

Gender statistics, achievements and challenges. National Institute of Statistics Albania¹

Overview

Gender equity is an essential building block in the development process of the country. Failure to address gender equality issues satisfactorily means risking that more than 50% of the population will not benefit fully from the progress achieved through all other social, political and economic reform efforts. Such continued inequality would also harm Albania's efforts to achieve a sustainable economic development as it implies failure to use women's full potential.

In this framework it is important to outline that one of the objectives of the Platform for Action adopted in Beijing in 1995 **is to generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.** As the key institution of producing and disseminating data in the country the role of the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) become crucial regarding gender statistics. During these last years INSTAT has tried to respond to the need for such information. In 1998 it began the publication "Women and Men in Albania" which has been improved through years.

INSTAT have not only tried to improve the situation of gender statistics but also to mainstream gender. As it will be presented below, INSTAT has participated in researches about gender issues and also has been fully involved in the production of the Common Country Assessment 2004. INSTAT is also providing the figures for the main strategic documents of the country, NSSD (National Strategy for Economic and Social development) and MDGs where gender issues are being addressed and analyzed.

Another point to be mentioned is that INSTAT staff is participating in trainings, seminars and other activities regarding gender issues and gender statistics in particular.

The statistical law does not specify the production and dissemination of gender statistics. But it offers the possibility to INSTAT to establish the statistical program where the production of data disaggregated by sex is intended.

Recently the parliament of Albania adopted the law on equal opportunities where it is outlined the collection of sex-disaggregated data.

Internal and International Collaboration

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To achieve the objective of improving the gender statistics, INSTAT collaborate with other internal and external partners. Even if INSTAT is not the only producer of data in the country its coordinating role is undisputable. That is why a good coordination is very useful for the future work. INSTAT has a very good collaboration with most of the NGOs that are acting on gender issues and also with the Committee for Equal Opportunities, which participates strongly in the publication "Women and Men in Albania". INSTAT is also collaborating with the Gender Institute in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Actually INSTAT is working to improve the coordination with other ministries regarding gender statistics, as administrative records are one of the main sources of data. One of the components of this coordination will be to stress on the importance of collecting data by sex because some ministries does not have gender-disaggregated data. For example it is not difficult to analyze the situation of education under a gender perspective because the Ministry of education does have the most of data disaggregated by sex.

We are trying to make a working plan for future activities in order to progress toward a good coordination between institution that collect data and also to find the solution to some problems. One of these problems is the issue of data gaps on violence against women where the Ministry of Public Order could be strongly involved.

Collaboration with international partners is very positive. The international organizations that are acting in Albania are very much involved in gender issues and also in having the most complete gender-disaggregated data. Though, there are committed to support INSTAT in improving gender statistics. Actually we are collaborating with Sida, UN Agencies. Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development etc.

This collaboration has helped to some important achievement of INSTAT in the field of gender issues.

Achievements

Beside administrative records, the other essential source for gender statistics is the survey. The Living Standards Measurement Survey conducted by INSTAT in 2002 has been a crucial source of information disaggregated by sex. Based on LSMS data it has been possible to see under a gender perspective the sectors of employment, health, poverty etc.

Last year INSTAT has produced five research publications based on the 2001 Population and Housing Census data. One of them was about gender perspectives, *Gender Perspectives in Albania*. Its aim was to analyze how internal migration has affected the lives of women and men in Albania. It was the first time that INSTAT produce such analyzes and one of the achievements was to have one on gender issues. This publication has been one of the most requested not only from the NGOs that are working on gender issues, but also from Governmental Organizations, IOs and individuals.

Another important aspect is the involvement of INSTAT on the production of the Albania Common Country Assessment 2004 under the UN guidance. This publication can be found at the site www.un.org.al under the section of Publications.

The most important point was that we didn't only include a chapter on gender but we tried as much as possible to mainstream gender through the whole document and to see gender inequalities under each topic (the topics was the same as the MDGs). This was not so easy because of the data gaps regarding some areas such as environment for example. In fact the objective of this CCA was also to identify the data gaps so we have tried to outline as much as possible the problematic areas.

Another positive moment is that the last Progress Report of NSSSED (2003)² has included a chapter regarding gender perspectives but issues such as the higher unemployment rate of women, low participation in politics or violence against women have to be put at the center of the strategies and policies of the government. Yet, gender cannot be only treated as a separated chapter but it has to be mainstreamed through the entire document.

Some problems and difficulties

Even if progress has been done toward improving gender statistics there are always some problems and difficulties. As above-mentioned, the last CCA tried to identify the data gaps. One of the main domains where statistics have to be improved is violence against women. Violence against women is one of the most important issues to be solved in the country. *Lack of systematic data collection on gender inequality and especially on violence against women that is considered always a private issue not to be reported is a large problem. The gaps in data and lack of gender disaggregated data makes the gender related inequalities hard to identified and prove.*³ This is why this issue is outlined in the work of many NGOs, IOs and other institutions. But *“there is no institutional response condemning and preventing the phenomena of gender violence”*. UNICEF has supported a study on domestic violence, which provides useful information, but the sample is very small (around 50 women). The most of data on VaW is provided by NGOs such as Center for Counseling Women and Girls, Gender Alliance for Development, which publishes *“Monitoring Media on Domestic Violence”* etc. Though, there is an imperative need on finding the ways of having information on VaW.

As we mentioned before LSMS is the only survey that have provided useful data disaggregated by sex. There are not other surveys such as Time Use Survey or LFS. As it was also underlined in the CCA 2004 there is need on having more complete gender statistics in order to have a clearer picture of the society in Albania and also to better address actions, policies and strategies toward equal opportunities. Time Use Survey for example will be a good help for the social security problems in Albania.

“The issue of data gaps regarding gender issues and specifically violence against women needs to be addressed. Quantitative and qualitative information is needed not only regarding violence but also other gender issues, in order to design successful strategies and interventions. For example systematic Time Use Surveys should be conducted in

² Government of Albania, *Progress Report of NSSSED 2003*, April 2004

³ UNCT, *Albania Common Country Assessment*, Tirana, 2004

order to better understand the situation of the non-remunerated housework of women and improve the system of social insurance.”⁴

Other surveys are needed for analyzing the situation of informal economy, employment etc.

INSTAT is aiming to carry out a HBS or LFS in the near future because there is a great need on such information. If it will happen, one of our objectives will also be to include some questions on Time Use inside the survey in order to fill the gap on time use data.

Challenges...

Improving gender statistics means also to address them toward the needs of the users. INSTAT recognizes that a better coordination between users and producers is needed. It comes to INSTAT as the key institution for the data collection and dissemination to be the initiator of this work. That is the reason why we are planning to propose to all the main users such as NGO, IO, GO and other institutions to send us each end of year for example their needs on statistics disaggregated by sex or needs on data analysis etc. This will help us to know better the need on gender statistics and also will help to better orient our future work. Actually this is only an idea, we will try it this end of year.

We are also planning to organize round-tables with other producers and users in order to better coordinate our work. Another objective will be to organize different activities to raise the awareness of the need for gender statistics.

We hope that this will function and we will continue our work to improve gender statistics and to be involved in other activities regarding the analyzes of gender issues with the hope that this will help the achievement of gender equality in Albania.

⁴ UNCT, Albania Common Country Assessment, Tirana, 2004

INDICATORS	DATA	SOURCE
Percentage of Women in parliament	5.7%	INSTAT 2001
Percentage of women chair of parliamentary commissions	0%	INSTAT 2001
Percentage of women ministers	5%	NSSSED 2004/2003
Percentage of women mayors	0%	NSSSED 2004/2003
Percentage of women mayors of Small Municipalities	37.5%	NSSSED 2004/2003
Percentage of chairwomen of communes	1.6%	NSSSED 2004/2003
Percentage of women prefects	25%	NSSSED 2004/2003
Percentage of Women in diplomatic missions:		Ministry of Foreign Affairs /INSTAT/2002
- Ambassadors	4.60%	
- Minister Counsellor	25%	
Employment rate:	51.1	INSTAT 2003
- Women	39.1	
- Men	62.6	
Unemployment rate:	15.0	INSTAT LSMS 2002
Unemployment rate: Women	18.2	
Tirana	21.4	
Urban	27.7	
Rural	2.0	
- Men	12.9	
Tirana	18.6	
Urban	19.6	
Rural	4.2	
Women managers in private sector	17%	INSTAT/ LSMS 2002
Average monthly consumption by head of household:		INSTAT/LSMS In Lek
- Female head of hh	27,616	
- Male head of hh	34,323	
% who reported IPV (Intimate Partner Violence) in their lifetime among ever married women 15-44:		In 2002, sample: 5697 women IPH, INSTAT, MoH
- verbal abuse	30.3	
- physical abuse	8.1	
- sexual abuse	2.8	
% who reported IPV in the last year among ever married women 15-44:		In 2002, sample: 5697 women IPH, INSTAT,

- verbal abuse	22.9	MoH
- physical abuse	4.5	
- sexual abuse	1.6	

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