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GENDER STATISTICS TRAINING FOR STATISTICIANS

**Introduction of gender statistics in the national statistics
system of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Submitted by the Statistics Agency of the
Republic of Kazakhstan**

Summary

The introduction of new indicators and updating of existing ones and the increased publication of qualitatively new information are among the priorities set out in the national statistics development strategy. Incorporating gender statistics in the national statistical system is regarded as an important undertaking, involving all branches and areas of statistics development and enabling optimal international harmonization of statistical data. Accordingly, Kazakhstan has taken steps to introduce different aspects of gender statistics, improve statistical reporting and address gender issues in the national statistical system. The work has been carried out in the following areas: gender metadata processing in accordance with the 2006-2008 action plan to implement the 2006-2008 gender equality strategy; and capacity-building workshops to make the statistical system more gender sensitive.

I. NATIONAL TRAINING EVENTS

1. The Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan embarked on a three-year joint programme with the United Nations European Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Bank Institute on capacity-building for gender sensitization of the national statistical system. Six specialists from the Agency attended an education and training workshop in Almaty in late April 2007. The workshop addressed possible ways of organizing more training programmes in Kazakhstan and conducting training events for statisticians employed in the Agency's national and local units and specialists in other ministries and departments.
2. The next step in the programme involved the first national workshop on gender sensitization of the national statistical system. The workshop was held in Astana in early June 2007 and attended by a UNECE expert, task force experts and ministry and department representatives.
3. The workshop considered ways of better incorporating gender indicators and establishing a database in line with international databases' and discussed the metadata project prepared by the Agency and the National Commission on the Family and Gender Policy under the President of Kazakhstan. Ministry officials addressed the issue of generating specific gender statistics for their sectors. In particular, officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs expressed the need, within the context of the Ministry's preparatory work on the domestic violence bill, to include indicators on offences involving violence against women in the national statistical system and for practical and methodological assistance from international experts.
4. The Committee on Legal Statistics of the Office of the Procurator General and the Agency also noted shortcomings in the collection of official data on violent incidents. Existing legal statistical data do not reflect levels of violence accurately, as such incidents sometimes remain hidden. Given that not all victims report incidents to the law enforcement bodies, the current data on violence are incomplete.
5. The workshop included discussions with World Bank Institute and UNECE consultants. The existing difficulties in establishing a common methodological framework for gathering and processing gender statistics were noted. For example, a comprehensive approach was taken in defining areas having a bearing on the development of gender statistics such as employment, labour migration, access to lifelong education, household income and expenditure, the informal sector of the economy and violence against women.
6. Representatives from the Agency, the United Nations Development Programme and UNECE held a formal meeting at the workshop to discuss the following central goals:
 - (a) Establishing a task force on gender statistics;
 - (b) Setting the goals of a national training event;
 - (c) Giving priority to gender statistics;
 - (d) Identifying a target audience;

(e) Planning thematic discussions, taking account of the timing and location of other training workshops.

7. In an effort to expand indicators and improve various branches of statistics, the Agency initiated a training workshop on methods of collecting, processing and disseminating data on violence against women for producers and users of statistical data.

8. A four-day training workshop on gender statistics and gender-based violence, including advisory panels from UNECE and the World Bank Institute and representatives of the National Institute of Statistics (Italy), was thus held in Astana from 26 to 29 November 2007.

9. During the first two days representatives of ministries widely discussed the situation of violence against women and assessed the existing gaps in statistics and data accessibility. The participants reviewed the existing domestic violence questionnaires and ways of incorporating international indicators at the national level and learned about the experience of Italian statisticians in collecting and using data. They discussed the kinds of tools Kazakhstan should adopt to monitor domestic violence in full surveys and modular surveys of women.

10. The choice of survey method and type of tool used to collect data was based on the following two options:

(a) A full survey;

(b) A multiple indicator cluster survey.

11. The Agency Department of Social and Demographic Statistics held a training workshop on measuring employment in the informal sector and informal employment from 12 to 16 May 2008 with the support of UNECE and the World Bank Institute. The workshop was aimed at introducing producers and users of statistical data to methodologies for the collection, processing and dissemination of data on informal employment in international labour markets.

12. This workshop was also a follow-up to the work on gender sensitization of the national statistical system begun by the Agency last June.

13. International organization experts presented papers on international statistical methods and the experience of certain European countries in this area at the workshop for two days. The remaining days were spent on consultations between the experts and employees of the Department of Social and Demographic Statistics on the construction of an informal employment questionnaire module for the main survey and the organization and implementation of a pilot survey.

14. The workshop participants, including representatives of the Majlis, the Presidential Centre for Strategic Studies and Analysis, the National Commission on the Family and Gender Policy and several Government ministries, received detailed information on the accepted definitions, concepts and “infinitions” of informal employment and the informal sector in international statistical practice. Following the PowerPoint presentations, the participants concluded from the information they had received that the existing gender-based data on employment in the informal sector and informal employment required further study.

15. Employment in the informal sector and informal employment have not been explored rigorously enough. Compared to other aspects of the labour market, they receive little research coverage. Informal employment is difficult to define clearly and even harder to measure statistically with accuracy. The choice of method for measuring the informal sector and informal employment depends on the way the information is to be used, data requirements, available resources and specific national conditions such as the regulatory and legal framework and employment policies. Department of Social and Demographic Statistics staff conducted a comparative study of existing questionnaires (surveys) and discussed mechanisms for incorporating changes in the existing employment surveys, with the assistance of experts from UNECE, the World Bank Institute, the International Labour Organization's Bureau of Statistics and the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova.

II. IMPACT OF TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON THE OUTCOME OF STATISTICAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES

16. An important outcome of the training workshops in Kazakhstan was the ensuing promotion of this topic in developing the State statistical programmes and plan, as follows:

(a) Workshop participants put forward several proposals for incorporating international standards to protect women against discrimination and violence in the 2009-2011 plan of action for the implementation of the 2006-2016 gender equality strategy. In particular, a special division was set up to prevent gender-based violence in society, and the Statistics Agency proposed conducting a modular survey on domestic violence against women;

(b) A 2010 multiple indicator cluster survey has been included in the 2009-2011 strategic plan for the development of the State statistical system in order to obtain information to assess the status of women and children in Kazakhstan, which is necessary for monitoring progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

(c) A decision has been made to include an additional module on domestic violence against women in the individual questionnaire for the multiple indicator cluster survey of women.

17. The Agency is currently seeking ways of implementing these goals. In this respect, the following methodological and organizational problems have been encountered at the outset:

Methodological issues:

- (a) Developing a domestic violence questionnaire (survey);
- (b) Amending the current employment questionnaire;
- (c) Developing a data collection methodology;
- (d) Sampling of the population;
- (e) Testing and selecting the population sample;
- (f) Formulating recommendations for the conduct of the survey;

Organizational issues:

- (a) Coordinating efforts by Government institutions and international organizations to conduct surveys and provide advisory services;
- (b) Selecting and training interviewers, drawing on international experience;
- (c) Studying European best practices;
- (d) Organizing training visits for statistical services personnel to study and assimilate the experience of advanced countries;
- (e) Holding consultations and working meetings.

18. Efforts to build the capacity of the statistical services in Kazakhstan by organizing and conducting training workshops have thus been fairly substantial and have had a considerable impact on the outcome of the national statistical body's activities.
