Gender Statistics website for monitoring change

Project proposal for discussion at the ECE/UNDP Workshop and the ECE Work Session in Orvieto, 9-13 October 2000

Introduction

After several world and regional conferences there is a growing awareness that a system of policy relevant gender statistics needs to be developed for monitoring changes in the situation of women compared to men. Moreover, a set of comparable gender indicators is needed for monitoring progress in gender equality and for making appropriate cross-country comparisons.

The need for gender analysis and for mainstreaming a gender perspective in policy development and in the implementation of programmes was stated in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and was reaffirmed by the Special Session of the General Assembly, Beijing plus 5, in June 2000. The Platform urges Governments and international organizations to promote research and dissemination of information on a number of areas of concern and generate and disseminate gender statistics for planning and evaluation.*

Making existing statistics readily available to all potential users has always been an important component of the development of gender statistics both at the national and international level. Also, national statistical agencies have increasingly recognized the need for international comparability and for a commonly agreed framework and set of gender indicators to monitor advances.

The proposed project on “Gender Statistics website for monitoring change” aims at the overall improvement of the production and use of gender statistics in countries of the ECE region through the establishment of a common framework of activities for the region and a network of users and producers concerned with gender issues and equality. The dissemination vehicle for the system of activities and for the development of the network would be a regional gender statistics website managed by the ECE.

* See Strategic Objective H.3 in the Beijing Platform for Action in Annex I.
The prototype regional website would serve as a common unifying framework for a series of inter-connected country websites. The common framework would ensure comparability of indicators and enable users to easily navigate country and regional websites to locate the desired information. Global indicators would be supplemented by additional lists to meet regional and national concerns.

The project builds on the extensive work already done in most countries of the ECE region for the development of gender statistics. A number of countries in the region have already established a gender statistics programme in the national statistical office or have a person who acts as focal point, many offices have developed a work plan and produced one or more issues of a gender statistics publication for wide dissemination. In addition, over the last decade, users-producers seminars and training workshops on gender statistics have been conducted in almost every part of the region.

Objectives and beneficiaries

In the long term, the outcome of the project will help strengthen national capacity to produce and disseminate gender statistics and reinforce gender mainstreaming in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring.

Immediate objectives will be:

- Make gender statistics and indicators produced in countries and at the regional and international levels, available to a wide range of users for policy as well as for national and international monitoring and benchmarking
- Create awareness among policy makers and planning bodies, NGOs, research institutions, gender issues advocates, the media and the public, on the importance of using gender statistics to inform policies, plans and programmes and to promote and monitor changes
- Increase the adoption of international standards and the use of guidelines and recommendations to improve international comparability
- Provide countries, especially those that are less advanced statistically, with easy access to international standards and guidelines and to existing studies, reports and data from other countries and regions.

Both data producers and users of gender statistics would benefit from the project. In particular, those in the central statistical offices responsible for the production and presentation of gender statistics would benefit from a continuous exchange of information and experience with other national and international statistical agencies, and from an easy access to a wide range of information and guidelines. Policy makers and planners, whose capacity for gender sensitive policy formulation and planning would be enhanced through the use of adequate gender statistics, would also benefit from the establishment of the website. Access to national and regional gender statistics and to related information useful in gender analysis, would also facilitate the work for advocacy, research and project formulation of international organizations and UN regional commission, NGOs, research institutions, and other gender equality advocates. Finally, the media, as the most important public opinion maker, would have access to user-friendly presentations of gender statistics and all other relevant information necessary to make a correct use of these statistics.
A brief description of project activities

The project would consist of two main components: the development of a gender statistics website and a set of activities, at the national and regional level, to promote the conceptual development of gender statistics and encourage the use of gender statistics in policy formulation and monitoring.

The regional ECE website would contain gender indicators and information for monitoring national and international goals; guidelines and standards for concepts and classifications; “best practices” for presentation and analysis of gender statistics; a network of gender experts and statisticians; and other elements to maintain and strengthen the communication among users and producers concerned with gender issues at the national, regional and international level. The proposed structure of the regional website would take into account the heterogeneity of users needs in different countries and regions. The system would consist of a central regional website and a series of national inter-connected websites. Links would also be provided to a series of other relevant websites-such as international agencies and research institutions. The information in the system would be integrated into a common framework to ensure comparability and ease of use.

The first step in the development of the ECE website will be represented by the review and discussion of the proposed structure and content of the website, as developed by the Statistical Division of ECE, at the joint ECE/UNDP regional workshop in Orvieto, 9-10 October 2000.

Following the outcome of this first meeting, the proposal will be revised and finalized taking into consideration participants’ views and needs.

A second regional meeting will be held to discuss more in detail the proposed list of statistics and indicators for monitoring women’s progress relative to men in all relevant policy areas in countries of the ECE region, and to identify a common set of indicators for the region. Countries participating in the network can then adapt the common regional list to their specific circumstances, trying to maintain to the maximum extent possible the original framework, to allow easy intra-regional comparison.

Building on the outputs of the first two meetings, the regional website will progressively be put in place as countries provide the necessary data for the preparation of the regional database. Simultaneously, countries participating in the network may want to start to set up their national websites on the same lines of the regional one.

ECE plans to use the statistics and indicators compiled for the regional and national websites will be to produce studies and to monitor the situation of women and men in ECE countries. Other organisations or countries will also be able to benefit from the website to carry out studies at the regional and national levels.

Parallel to development and putting in place of the regional website, activities for the improvement of gender statistics in countries will be carried out. In particular:

- The CES expert group will meet to identify needs for the conceptual improvement in gender statistics. Special attention will be given to some key policy areas where gaps are most blatant (e.g. economic and political participation, empowerment, violence against women, etc.). Outputs of these meeting will be methodological reports and proposed common work areas for the improvement of gender statistics in the region.

- Organization of an international network of gender experts to provide an online discussion fora on the areas for improvement and necessary actions identified at the expert group meetings; the outcomes of the online debates will be posted in the website and used as a basis for further work.

The project will also set the basis for the expansion of the ECE website and network to include other interested regional commissions and countries.
Executing agencies and participating countries

The project would be initiated by the Statistical Division of ECE in collaboration with UNDP-Bratislava. The Conference of European Statistician’s expert group on gender statistics would act as a dedicated taskforce and be a main contributor of expertise to the project. Other international organizations concerned with gender issues and statistics will be invited to participate with expertise and data - such as UNIFEM, UNSD, WB, WHO, ILO, etc.

National statistical agencies will be key actors and will participate by providing the Statistical Division of ECE with the necessary statistics and information and by developing their own website on gender statistics in line with the common regional framework. Countries’ participation on a voluntary but committed basis is essential.

It is estimated that implementing the project would take three years beginning from the joint ECE/UNDP Workshop in October 2000.
Proposed structure and content of a
“Gender statistics website for monitoring
changes”
ECE/UNDP

Summary
Introduction

This paper presents a concise description of the proposed structure and content of the ECE regional website on gender statistics and its links to the national websites. The more extensive version of this document is available at the UN ECE Statistical Division for those who are interested in the details of the proposed Gender Statistics Website.

The proposed system consists of a central regional website and a series of national inter-connected websites. Links would also be provided to a series of other relevant websites—such as international agencies and research institutions.

This first section, “Welcome”, would contain a brief presentation of the website, its sponsors and participating parties. It would also explain the aims of the website and its structure and content.

The second section, “The gender statistics field”, would present a review of the definition and components of the field of gender statistics as well as ongoing and past experiences at the national and international levels, and guide users through the steps involved in the production of statistics related to gender issues. This section would also contain international standards, recommendations and guidelines for the production, analysis and presentation of statistics on all topics and areas relevant to gender issues. References and links to relevant websites and publications such as training tools, handbooks and UN-system Resolutions and Recommendations would also be provided.

In the section “Gender issues and statistics”, the main element will be represented by the regional database containing a set of gender statistics and indicators for each of the policy areas considered. In this section, users will be able to access both the regional data base and the national website containing the national database. This section will also contain: a list of common gender issues and concerns, useful as a reference in developing sets of gender statistics and in doing gender analysis; and an overview of existing policies, plans, legislations and regulations on several policy areas, relevant to gender issues and equality.

The detailed lists of gender issues and gender statistics are presented in the more extensive version of the proposal.

The section on “Regional network” would contain links to the gender statistics websites of countries participating in the project and to other relevant national websites of governmental or non-governmental agencies.

The section on “International work” would contain a review of work done in gender issues and gender statistics by international agencies. It would also provide links to international agencies’ websites and pages concerning agencies’ work on gender statistics.

The website will also contain a list of references and links to research institutions, a page with updates on any new events, articles or publications of relevance in gender statistics and analysis, and a Newsletter.
Welcome

This section will contain a brief description of the website, of its objectives and its sponsoring agencies.

This website was developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with national statistical offices in the region, UNDP and [add other contributing/collaborating offices]. The website is the response to a growing demand for improved access to gender related information and statistics, both at the country and the regional levels.

This website is aimed to

- Promote the use of gender statistics by governments and international agencies, by planning bodies, NGOs, research institutions, gender issues advocates, the media, and the public, for policy formulation and monitoring, and for promoting changes
- Disseminate existing gender statistics at the regional and the national levels, in countries of the region
- Increase the adoption of international standards and the use of guidelines and recommendations to improve international comparability
- Improve intra-regional dialogue on policy issues and data comparability
- Improve access to international and regional information on gender issues

The website also contains a set of indicators relevant for countries in the ECE region and suitable for monitoring women’s progress relative to men in all relevant policy areas. Each country website provides a similar set of gender concerns and related statistics and indicators at the national level.

Through an international network of interconnected websites containing important information on activities, existing publications and other materials on gender statistics, the website also provides a comprehensive review of the ongoing work worldwide.

The regional websites also includes information on international guidelines, recommendations and standards for concepts, definitions, classifications and methods of data collection. It also provides a useful guide on “best practices” for presentation, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics.

All information presented in the website comes from the experience of international experts in the areas of gender issues, policies and statistics and from past or ongoing work in the development of gender statistics at the country and the international levels.

This website contains information on the development and presentation of gender statistics and indicators and other useful information on gender issues and policies in the ECE region. The website also links websites of countries in the ECE region through a common framework developed to allow easy comparison and communication among countries and be at the same time flexible enough to be adapted to the specific needs and circumstances of each country in the region.
What is gender statistics?

- A definition of gender statistics
- Why do we need gender statistics?
- Essential elements in the production of gender statistics
- A brief history of gender statistics

A definition of gender statistics

A definition of gender statistics based on the commonly accepted terminology at the international level and in most countries where the gender statistics field has been developed.

Why do we need gender statistics?

A review of why gender statistics evolved as a statistical field and why gender statistics are needed in various areas of policy making as well as for many other uses.

Essential elements in the production of gender statistics

A review of basic requirements for the production of gender statistics. Links to the webpage that presents the details of the process of production of gender statistics.

A brief history of gender statistics

The main steps in the development of the field of gender statistics.

Links to the following pages:

- international standards.
- Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration, Strategic Objective H.3
- work done in countries
Process of production of gender statistics

- The production process of gender statistics
- What have countries done?

The production process of gender statistics

A description of the main steps in the production, analysis and presentation of gender statistics, based on the Flowchart describing the main steps in the production of gender statistics (see document “FLOWCHART”)

Links to:


International guidelines for data collection
User-friendly presentations
Ways of dissemination

What have countries done?

A review of national experiences in the development of gender statistics programmes in countries of the region.

This section will be based on the reports produced by countries on the work done for the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics.
**International standards and guidelines**

- **Defining and measuring gender relevant issues**
  - Population and environment
  - Families and households
  - Economic participation
  - Social protection
  - Education and communication
  - Public life and decision-making
  - Health
  - Violence against women
- **Standard age groups**
- **Ongoing work for the improvement of gender statistics**
- **Recommendations on gender statistics in the Beijing Platform**

**Defining and measuring gender relevant issues**

This section will present international standards, recommendations and guidelines for the definitions, measurement and classification of issues in different policy areas. It also provides the definition and way of calculation of some indicators of common use in gender and social analysis.

Only one policy area – population and environment – is shown in the following as an example of the structure of this section.

**Population and environment**

- **Definition of key concepts**
- **Measurement problems**
- **Guidelines and useful references**
- **Definition and calculation of indicators**

**Definition of key concepts**

- Older population
- Adolescents
- ……

**Measurement problems**

- Refugees and displaced persons
- ……

**Guidelines and useful references**

This section presents international standards, guidelines, recommendations and resolutions. It also provides a list of available publications and documentation useful as a guide for the improvement of gender statistics production in the topics covered in this policy area.

**Definition and calculation of indicators**

This section contains the definitions and ways of calculation – according to international standards guidelines – of some indicators of common use in this policy area.
Some standard age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Age group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>up to age 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-4 and 5-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or 1-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or 1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents</td>
<td>10-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>15-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive age</td>
<td>15-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working age</td>
<td>15-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or 15-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older people</td>
<td>65 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Young-olds”</td>
<td>65-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very old or</td>
<td>80 and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“old-olds”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ongoing work for the improvement of gender statistics

This section presents ongoing work for the improvement of gender statistics, in ECE countries and at the international level.

The section will be updated regularly to include new developments in the field of gender statistics, the establishment of new gender statistics programmes or units in countries and new projects developed at the regional and international levels.

Recommendations on gender statistics in the Beijing Platform

Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration

Strategic objective H.3 -Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation *

Actions to be taken

206. 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:

......

......

User-friendly presentations

- Showing gender differentials
- Presenting data with the life cycle approach
- Preparing user-friendly tables
- Making user-friendly charts

Showing gender differentials

In compiling gender statistics, attention should be paid to the presentation of data and calculation of percentages. This section will review ways of compiling gender statistics to allow easy and correct comparison between data on women and men.

Examples
- Showing gender differentials across countries
- Showing gender differentials across regions

Presenting data with the life cycle approach

The life cycle approach is the analysis of women’s and men’s behaviour and characteristics over the various stages of their lives. This section reviews ways of analysis by life cycle stages and provides examples.

Examples

Preparing user-friendly tables

This section will present, through practical examples, the necessary steps for the preparation of user-friendly tables:

- **STEP 1** Compiling data from the original source
- **STEP 2** Making the table easy to understand
- **STEP 3** Making the table attractive
- **STEP 4** Editing the final table
Making user-friendly charts

This section will present, through practical examples, the necessary steps for the preparation of user-friendly tables:

**STEP 1**  Preparing the basic chart from the original set of data

**STEP 2**  Making the chart easy to understand

**STEP 3**  Making the chart attractive

**STEP 4**  Editing the final chart

Some types of charts

Line charts
Bar charts
Stacked bar charts
Horizontal bar charts
Thermometer charts
Pie charts

Useful references:


Ways of dissemination

- Consulting users
- Preparing gender statistics publications
- Preparing gender statistics databases
- Delivering gender statistics to the media and the public
- Marketing statistical outputs
- Preparing press releases

Consulting users

- Groups of users and their needs
- Users-producers dialogue
- How to consult users
- Examples of users-producers consultations in countries

Preparing gender statistics publications

- Different publications for different users
- Making a plan for the production of a publication
- Producing the publication
- Examples of gender statistics publications in countries and regions

Preparing gender statistics databases

- Different formats of databases for different users
- Making a plan for the preparation of a database
- Preparing the database
→ Examples of gender statistics data bases in countries and regions

Delivering gender statistics to the media and the public

→ Strategies to improve data accessibility

→ Examples of successful mechanisms for the delivery of information

Marketing statistical outputs

→ Developing marketing strategies

→ Marketing tools
  ✓ Press releases and press briefings
  How to reach print and broadcast media effectively. (also linked to next session: Preparing press releases)
  ✓ Advertising flyers and pamphlets
  How to produce a flyer (one page) or a pamphlet (two or more page-booklet) to be circulated among potential users of the statistical product.
  ✓ Lectures and seminars
  How to prepare lectures for the presentation of the statistical product and organize ad hoc seminars.

Preparing press releases
  ✓ Language
  ✓ Making figures easy to understand
  ✓ Main message
  ✓ Structure
  ✓ Some tips
  ✓ Sample press release
Gender issues
This page contains a review of gender issues, in key policy areas.

- Population and environment
- Families and households
- Economic participation
- Social protection
- Education and communication
- Public life and decision-making
- Health
- Violence against women

Each policy area will also be linked to useful websites, list of references and pages containing other relevant information and material useful for the use of data and the analysis:

References
International sources of data
Useful links

In the following, only one policy area – families and households – will be presented as an example of the structure and content of this section.

Gender issues: Families and households

Some key issues common to countries in the ECE region

In family formation and dissolution:
- The pattern and timing of family formation and dissolution and their consequences differ between women and men
- Women and men are not equally likely to remarry after divorce
- Divorce trends and intervals before remarriage vary and have different consequences on women and men
- Lone parent families are more susceptible to poverty

In living arrangements:
- Widowhood is far more common among women, since they live longer than men and generally marry an older husband
- Population ageing has different consequences on living arrangements of women and men

National issues in countries of the ECE region

- One-person households have specific characteristics and needs

In child-bearing:
- The choice of the number and spacing of children has strong links with the economic situation of the country and with the existence of family and social policies
- Contraceptive information and availability is a fundamental right of women and couples
- Women turn to abortion to end unwanted pregnancies because of lack of access to family planning and limited reproductive health facilities
✓ Adolescent child-bearing hinders women’s access to education and work opportunity
✓ The timing of child-bearing has important consequences on women and men’s lives
✓ The number of children and the living arrangements of the family where they are born has important consequences of parents’ and children’s lives

In family life:
✓ Women and men play different roles within the family
✓ Women and men do not share family responsibilities equally
✓ Family responsibility have a strong impact of women’s professional life and careers

National issues in countries of the ECE region

- NAME OF COUNTRY
- NAME OF COUNTRY
- NAME OF COUNTRY
- etc.
Policies and plans

This page contains a brief review of international policy instruments and regional documents on policies and plans in key policy areas. It also provides links to national website for each of the policy areas.

- Population and environment
- Families and households
- Economic participation
- Social protection
- Education and communication
- Public life and decision-making
- Health
- Violence against women

Each policy area will also be linked to useful websites, list of references and pages containing other relevant information and material useful for the use of data and the analysis:

References

International sources of data

Useful links

In the following, only one policy area – population and environment – will be presented as an example of the structure and content of this section.
Legislations and regulations

This page contains a brief review of legislations and regulations in countries of the region (country details are presented in the national websites)

- Population and environment
- Families and households
- Economic participation
- Social protection
- Education and communication
- Public life and decision-making
- Health
- Crime and violence

Each policy area will also be linked to useful websites, list of references and pages containing other relevant information and material useful for the use of data and the analysis:

References

International sources of data

Useful links

In the following only one policy area – families and households – will be presented as an example of the structure and content of this section.

Legislations and regulations: Families and Households

- Policies and plans at the international level and common to countries of the ECE region

A brief review of legislations and regulations in countries of the region on:

- Maternity protection
- Maternity and paternity leave
- Parental leave
- Regulations concerning child care
- Regulations concerning care services and facilities for the older people

Legislations and regulations in countries of the ECE region

(Country details are presented in the national websites. Links are provided to each policy area in the national website)

NAME OF COUNTRY
NAME OF COUNTRY
NAME OF COUNTRY

etc.
Statistics and indicators

This page contains the regional database and links to national databases

- Population and environment
  → National websites
- Families and households
  → National websites
- Economic participation
  → National websites
- Social protection
  → National websites
- Education and communication
  → National websites
- Public life and decision-making
  → National websites
- Health
  → National websites
- Crime and violence
  → National websites

Users can move directly to the corresponding policy area in the national website, by clicking on national website and then on the name of the country.

Each policy area will also be linked to useful websites, list of references and pages containing other relevant information and material useful for the use of data and the analysis:

References
International sources of data
Useful links

In the following only one policy area – economic participation – will be presented as an example of the structure and content of this section.

Statistics and indicators: Economic participation

(The details of the database structure are in Annex A)

Basic indicators:
(in the basic table only one or two indicators for each topic will be presented)

- employment
- working conditions and opportunities
- access to income and resources

(by clicking on the column heading of the main table users can access the more detailed table:)

In employment:

- Economic activity rates of women and men (age 15 and over)
- Share of women in the labour force (age 15 and over)
- Economic activity rates of women and men by age group (age 15 and over)
- Women and men labour force distribution by sector (agriculture, industry and services)
- Women and men labour force distribution by status in employment
- Women and men entrepreneurs by sector and size of enterprise
- Employment rates of women and men aged 60-64 and 65-70
- Unemployment rates of women and men
- Unemployment rates of women and men by educational level
- ……etc.
Regional network
This page contains a presentation of the existing regional network of countries’ statistical offices, women’s machinery and experts and users concerned with gender issues and statistics. Links to countries’ websites and other relevant regional sites are also provided.

Maps with participating countries: by clicking on the selected country, or typing the name of the country, users can access the national website which is developed within the same framework of the regional website.

- Women and Men in the ECE region
- Women and men in NAME OF COUNTRY
- Women and men in NAME OF COUNTRY
- Women and men in NAME OF COUNTRY
- etc.

Links to other national websites for countries not participating in the project but with gender/equal opportunity and gender statistics websites.

Links to National Statistical Agencies/Offices
**International network**

This page will contain a review of work done in gender and development and in gender statistics by international agencies. It will also provide links to the relevant agencies’ websites and pages concerning the agencies’ work on gender statistics and to offices or focal points or other relevant persons dealing and/or working on gender statistics.

An application form for those who are interested to join the network will also be posted in this page, so that users of the website can easily become part of the network.

For example:

http://www.unfpa.org/tpd/gender/index.htm
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/
http://www.worldbank.org/gender/

**APPLICATION FORM**: Objectives, main activities, specific outputs to be shared, outreach, additional comments.
Resources

Studies in Family Planning
Population and Development Review
Population Action International
The Population Council
John Hopkins University
Eurostat

Useful links for population and demography, health and social issues:
http://www.cpc.unc.edu/
http://measureprogram.org/links.html

For more information about Population, Health and Nutrition:

USAID
Population Projects
Health and Nutrition Projects
International Agencies
Research Centers

HIV/AIDS
Safe motherhood:
http://www.safemotherhood.org/

Other academic institutions
and non-governmental organizations, etc.

Useful references:


Wallgren, Anders, Britt Wallgren, Rolf Persson, Ulf Jorner and Jan-Aage Haaland,

Graphing Statistics and Data, London: SAGE Publications


Etc.
International Conferences

Brief summaries with focus on gender issues and links to official sites of past, ongoing and forthcoming international and regional conferences

For example:

Beijing plus 5

A review of discussion and outcome of the General Assembly Special Session Beijing plus 5. Link to the official website.
Newsletter

The Newsletter will allow users to quickly review all recent development in gender statistics and read deeper discussion and studies on specific topics and problems. All participants in the regional and international network, as well as other regional and international experts, academics, staff of UN-system agencies and other international organizations will be potential contributors to the newsletter.
What’s new

This page contains a list of recent and upcoming events, meetings and all other news of interest to statisticians and gender analysts.

For example:

**Recent articles**

This page contains a review of recently published articles and studies of interest in gender analysis.