conference on Women contained material for inclusion in the Conference's draft platform for action; under strategic objective H.3. (to "generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation"), the following is recommended:

"Actions to be taken"

"By national, regional and international statistical services, and relevant governmental and United Nations agencies, in cooperation with research and documentation organizations, in their respective areas of responsibility:

- "(a) [Aim to] Ensure that [all] statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by sex and age [and reflect problems and questions related to women and men in society];
- "(b) Collect, compile, analyse and present on a regular basis data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic and other relevant indicators, including number of dependants, for utilization in policy and programme planning and implementation [and to reflect problems and questions related to men and women in society];
- "(c) Involve centres for women's studies and research organizations in developing and testing [appropriate indicators and] research methodologies to strengthen gender analysis, as well as in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the goals of the Platform for Action;
- "(d) Designate or appoint staff to strengthen gender-statistics programmes and ensure coordination,

¹ E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.3-WOM/3.

² E/ESCWA/SD/1994/9.

monitoring and linkage to all fields of statistical work, and prepare output that integrates statistics from the various subject areas;

- "(e) [Take steps to] Improve [and adopt] the [concepts and methods of] data collection on the full contribution of women and men to the economy [by taking steps] to [measure] [make visible] their participation in the informal sector(s);
- "(f) [[Seek to] Develop a more comprehensive knowledge of work and employment through, *inter alia*, efforts to measure and better understand the type, extent and distribution of unremunerated work, particularly work in caring for dependants and unremunerated work done for family farms or businesses, and encouraging, sharing and disseminating information, studies and experience in this field, including information on the development of methods for assessing the value of such work in quantitative terms, for possible reflection in accounts that may be produced separately from but are consistent with core national accounts;]
- "(g) [Develop an international classification of activities for time-use statistics, with Governments also undertaking time-use studies, and prioritize further work at the national level to prepare satellite or parallel accounts of women's and men's unremunerated economic contribution, including quantifying household responsibilities as appropriate, producing such accounts separately from but making them consistent with core national accounts, defining the unremunerated worker as a worker in the System of National Accounts and mainstreaming the distinction between paid and unpaid work in employment statistics;]
- "(h) Improve concepts and methods of data collection on the measurement of poverty among women and men, including their access to resources;
- "(i) Strengthen vital statistical systems and incorporate gender analysis into publications and research; give priority to gender differences in research design and in data collection and analysis in order to improve data on morbidity; and improve data collection on access to health services [including access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, maternal care and family planning, with special priority for adolescent mothers and for elder care];
- "(j) Develop improved gender-disaggregated and age-specific data on the victims and perpetrators of [all forms of] violence against women, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, incest and sexual abuse, and trafficking in women and girls, as well as on violence by the agents of the State;
- "(k) Improve concepts and methods of data collection on the participation of women and men with disabilities, including their access to resources.

"By Governments:

- "(a) Ensure the regular production of a statistical publication on gender that presents and interprets topical data on women and men in a form suitable for a wide range of non-technical users;
- "(b) Ensure that producers and users of statistics in each country regularly review the adequacy of the official statistical system and its coverage of gender issues, and prepare a plan for needed improvements, where necessary;
- "(c) Develop and encourage the development of quantitative and qualitative studies by research

organizations, trade unions, employers, the private sector and non-governmental organizations on the sharing of power and influence in society, including the number of women and men in senior decision-making positions in both the public and private sectors;

- "(d) Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects.

"By the United Nations:

- "(a) Promote the development of [statistical] methods to find better ways to collect, collate and analyse data that may relate to the human rights of women, including violence against women [for use by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and human rights treaty bodies];
- "(b) Promote the further development of statistical methods to improve data that relate to women in economic, social, cultural and political development;
- "(c) Prepare a new issue of *The World's Women* at regular five-year intervals and distribute it widely;
- "(d) Assist countries, upon request, in the development of gender [concepts and] programmes;
- "(e) [Report periodically on progress at the national and international levels to the United Nations Statistical Commission, INSTRAW³ and the Commission on the Status of Women, in a coordinated fashion.]"⁴

Gender statistics must be made available:

- (a) To raise the general consciousness of gender-related issues, persuade policy makers, and promote changes;
- (b) To stimulate ideas for change;
- (c) To provide unbiased indicators which can be used in formulating policies and measures;
- (d) To monitor and evaluate policies and actions;
- (e) To supplement United Nations and national gender publications, including the *Human Development Report* issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and *The State of the World's Children* published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Traditionally, researchers have attempted to collect and present available statistics in a format that is both interesting and comprehensible to users of technical data. At the international and regional levels, *The World's Women, 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics*,⁵ was published in 1990; a second issue was published in

³ International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

⁴ A/CONF.177/L.1, p. 98.

⁵ ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/8.

1995. ESCWA and the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) have started a joint project to produce a similar publication on Arab women, 1995: trends, statistics and indicators, which is expected to be available by mid-1997. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) published *Women and Men in Asia and the Pacific*, and the Regional Gender Statistics Project funded by Statistics Sweden in Nairobi produced a booklet entitled *Women and Men in East, Central and Southern Africa: Facts and Figures, 1995*. At the national level, efforts to produce gender statistics publications are under way in a number of Asian and African countries. However, no such efforts are being undertaken in the Arab countries of Western Asia or North Africa.

Experience has shown that it is only during the process of compiling statistics on specific gender issues and concerns that the gaps and weaknesses of a statistical system are uncovered. An objective assessment of existing data by national statistical offices is therefore necessary to improve the availability and use of gender-specific statistics, and this can best be achieved by producing publications on gender statistics at the national level.

The present project (see annex I) is being proposed as a means of providing encouragement and technical assistance to a selection of countries in carrying out activities for the production of national gender statistics publications, and is expected to lead to the development of gender statistics programmes at the national level.

The project also aims at developing quantitative and qualitative statistics and indicators on gender issues. This can be accomplished by working closely with the national statistical offices in a number of pilot countries, encouraging their participation and involving them as main actors in the project activities. Since the national statistical offices play a central role in providing official statistics, it is believed that any effort to improve the availability of data must start with their active participation. To ensure government support and awareness among policy makers and planners, the project also encourages the participation of high-level government officials from various ministries, representatives of national institutions and organizations for women, and other data users. The networks set up through this project, along with the country profiles and the preparatory work involved in producing these publications (including the compilation and dissemination of statistics on gender issues) will themselves promote greater awareness of the problems faced by women relative to men and the need to improve the availability of relevant and up-to-date statistics of a higher quality. As Governments become better informed, steps can be taken to incorporate gender issues and concerns into national development plans.

The project will be implemented as a pilot programme, and the experience gained will direct its replication in a wider range of countries in the Arab region.

The project is of direct relevance to the work of ESCWA and its subsidiary committees and to United Nations agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The availability of accurate, reliable and comprehensive data on women will enable these agencies to identify, plan and carry out efficient and cost-effective intervention programmes related to population, families and households, public life and leadership, education and training, health and child-bearing, and other issues directly related to women.

Through the project, linkages can be created with other ongoing programmes. The project outputs will be designed to complement other United Nations publications. In 1990 the *Human Development Report*, an annual UNDP publication, contained what was to become a widely accepted definition of human development and the means of measuring it. The *Human Development Report 1995* addresses gender issues as development issues and associates them with basic human rights. Based on these linkages, three composite measures were created: the human development index (HDI); the gender-related development index (GDI); and the gender

empowerment measure (GEM). The proposed gender statistics project is taking a dynamic approach; the development of an integrated list of gender statistics indicators will be the main activity undertaken with the aim of simultaneously satisfying the statistical needs of and creates linkages among all publications that have gender dimensions. More specifically, the proposed project can provide the mechanism for facilitating these linkages. One of the long-term goals of the project is to ensure that sufficient statistical data are available for future work carried out on the feminization of poverty.

The project supports the work of the ESCWA statistics subprogramme, which has the following objectives:

(a) To help the ESCWA member States and Arab North African countries develop and improve their capabilities in collecting, processing, analysing and using the data required for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans and policies;

(b) To improve the availability of data on the region and its constituent countries by gathering demographic, social, economic and other statistics from the countries concerned, organizing and storing them in a form suitable for retrieval, and disseminating them through various means.

Improved statistics on women and gender issues are also relevant to the work of the Commission's thematic subprogramme on the improvement of the quality of life, as women in the Arab region are still at a disadvantage in terms of access to resources, level of education, and participation in economic activities, the development process and institutional support activities. Another important issue of direct relevance to women in the region is the growing conflict between women's public and domestic roles and the lack of a viable integrated approach to development that might resolve this conflict.

B. THE EXECUTING AGENCY AND THE ROLE OF THE PARTNERS

The ESCWA Statistics Division will be responsible for executing this project at the regional level. For many years, the Statistics Division has provided technical assistance to promote statistical development and enhance national statistical capabilities in the ESCWA member countries, mainly through advisory services, technical meetings, seminars, workshops, and training courses held in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division. The project will be implemented jointly by CAWTAR and ESCWA in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division which has been involved in both national and interregional projects of this kind. UNICEF has contributed funds for a workshop to be held in 1997.

The collaboration between ESCWA and CAWTAR will ensure the subregional representation of Arab countries in the project and will also provide a model for producer-user cooperation at the regional level which can be followed at the national level.

One of the main objectives of CAWTAR is to enhance the capacity of Governments and NGOs to analyse and monitor women's changing roles. In collaboration with government officials in the North African countries, CAWTAR will coordinate activities at the regional level and monitor their implementation. It will be responsible for working with the national statistical offices in the North African countries, organizing regional seminars, producing a regional statistical database, monitoring of project activities, and reporting on progress. At the technical level, CAWTAR, through its network, will secure the required consultant(s) who will participate in revising and assessing the data and indicators. CAWTAR will play a catalytic role, mobilizing national statistical offices and women's advocacy groups for the purpose of institutionalizing a gender statistics system for the North African countries.

UNDP, through its network of national officials, will work closely with Governments to ensure that the

identified programme linkages and the complementarity of the project's gender statistics publications with other national publications are maintained. At the country level, national human development reports are prepared by UNDP in cooperation with national authorities; qualitative and quantitative data constitute a basic requirement for such reports. While the project's gender statistics publications will be the main sources of data disaggregated by gender, it is the consolidation of an integrated list of indicators that will create the necessary linkages with the relevant recurrent publications. All of the countries contributing to the *Human Development Report* will benefit from this initiative. UNDP, in cooperation with ESCWA, will coordinate and delineate the linkages to be made with the recurrent UNDP publications. UNDP country offices will serve as the United Nations mechanism for coordinating project activities at the national level and ensuring that the appropriate linkages are established. UNDP will also provide technical support for capacity-building during the initial and subsequent phases of the implementation process. Finally, UNDP will be responsible for the evaluation of the project in time for a final tripartite review.

The Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis at United Nations Headquarters will play a technical/consultative role, providing consultation, designing workshops and identifying appropriate training methods. The United Nations Statistics Division will be available in an advisory capacity throughout the implementation process.

At the country level, each participating national statistical office will act as the executing agency and will be responsible for all of the country activities associated with the project.

II. PARTICIPANT GROUP CHARACTERISTICS

The target groups of the project include the following:

- (a) Statisticians from the national statistical offices to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics on gender issues in the participating countries;
- (b) Producers and users of gender statistics in various sectors, including the high- and mid-level staff of government units/departments responsible for incorporating gender issues in national development plans, of women's affairs ministries/departments, and of universities; researchers; and staff members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of gender and development.

The Arab countries that have agreed to participate in the pilot phase of the ESCWA/CAWTAR gender statistics programme were selected on the basis of their geographical location, the availability of data and the efficiency of their women's advocacy groups. The participating countries include Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. A gender statistics programme has been initiated between the Palestinian Authority/Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the UNDP country office in Jerusalem. ESCWA will provide technical support to this programme at the request of UNDP Jerusalem.

III. OBJECTIVES

A. DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The main development goal is to strengthen national capacities in the production, use and dissemination of statistics related to gender issues at the national and regional levels in order to influence policies and programmes for the benefit of women.

Pre-project activities

There are a number of activities and outputs related to other, ongoing projects and programmes on gender statistics which will serve as substantive inputs to the project, including the following:

(a) The AHandbook for producing national statistical reports on women and men@, a manual prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division describing how national gender statistics publications are produced, and a training booklet published by Statistics Sweden which has been used in workshops in Africa and Asia entitled *Engendering Statistics: a Tool for Change*; these two texts will be used as the primary training and reference documents for this project;

(b) The establishment of preliminary contacts and the briefing of potential participants during ESCWA missions to selected countries in connection with another project. The countries proposed for this project will be visited and briefed in order to ascertain their level of interest in participating in this project.

These missions will be carried out in ESCWA member countries only; it will therefore be necessary, during the pre-project stage, for CAWTAR to undertake similar missions to the North African countries expected to participate in the project.

B. MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES

1. *The first immediate objective*

Immediate objective No. 1 includes: creating an awareness of gender statistics among national statistical offices, policy makers, researchers and women's advocates and of the important role such statistics play in policy formulation and programming; and identifying the statistics and indicators needed to measure the achievement of national goals related to gender issues.

(a) *Outputs*

- 1.1. A pamphlet describing the project's national activities and expected outputs will be produced.
- 1.2. Senior officers from national statistical offices and women's advocacy groups in participating countries will be briefed on the project.
- 1.3. An integrated list of the minimum data requirements for a gender statistics publication and other United Nations publications will be compiled.

(b) *Activities*

- 1.1.1. A pamphlet will be designed and produced in Arabic, English and French.
- 1.1.2. A gender statistics adviser from the United Nations Statistics Division will be invited to brief ESCWA on the experience of ESCAP in this area in order to improve the design and strategy of the project.
- 1.2.1. Missions to participating countries will be undertaken by project staff to explain and discuss the project objectives, strategy and implementation process.
- 1.2.2. The national statistical office in each participating country will establish a steering committee (see annex II).

- 1.2.3. A national working group will be established in each participating country (see annex II).
- 1.2.4. Available training materials and manuals will be reviewed and a gender statistics training curriculum will be developed for the Arab countries.
- 1.2.5. Training materials will be translated from English into Arabic.
- 1.2.6. Pre-workshop exercises will be prepared for the participating countries and invitations to the workshop will be issued.
- 1.2.7. An expert from UNDP will be invited to assist in the process of consolidating a list of gender indicators.
- 1.2.8. A seven-day regional workshop will be held in Tunisia for core members of the national working groups. The workshop's objectives will be:
 - (i) To provide training to the participating statisticians in order to familiarize them with the various aspects of gender issues, the process of producing statistics on gender issues, ongoing international work in this field, and the availability of international statistics and reference materials;
 - (ii) To establish a minimum standard list of statistics and indicators on women and men for all participating countries. This list will constitute the framework which ensures that the linkages to other gender publications are maintained;
 - (iii) To establish the framework and formulate preliminary individual country plans for the production, presentation and distribution of booklets on the situation of women relative to men. The participants, who will be the core members of each national working group, will bring with them a draft list of national priority concerns and statistics and indicators; they will be advised to incorporate the statistics needed for the *Human Development Report* in this list.
- 1.2.9. The first user-producer workshop will be conducted in each country to obtain a broad consensus and confirm the working group's findings on priority gender concerns and the relevant statistics and indicators, and to prepare national reports on the required statistics and indicators for priority gender concerns.

2. The second immediate objective

Immediate objective No. 2 is to facilitate the preparation of a national gender statistics publication by each country participating in the project.

(a) Outputs

- 2.1. A network will be established of experts in the field of gender statistics who can be used as resource persons for each country's gender statistics publication.
- 2.2. Each participating country will prepare a gender statistics publication in two languages (Arabic and either English or French) to highlight the situation of women relative to men.

(b) Activities for each country

- 2.1.1. Meetings of the working group will be convened at various stages of the drafting and production of the publication.
- 2.1.2. A plan will be developed for the production and distribution of the publication.
- 2.2.1. Statistics and indicators will be compiled for the publication.
- 2.2.2. The draft publication will be prepared for comment.
- 2.2.3. The layout/artwork of the publication will be edited and refined by local teams of consultants.
- 2.2.4. The second round of national-level user-producer workshops will be convened to discuss and review the draft of the publication.
- 2.2.5. Missions will be undertaken to participating countries to provide assistance and advisory services related to the preparation of the publication and other project-related activities.
- 2.2.6. The draft will be finalized for printing (in Arabic) once the necessary changes have been made based on discussions held at the second round of workshops and the comments of the national steering committee.
- 2.2.7. The publication will be translated into English or French.
- 2.2.8. The Arabic version of the publication will be printed and distributed.

3. The third immediate objective

Immediate objective No. 3 includes identifying the key gender issues and concerns in the Arab region, assessing data availability and gaps in national statistical systems with respect to these issues, and developing national plans of action and devising mechanisms to redress these deficiencies.

(a) *Outputs for each country*

- 3.1. A report will be prepared which identifies data gaps, assesses data needs, and presents strategies to improve gender statistics at the national level.
- 3.2. A national plan of action and implementation mechanism to improve statistics on gender issues will be developed.

(b) *Activities*

- 3.1.1. The list of gender issues and the list of statistics and indicators on priority gender concerns, including gender indicators for the *Human Development Report*, will be revised and updated by each country.
- 3.1.2. Experiences in the production of the publications with respect to data gaps, conceptual problems and deficiencies in methods of data collection and classifications will be documented.
- 3.1.3. The needs assessment reports will be presented at the national workshops.
- 3.1.4. The second regional workshop will be convened to share country experiences, to obtain regional views on the work completed, and to discuss plans and strategies for improving the availability of gender statistics through the national statistical offices. Future activities should also be discussed and recommendations made on how to improve the availability of gender statistics.
- 3.1.5. The report of the second regional workshop will be prepared and distributed.
- 3.2.1. Advisory missions will be carried out to assist the participating countries in finalizing their national plans of action.
- 3.2.2. National-level plans of action and implementation mechanisms will be developed and endorsement obtained from the national steering committees.
- 3.2.3. National-level meetings of donors will be convened to obtain additional funding for the implementation of the plans of action.

4. The fourth immediate objective

Immediate objective No. 4 is to update the ESCWA gender statistics database using the country publications prepared through this project as well as other sources.

(a) *Outputs*

- 4.1. A regional publication on the situation of women and men in the Arab countries will be produced.
- 4.2. A compact disc (CD) containing statistics and indicators on the situation of Arab women relative to men will be prepared.

(b) *Activities*

- 4.1.1. A meeting will be conducted with partners to prepare a plan for compiling data for the Arab countries not participating in the project.
- 4.1.2. ESCWA staff will use the national publications to update the ESCWA gender statistics database available on spreadsheets.
- 4.1.3. A consultant will choose appropriate software to store and retrieve the available data and will tailor it to users.
- 4.1.4. An updated regional statistical publication on the situation of women and men will be produced.

5. *The fifth immediate objective*

Immediate objective No. 5 is to develop a plan including an implementation mechanism to replicate the project in other Arab countries.

(a) *Outputs*

- 5.1. A plan will be formulated to replicate the project in other Arab countries.

(b) *Activities*

- 5.1.1. Consultations will be held with other Arab countries to advocate the project's replication in those countries.
- 5.1.2. A plan will be formulated to replicate the project in other Arab countries.
- 5.1.3. Project proposals will be prepared and donors sought to replicate the project in other Arab countries.

C. WORK PLAN

The sequence of activities to be carried out under the project between January 1997 and December 1999 are listed in tables 1 and 2 below.

TABLE 1. WORK PLAN OF THE PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER STATISTICS PROGRAMMES IN ARAB COUNTRIES

	Sequence of events	Estimated dates		
		Activity	Starting date	Completion date
	<i>Preparatory phase</i>			
1	Prepare a pamphlet in Arabic, English and French	1.1.1	January 1997	March 1997
2	Invite a gender statistics adviser from the United	1.1.2	February 1997	April 1997

TABLE 1. (continued)

	Sequence of events	Estimated dates		
		Activity	Starting date	Completion date
	Nations Statistics Division			
3	Carry out country missions to start the project	1.2.1	January 1997	April 1997
	<i>National work, phase I</i>			
4	Establish a steering committee	1.2.2	February 1997	April 1997
5	Establish a national working group	1.2.3	February 1997	April 1997
	<i>Regional work, phase I</i>			
6	Review the available training materials and develop a curriculum	1.2.4	January 1997	February 1997
7	Translate the training materials from English into Arabic	1.2.5	February 1997	March 1997
8	Prepare pre-workshop exercises and issue invitations to participants	1.2.6	February 1997	April 1997
9	Invite an expert from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	1.2.7	May 1997	August 1997
10	Hold the first regional workshop	1.2.8	May 1997	August 1997
	<i>National work, phase II</i>			
11	Hold the first user-producer workshop in each country	1.2.9	June 1997	July 1997
12	Convene meetings of the working group	2.1.1	June 1997	July 1997
13	Develop a plan for the production of the publication	2.1.2	June 1997	July 1997
14	Compile statistics and indicators for the publication	2.2.1	August 1997	November 1997
15	Prepare the draft publication for comments	2.2.2	December 1997	February 1998
16	Edit and refine the publication layout/artwork	2.2.3	March 1998	March 1998
17	Convene the second round of national-level user-producer workshops	2.2.4	April 1998	April 1998
18	Carry out advisory missions to countries	2.2.5	May 1998	July 1998
19	Finalize the draft publication	2.2.6	May 1998	July 1998
	<i>Regional work, phase II</i>			
20	Hold the second regional workshop	3.1.4	September 1998	September 1998
21	Distribute the regional workshop report	3.1.5	October 1998	October 1998
	<i>National work, phase III</i>			
22	Translate the publication into English or French	2.2.7	October 1998	November 1998
23	Print and distribute the Arabic version of the publication	2.2.8	December 1998	February 1999

TABLE 1. (continued)

	Sequence of events	Estimated dates		
		Activity	Starting date	Completion date
24	Prepare lists of gender issues and of statistics and indicators on priority gender concerns	3.1.1	February 1999	February 1999
25	Document experiences/problems in the production of the publication	3.1.2	March 1999	March 1999
26	Present the report on needs assessment at the national workshop	3.1.3	April 1999	April 1999
27	Undertake advisory missions to assist in the finalization of national plans of action	3.2.1	April 1999	May 1999
28	Develop national plans of action and implementation mechanisms	3.2.2	April 1999	May 1999
29	Convene national-level meetings of donors to obtain additional funding for the implementation of plans of action	3.2.3	June 1999	June 1999
<i>Regional work, phase III</i>				
30	Conduct a meeting with partners to prepare a data compilation plan for non-participating Arab countries	4.1.1	January 1999	January 1999
31	Make use of the national publications to update the ESCWA gender statistics database	4.1.2	January 1999	April 1999
32	Choose appropriate software to store and retrieve available data and tailor to users	4.1.3	January 1999	April 1999
33	Produce a regional statistical publication on the updated situation of women and men	4.1.4	April 1999	June 1999
34	Consult other Arab countries to advocate the replication of the project	5.1.1	July 1999	November 1999
35	Formulate a plan to replicate the project in other Arab countries	5.1.2	September 1999	October 1999
36	Prepare project proposals and seek donors to replicate the project in other Arab countries	5.1.3	November 1999	November 1999
37	Carry out an external evaluation		November 1999	December 1999
38	Complete the final project report		November 1999	December 1999

TABLE 2. PROJECT SCHEDULE (YEAR PLANNER)

D. PERSONNEL AND MATERIALS (INPUTS)

1. *Personnel*

The ESCWA Statistics Division and CAWTAR will implement the regional-level activities and ensure the coordination of all activities. The in-kind contributions of the ESCWA Statistics Division will include 14 Professional work-months and the use of office space, equipment and stationery, and conference services and facilities will be provided by United Nations Headquarters; these contributions are worth an estimated US\$ 250,000.

A consultant and a research assistant will be engaged on a short-term basis to assist ESCWA in various phases of the project. He/she will work under the supervision of an ESCWA staff member.

An international consultant on gender statistics will serve as a resource person at the regional workshops and will also assist in the preparation of a training curriculum and provide training.

The national statistical office in each of the participating countries will be in charge of implementing activities at the national level; the head of this office will act as chairman of his/her country's national steering committee, and the staff will participate in the national working group. The national steering committee will be responsible for overall guidance and high-level support for the project's activities at the country level.

2. *Materials*

Project materials will include the following:

- (a) The "Handbook for producing national statistical reports on women and men" prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division;
- (b) A training booklet published by Statistics Sweden entitled *Engendering Statistics: a Tool for Change*; the Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (Wistat) of the United Nations Statistics Division; and various statistical publications;
- (c) Methodology publications provided by the United Nations Statistics Division;
- (d) A publication on "Arab women, 1995: trends, statistics and indicators", produced by ESCWA and CAWTAR, and the ESCWA gender statistics database.

3. *Risks*

No risks are foreseen at present. Following up the replication of the project in other countries, provided for in activities 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3, will be the responsibility of ESCWA, as gender statistics represents a specified area of activity in the Commission's current medium-term plan. The ESCWA Statistics Division is responsible for the execution of the project at the regional level. One important condition for the replication of the project in other Arab countries is the availability of funds from donors, which cannot be guaranteed.

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

To review the progress made in the implementation of the project, the national steering committees will meet regularly; schedules will be determined on a country-by-country basis. The national working groups will report quarterly to the respective steering committees, and quarterly progress reports will be submitted by the national statistical offices to the ESCWA Statistics Division.

UNDP will carry out an evaluation at the end of the project in time for the final tripartite review.

F. FOLLOW-UP

The national statistical offices will follow up with potential donors on financing the implementation of the various recommendations in the plan drawn up by the national steering committees to improve the area of gender issues in national statistical systems.

The approach will be refined based on the lessons learned during the pilot experiences, and the project will be replicated in other Arab countries. The country profiles produced through this project may be revised and updated at regular intervals. The regional synthesis can also be revised to include greater coverage and more up-to-date data as additional information becomes available. The interest and awareness generated by the project should lead to increased consideration of gender issues in development, which, in turn, should stimulate greater demand for and increase the production of data on the situation of women relative to men.

G. ANTICIPATED RESULTS

1. *General*

Improving the overall process of producing statistics and indicators on priority gender issues will raise awareness of gender concerns among: (a) policy makers and planners in the various ministries as well as statisticians to facilitate the increased integration of gender issues in national development planning; (b) women's organizations and other NGOs; (c) researchers; (d) the media; (e) other mainstream sectors; and (f) the general public.

2. *Concrete results*

Concrete project results should include the following:

- (a) Two reports for each of the six Arab countries participating in the project, including:
 - (i) A statistical publication on the situation of women and men;
 - (ii) A report on deficiencies in the national statistical system in terms of responsiveness to gender concerns;
- (b) A list of gender issues and indicators on priority gender concerns (this will be the output of the expert group meeting);
- (c) Distribution of a regional statistical publication on the situation of women and men in the Arab countries;
- (d) National plans of action and implementation mechanisms aimed at improving the gender sensitivity of national statistical offices and promoting the development of statistics on gender issues;

- (e) National networks of researchers and officials in various government departments, national organizations and NGOs, with members of the working groups constituting the focal points for gender statistics;
- (f) A plan for the replication of the project in other developing countries in the ESCWA region.

IV. PROJECT COST PROJECTIONS

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the estimated project costs during the three-year project period.

TABLE 3. PROJECT BUDGET FOR EXECUTING AGENT COVERING UNDP* CONTRIBUTIONS
AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES (AOS)
(US dollars)

TABLE 3. *(continued)*

Annex I**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Title of project: Development of national gender statistics programmes in the Arab countries (RAB/96/007)

Duration: Two and a half years

Starting date: January 1997

Executing agency: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Funding agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Cooperating agency: Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)

UNDP inputs: US\$ 600,000

ESCWA inputs: US\$ 250,000 (in kind)

Brief description: This project is an institution-building project that aims at strengthening the institutional, technical and operational capabilities of national statistical offices in the area of gender statistics.

Annex II

THE COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL WORKING GROUPS

A. THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The steering committee must ensure that the project receives high-level support and cooperation from all concerned. The committee will provide direction, advice and guidance on gender statistics to the working group in the planning, coordination and implementation of the project activities.

The steering committee is to be composed of: the head of the national statistical office; senior government officials (preferably a permanent secretary, his/her deputy, or the head of planning) of various data-producing and -using ministries/departments covering both economic and social sectors, including the national focal point for women; and one representative of major non-government data users.

B. THE NATIONAL WORKING GROUP

As a means of improving gender statistics in the country, and in consultation with the steering committee on gender statistics, the working group will be responsible for:

- (a) Identifying the most urgent concerns regarding the situation of women relative to that of men based on official documents on national objectives associated with gender/women's issues;
- (b) Identifying the necessary statistics and indicators on those concerns and determining a priority set, with the aim of using them for presentation to a wider audience;
- (c) Organizing workshops to facilitate the exchange of ideas on priority gender concerns from a wide audience and to promote interaction and awareness among users and producers of data on gender issues;
- (d) Producing a statistical publication which provides an overview of the situation of women relative to men in the country;
- (e) Preparing and publishing a report on the weaknesses and deficiencies in existing data on gender issues and making recommendations on how the situation can be redressed and how the national statistical system can be improved with respect to this subject area;
- (f) Providing support to the steering committee, enhancing the process of developing a plan to improve the statistical system, and securing the necessary funding for its implementation.

Two statisticians from the national statistical office and two technical persons (one from the national machinery for women and one from a non-government sector active in the field of gender and development) will be the core members of the national working group. Other members will include a technical representative from each ministry or university participating in the project.