

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON ENGENDERING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS FOR KNOWLEDGE-BASED POLICY FORMULATION IN CIS AND SEE COUNTRIES

ACTIVITIES REPORT

DGF File: 401009-09

Reporting period: 1 October 2008 – 31 March 2010

1. Financial contributions

Source of funds	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
WB Development Grant Facility	\$350,000	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$250,000
Other	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Total	\$450,000	\$300,000	\$230,000	\$330,000

2. Objectives

The purpose of the grant is to support the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and South East Europe (SEE) to improve the analysis and dissemination of gender statistics through training and knowledge sharing. The Program aims to build the capacity of national statistical offices to produce, analyze and disseminate sex-disaggregated statistics for social and economic policy making. The program is fostering the exchange of best practices, enhancing cross-fertilization of skills in the CIS and SEE and initiating joint research work through regional and national training activities.

3. Summary of progress

The following events were organized in the Program during the reporting period.

1	National workshop on gender statistics	Bosnia and Herzegovina	24-26 March 2009
2	International Conference on domestic violence	Kyrgyzstan	20-21 May 2009
3	National workshop on measuring violence against women	Kyrgyzstan	22 May 2009
4	National workshop on gender statistics	Tajikistan	28-29 July 2009
5	UNECE gender statistics work session and the regional workshop on violence against Women	Switzerland	26-30 April 2010 ¹

¹ The project shared the costs with other ongoing projects in the ECE to bring 12 participants from the CIS and SEE to attend the UNECE Gender Statistics Session and the Regional Workshop on Violence against Women in 2010. The leftover money from 2009 that has been authorized by the World Bank Institute to spend has been utilized for this travel. This explains reporting of 2010 activities under the 401009-09 grant.

3.1. National workshop on gender statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The workshop was held on 24-26 March 2009 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in close cooperation with the Agency of Statistics and the UNDP Country Office. The workshop attracted 35 participants that included producers as well as users of gender statistics. The workshop covered three topics:

- Gender Pay Gap (GPG);
- Reconciliation of family and work life;
- Dissemination and communication of gender statistics.

The session on gender pay gap reviewed main policy issues, possible sources and ways to improve the measurement of the GPG. It included group activities to allow participants to gain an in-depth understanding of the issues on GPG.

Reconciliation of family and work life identified policies that support the combination of professional and family life and discussed a possible set of indicators that could shed light on this topic. A number of surveys that could allow for producing the data have been reviewed at the session.

The session on dissemination and communication was about improving skills for communication of statistics to the public through media releases. It included lectures and exercises on writing headlines and lead paragraphs of articles about statistics as well as how to present data in tables and charts.

As the program aims to extend capacity building to South-East Europe, the workshop organizers invited four participants from neighbouring Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, so they could consider holding such workshop in their countries.

Key results

As a result of numerous group discussions held on national data needs, participants and facilitators jointly defined future steps and put forward concrete recommendations about how to improve data availability on gender differences. In addition to defining concrete steps, participants and facilitators elaborated overall recommendations to strengthen the capacity of the statistical institutions to collect sex-disaggregated data. Recommendations included enhancing regional cooperation between the national statistical offices, reactivating the Bosnia and Herzegovina coordination body to ensure the follow up on the defined actions and continuing coordination with the UNECE/ World Bank project.

3.2. International Conference on Domestic Violence

Following a request to attend and speak at the International Conference on Domestic Violence, the project team participated in this event held on 20-21 May in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The objective of the conference was to exchange best practices between police, judiciary and statisticians in monitoring and dealing effectively with the problem of family violence, and to produce an action plan. Ms. Jessica Gardner from the UNECE gave a presentation on the international indicators of violence against women. The project also funded travel and accommodation of an international expert and two participants from the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Key results

The contribution of the project to the conference in financial and substantial terms was greatly appreciated by the organizers. The mission was beneficial also to the project team as they learnt about the latest developments in the region related to violence against women.

3.3. National workshop on measuring violence against women in Kyrgyzstan

On 22 May, the project team, in collaboration with the Soros Foundation Country Office, organized a one-day workshop on measuring violence against women. The workshop gathered data producers from the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyz Republic, users of statistics and invited representatives from Kazakhstan. The goal was to review the main challenges of the Statistical Committee in collecting the data on violence against women, to study existing international indicators and experiences from other countries and to examine and further develop the action plan for measuring violence against women in Kyrgyzstan.

Key results

The workshop raised awareness of the methods and challenges for collecting data on violence against women. The action plan on violence against women adopted a year ago was reviewed and updated. It was decided to create a working group of seven people including individual experts, representatives from the Statistical Committee and other government agencies. The group aims to define main problems on violence against women in the country and to come up with concrete proposals.

3.4. National workshop on measuring violence against women in Tajikistan

A national workshop on gender statistics was held on 28-29 July 2009 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The workshop was attended by 22 participants from the State Committee on Statistics, ministries and women's crisis centres of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The workshop covered the following topics:

- Advocacy for gender statistics;
- Measuring violence against women;
- Making it happen.

Key results

As a result of group discussions on national data needs, participants and facilitators jointly defined the future steps and put forward concrete recommendations how to improve the data availability of gender statistics.

The following are the main points of the action plan formulated by the participants:

- To hold meetings with the ministries and agencies dealing with violence against women;
- To prepare a publication on men and women in Tajikistan and a publication on gender statistics in agriculture;
- To analyze gender pay gap and incorporate corresponding data in statistical yearbooks;
- To organize round tables together with other state actors;
- To create the server application jointly with other producers of statistics in Tajikistan.

3.5. UNECE Gender Work Session and the Regional Workshop on Measuring Violence against Women

The project shared the costs with other ongoing projects at UNECE to bring 12 participants from the CIS and SEE to attend the UNECE Gender Work Session and the Regional Workshop on Measuring Violence against Women held in Geneva, Switzerland on 26-28 and 29-30 April 2010, respectively. The purpose of the session was to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries on gender statistics. The meeting focused on gender analysis of key census topics, gender

differences in economic security (gender pay gap, women entrepreneurship, gender statistics in economic downturn, etc.) and emerging issues on gender statistics (including violence against women, time-use surveys, and innovative tools for the dissemination of gender statistics). The workshop on VAW discussed the issues related to the indicators and the best international practices to measure the VAW.

Key results

Participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend these meetings. As they noted, regional meetings of this kind help them stay informed on the most recent developments in the area of gender statistics.

3.6. Multimedia presentations

The project team has finalized remaining two presentations on ‘Time Use Surveys’ and ‘Gender and Decision-Making’ in Russian. Also, multimedia presentations on ‘Reconciliation of family and work life’ and ‘Dissemination and Communication of Gender Statistics’ have been prepared in English.

3.7. Manual ‘Developing Gender Statistics: A Practical Tool’

At the 58th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) held on 8-10 June 2010 a Manual ‘Developing Gender Statistics: A Practical Tool’ has been endorsed. The manual will be published at the end of 2010.

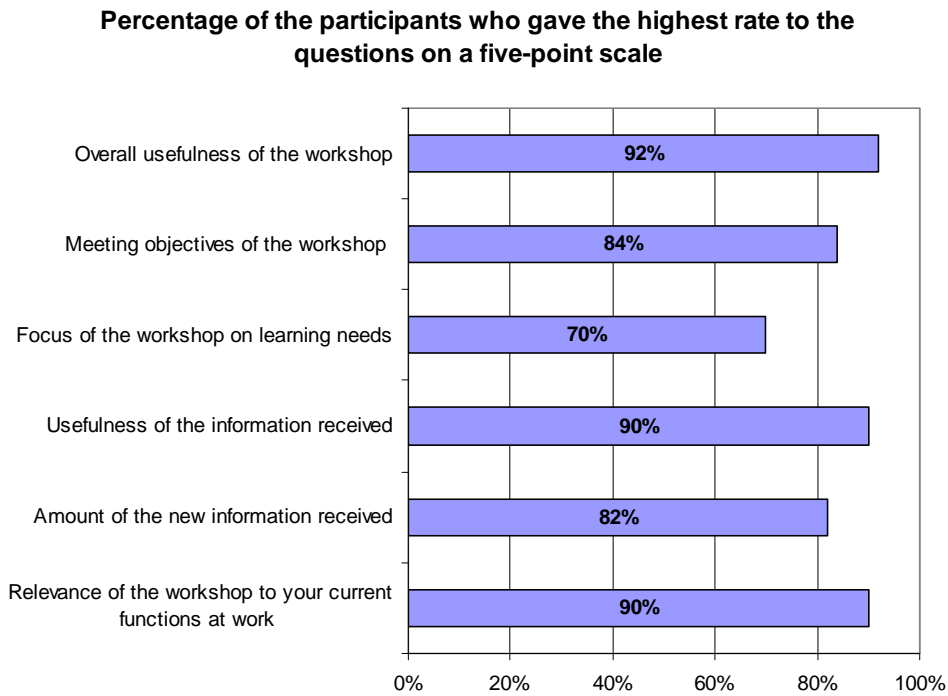
4. Key problems encountered

Due to the delay in transfer of the grant (DGF file:401010-09) to UNECE, the project had to reschedule the sub-regional workshop in South-East Europe for 2010. This caused problems with scheduling the workshop and created additional workload for staff. The project team was challenged to balance additional tasks with their other commitments. Other than that, the project has been running smoothly, as planned.

5. Recent reviews and evaluations

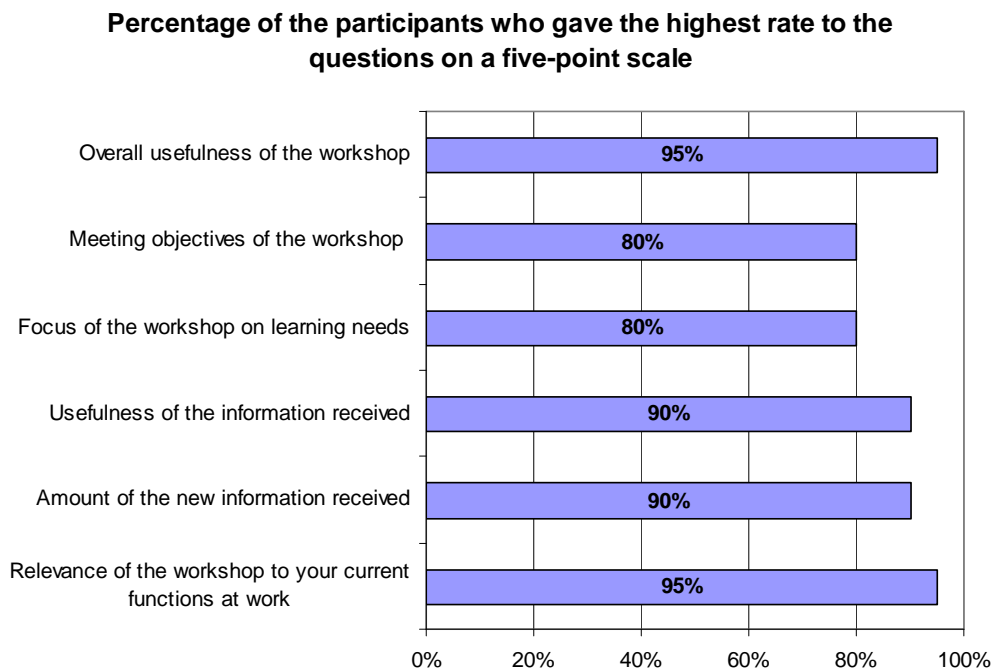
Evaluations conducted among the participants of the workshops revealed that recipients consider the training workshops very relevant to their current needs. See figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1: Participants' evaluation of the national workshop on gender statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Note: Evaluations provided by the workshop participants

Figure 2: Participants' evaluation of the national workshop on gender statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Note: Evaluations provided by the workshop participants

Participants from Dushanbe provided the following comments:

- This workshop is the first of this kind in Tajikistan;
- Presentations and group discussions were very useful;
- Workshop format was very good.

Participants provided positive feedback on the composition of training activities and the materials provided. Following their request, the project team prepared the CDs with the multimedia presentations and sent to the participants.

UNECE has recently published a success story of the project. The article explains the key factors that have made the project successful. It also includes the quotes of some of the beneficiaries of the technical assistance. The story is available at <http://www.unece.org/operact/opera/rptc-sstor-stat.html>

6. Reporting compliance

The recipient is complying with the reporting and auditing requirements by timely submission of the financial and activities reports. The two interim activities reports have been submitted by 15 August and 15 February 2010, as according to the agreement. Due to some excess of the expenditures incurred in the 2009 fiscal year, the submission of the third financial report has been slightly delayed. The donor has been notified about this delay.

7. Future plans

In addition to the training workshops that have been already conducted in Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2010, the project team is currently organizing a sub-regional workshop to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, 27-29 September 2010.

The goal of this sub-regional workshop is to review the process of collecting, processing and disseminating statistics in selected areas and identify actions to be taken to make the process more gender-relevant, through training and discussion among users and producers of gender statistics from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

At the same time, the project team has started preliminary discussions with the national statistical offices of the countries of South-East Europe to assess their training needs and to identify a host country where a training workshop will be held in the last quarter of 2010.