

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Capacity Building Programme on Engendering NSS for Knowledge-based Policy Formulation in CIS and SEE countries

Reporting period: July 1, 2006- December 31, 2008

This report refers to the activities undertaken within two grant agreements (Grant of US\$350 000 -FY07 and grant of US\$200 000-FY08) between the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (recipient).

Bearing in mind that some activities undertaken under these grants¹ overlap each other in time and that certain services requiring considerable amount of time and resources were funded by both grants, such as manual on Gender Statistics, the recipient, the UNECE is reporting the activities under these two grants together.

In this report the UNECE overviews the activities, analyzes the results achieved in relation to the objectives, identifies the problems encountered and provides solutions to them, and lists future activities.

1. Grant objectives

The purpose of the Grant is to support countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and South Eastern Europe (SEE) to improve, analyze and disseminate gender statistics through training and knowledge sharing processes. The program, which was officially launched in September 2006 aims at building the capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to improve production, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated statistics for the purpose of social and economic analysis. The program is fostering exchange of best practices, enhancing cross-fertilization, and initiating joint research work between the NSOs of the ECA Region through regional and national training activities.

2. Activities

The UNECE/WBI project team carried out a lot of preliminary work during the period of September-November 2006 preceding the reception of grants. It identified and contacted leading experts on gender statistics, relevant research centers and institutions, NGOs and NSOs to make preliminary arrangements. The project team assessed common characteristics and main needs of target national statistical systems, and those of main users of gender-relevant data. The team identified training activities and materials which were needed to be developed. By the end of November 2006 the UNECE/WBI project team had an action plan on gender sensitization of National Statistical Systems as well as a database of experts on gender statistics or relevant subjects.

¹ Grant of US\$350 000, effective for the activities undertaken from July 1, 2006 till November 30, 2008; Grant of US\$200 000 were effective for the activities undertaken from July 1, 2007 till December 31, 2008.

The executed activities that were financed with the above-mentioned grants can be broken into the following:

- Preparatory meetings to define national plans;
- Regional, sub regional and national trainings/workshops;
- Production of training tools, such as multimedia presentations, manual on gender statistics;
- Engagement of third parties to provide additional expertise;
- Arrangement of study tours among the NSOs;
- Creation and maintenance of a web-portal.

Below there is a list of activities undertaken within the reported period along with the short description of results achieved:

Regional, sub regional and national workshops/trainings and preparatory meetings

Training of Trainers (ToT)

In April 2007, the UNECE/WBI project team delivered a five day regional Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Kazakhstan. The workshop gathered twenty-nine participants from 9 countries. It was organized in an innovative manner. Interactive training modules conducted by facilitators and presenters addressed several aspects of gender statistics. The training toolkit was consisted of “the content” part and various activities, discussions and practical exercises aiming at putting the main issues of gender statistics in the practical context of the participating countries.

Outcome: increased awareness of gender issues; developed action plans on how to integrate gender into the work of the NSOs; increased ability to facilitate workshops themselves. As an example, local facilitators trained by the UNECE/WBI group along with international experts co-facilitated the national workshop on gender statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2009.

Preparatory meetings to define national plans

Following the regional ToT, the UNECE/WBI project team assisted NSOs in holding number of preparatory meetings/trainings to determine national priorities for gender sensitization workshops. During the summer of 2007, preparatory meetings were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan Serbia, Bosnia and Moldova.

Outcome: preparatory meetings enabled NSOs to better prioritize their needs for trainings on gender statistics and to communicate their priorities with the UNECE/WBI team. Instead of bringing already developed workshop modules in the countries which might not have been relevant to the specific national audience, preparatory meetings enabled the project team to prepare topic-specific national courses that meet the demands of the NSOs. Furthermore, these meetings encouraged national trainers to become members of the inter-agency Task Force on Gender Sensitization training; some countries have formed steering groups on gender statistics, which include staff from NSOs, ministries, women, etc.

Regional workshops

In addition to the above-mentioned regional workshop in Kazakhstan, the UNECE/WBI team held regional workshops in Rome, Italy (13-14 December 2007) and in Geneva, Switzerland (8-10 October, 2008).

The main goal of the workshop in Rome was to exchange national experiences in providing gender sensitization trainings, to update on the work of the WB web portal, get acquainted with the new training modules on agriculture and labour statistics and to plan next national events.

The regional workshop in Geneva served as a venue to present and discuss the newest training materials developed as a part of this program including the manual entitled 'Developing Gender Statistics', multimedia presentations, videos and other training modules. The workshop also aimed at promoting the sharing of experiences and good practices in communicating gender statistics, advocacy for gender statistics, key organizational issues to be considered in order to improve the effectiveness of national gender statistics programs, and coordinate national plans for gender statistics events.

Outcome: updated skills of trainers on various topics, detailed report on the current status of the national training programs and detailed report on the planned national events to take place in the following year.

National workshops

Following the preparatory meetings in number of countries mentioned above, the UNECE/WBI team along with NSOs organized topic-specific workshops. The following national workshops took place:

1. Moldova, 2007, two national training courses aimed at users of gender statistics and one aimed at producers of gender statistics;
2. Kazakhstan, November 2007- Violence against women;
3. Kazakhstan, May 2008- Measurement of informal employment;
4. Kyrgyzstan, June 2008- Training on Gender based violence.

Outcome: increased awareness of the importance of producing sex-disaggregated data in selected areas, specific skills learnt to measure gender equality in these areas.

Training Tools: multimedia presentations, manual on gender statistics

Multimedia presentations

For the ToT and the continued usage in the national training events, the UNECE/WBI project team prepared multimedia presentations in English and in Russian. The team prepared 8 multimedia presentations in both languages. The voice of the English presentations was recorded in the WBI multimedia center and later by the UNECE colleagues. For recording the Russian version of the presentations, the UNECE/WBI team engaged a production company, which is currently recording the last 9th presentation.

These presentations used in regional and national events enjoy the popularity among participants. Unlike the mere PowerPoint presentations which show the dry numbers, these presentations accompanied by the voice and carefully chosen photos are easy to follow enabling the audience to grasp the content easily.

Outcome: Huge demand for the presentations; request by the local coordinators to include these presentations in the agendas of national workshops, positive feedback from the participants.

Manual

Aiming at serving as a basement for a comprehensive guide on all aspects of gender-relevant data, their collection, analysis, delivery to final users and marketing, the UNECE/WBI team decided to undertake a huge task of creating a manual on gender statistics. For that purpose, starting from 2006 the team carried out the following activities:

- Drafted an outline of the manual;
- Hired experts on gender statistics;
- Received voluntary contributions to some sections of the manual from experts from the NSOs and international organizations;
- Organized a meeting of the UNECE Task Force on gender sensitization to revise the draft manual;
- Received almost all inputs for the manual;
- Prepared the transcript for a final three-tier review process;
- Hired a consultant for a final review of the manual.

Outcome: certain sections of the already finalized manual were used as a background material for number of national activities. This material written by respected gender experts familiarized participants with new topics.

Note: English version of the manual has been already finalized. Translators and editors have been hired to prepare its Russian version. Manual in both languages is expected to be released shortly.

Other training tools

Apart from the manual and multimedia presentations, the UNECE/WBI project team prepared approximately 40 lectures, role plays, practical exercises, and other activities.

Grant

The UNECE/WBI project team engaged a non-governmental organization ‘Women in informal employment: globalizing and organizing (WIEGO) with the aim of assisting NSOs to improve statistical data on gender differences in the structure of employment in two South-Eastern European countries (Serbia and FYR Macedonia) and one CIS country (Kazakhstan).

WIEGO experts undertook missions to project countries. They provided expertise to the NSOs in analyzing and disseminating statistical data on gender differences in the structure of employment. In particular, its experts 1) assisted in performing analysis and development of existed data on informal employment and on employment in informal sector; 2) provided country reports on the available data and sources on employment 3) provided technical guidance to improve the measurement of informal employment and employment in informal sector disaggregated by sex 4) assisted in identifying key indicators for which data should be routinely collected 5) assisted in developing adequate products of statistical data on employment ensuring that gender perspective is properly reflected.

Outcome: Revision of international recommendations for defining informal employment and demonstration how these recommendations could be used to analyze data from the existing Labour Force Surveys (LFS) for three countries- FYR of Macedonia, the Republic of Serbia and

Republic of Kazakhstan; Production of the estimates of informal employment; Submission of a comprehensive report on country analysis with a critical review of available statistics on employment and informal employment in each country and suggestions how to improve such data.

Study tours

In August 2008 study tours between Tajikistan and Moldova were arranged. Two representatives from the Tajik Statistical Office traveled to the NSO of the Republic of Moldova where they learnt about the experiences of Moldova in developing methodologies for measuring informal employment. Ms. Elena Vatcarau, consultant from the NSO of Moldova undertook a mission to Tajik NSO where she shared her expertise with Tajik colleagues.

More specifically, Ms. Vatcarau assisted her colleagues in 1) choosing operational criteria for defining employment in the informal sector and other forms of informal employment in accordance with existing international recommendations; 2) designing or redesigning survey questions to identify persons employed in the informal sector and in other types of informal jobs for inclusion in national labour force or other household surveys; 3) drafting of relevant parts of supervisor and interviewer instruction manuals; 4) planning of relevant sessions for the training of supervisors and interviewers.

Outcome: first-hand technical assistance received from the consultant; specific recommendations proposed for the NSO.

Web-portal

The WB web-portal helps national teams to network with specialists in gender statistics, including e-discussions, file sharing, news/events board, advertising and peer-to-peer feedback on a variety of gender statistics issues. It is a useful source of information for national trainers, a platform where experiences can be exchanged between trainers and the project team.

Outcome: increased flexibility to communicate more effectively with broader public, positive feedback from the NSOs.

3. Key problems/challenges

The project is running smoothly, as planned. However, there are some minor problems/challenges encountered. For example, coordination with national statistical offices has been more difficult than anticipated. Planning national events takes longer time than expected due to limited technological infrastructure of the statistical offices.

Action taken: to address this problem project team calls gender focal points.
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NSOs involved in the project are at different stage of development and react to proposals by the project team differently. The challenge for the UNECE/WBI project team is to always make sure that all participant NSOs are given equal opportunity to take part in the project events and to make the best use of it.

Action taken: the UNECE/WBI team balances needs of the NSOs with the limited time and the budget to make sure that all the participants are provided with information/equal opportunities to make best use of project activities.
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4. Future Plans

For 2009 the UNECE/WBI project team has planned number of workshops. It has already organized a national workshop on gender statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2009. There are two more trainings planned in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (June 2009) and a sub regional workshop in Balkans (November 2009).

The UNECE/WBI project is also planning to further expand the scope of the project and include other CIS countries in the program. Due to the financial constraints, however, the team has been so far unable to engage other countries in the project. Nevertheless, the project team is planning to investigate the possibilities of including other countries in 2010. In that direction the team will be carrying out some preliminary work throughout the year of 2009. Preparatory work will include establishing contacts with interested NSOs and gender focal points in respective countries, assessing their needs and identifying training materials for the targeted NSOs.

Note: attached there are two financial reports provided by the UNECE financial office covering the activities under these two grants.