Development of a National Gender Statistics Website: A Proposed Framework

This paper on “Development of National Website on Gender Statistics: Proposed Framework” is presented at the 2nd Interagency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) in the Arab Countries (Beirut, 12-14 October 2009) for discussion. The paper aims to provide information on the structure and content for the development of a national gender statistics website, as a follow up to the recommendation of the 1st IAEGM on Gender Statistics (Cairo, 10-11 September 2007) which stipulates that “NSOs, in collaboration with line ministries, women’s machineries and non-governmental organizations, to develop and maintain a national common platform/website for knowledge sharing on Gender Statistics to be disseminated and utilized for advocacy and programme development”.

The backbone of this framework is a gender statistics website to be managed by National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in collaboration with line ministries, women’s machineries and non-governmental organizations.

The Proposed Framework and outcomes of discussions will be reviewed by the Taskforce on Gender Statistics in their first meeting (Beirut, 15-16 October 2009).

The final proposed Framework on National Gender Statistics Website will be recommended to the Statistical Committee for consideration.

Note: This document has been reproduced without formal editing.
Table of Content

I. Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 3

II. Proposed Structure and Content of a National Gender Website ................................................. 3
    1. Homepage ........................................................................................................................................ 3
    2. Gender Statistics and Issues ........................................................................................................... 4
    3. Declarations, Resolutions and Mandates ....................................................................................... 4
    4. Standards and Methods .................................................................................................................. 4
    5. Reports and Publications ............................................................................................................... 5
    6. Meetings and Workshops ............................................................................................................... 5
    7. Best Practices ............................................................................................................................... 5
    8. Gender Database ........................................................................................................................... 5
    9. Training Resources ....................................................................................................................... 6
   10. News and Media Tools ................................................................................................................ 6
   11. Networking ....................................................................................................................................... 6
I. Introduction

Almost the Arab countries do not have a dedicated website for gender statistics. Many of these countries own a wealth of information and have produced various publications on gender statistics. Moreover, almost all the countries have conducted and participated in workshops and trainings on gender statistics for which valuable training materials can be shared and disseminated to various stakeholders through the wide web. A national gender website is, therefore, a useful and effective disseminating tool for information sharing and advocacy.

The ultimate objective of this proposal is to reinforce national capacity to produce and disseminate gender statistics and enhance the mainstreaming of gender perspective in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. The immediate objectives are:

- Facilitate the access to available information and data on gender statistics to all users,
- Disseminate information on international guidelines, training material, e-learning and best practices for exchange of information and experience with other statistical agencies,
- Strengthen local capacities through access to training material and e-learning,
- Create awareness among producers/users on national gender issues at the national and international levels from various sectors,
- Share best practices in mainstreaming gender perspective in activities.

The proposed structure for the website entails information on 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 level. Links to other relevant websites—such as international agencies and research institutions—should also be included. In addition, launching a database on gender statistics through a specialized website will enhance monitoring and reporting at the national and sub-national levels. Moreover, the database will facilitate implementing targeted interventions and creating an impact for cost-effective planning.

II. Proposed Structure and Content of a National Gender Website

The content of the proposed national gender statistics website is presented hereunder with a brief description under each of its sections:

1. Homepage

The Homepage usually contains an introduction to the website explaining its aims and objectives. It provides links to mandates, documentations, meetings and best practices. Development and access to a gender database is an important component to this website supported by a link to standards and methods, in addition to related classifications. A training section containing national training material on gender statistics is a useful tool and objective for mainstreaming gender in the statistical system and its related activities. Moreover, a wide range of international and regional e-learning and training resources are available and provide rich resources for all types of users. An action plan or programme of work would be of an added value to this website. For networking purposes, contact information of Gender Focal Points would also be useful to add.
2. **Gender Statistics and Issues**

This section presents a conceptual overview of Gender Statistics; how to produce and present gender statistics data, in addition to methods of disseminating gender statistics to various users.

- Definition of Gender Statistics
- Producing Gender Statistics
- Presenting Gender Statistics
- Disseminating Gender Statistics
- Gender Issues

A list of common national gender issues in different policy areas (population, health, education, decision-making, violence…) will be useful to include providing users and producers with a brief description of main areas of concern. A set of indicators to measure each policy area covered under each issue would be most useful to list hereunder.

3. **Declarations, Resolutions and Mandates**

A list of international gender declarations, resolutions and mandates provide users and producers with the background information needed for producing gender statistics. Useful instruments and resolutions, such as Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, UNESCWA resolutions and recommendations, provide producers and advocates of gender issues and statistics with official arguments in support of their projects, activities, fund raising, etc…

4. **Standards and Methods**

This section contains international and national standards, recommendations and guidelines to enhance national capabilities in the production, use, mainstream and dissemination of gender indicators and sex-disaggregated statistics. It provides resourceful information on the rational, concepts, definitions, methods and sources of gender indicators.
5. **Reports and Publications**

It is vital to disseminate national gender specific publications, reports and studies on the National Statistical Offices Website through this platform. These documents maybe presented by issue, such as; Gender and Health, Gender and Violence, Gender and Education, etc…. In addition, final reports of national/regional/global meetings on Gender Statistics can also be included.

6. **Meetings and Workshops**

In order to preserve the institutional memory and provide users and producers with access to meetings and workshops’ resources on gender statistics, past and upcoming meetings, trainings and workshops on Gender Statistics, links to related documentations need to be established and include the following:

- Background documents,
- Agenda
- Information note
- List of participant
- Presentations and discussion papers
- Final report

7. **Best Practices**

Best practices in preparing national gender publications, workshops, or development of gender websites etc… need to be shared with the objective of exchanging knowledge between stakeholders and improving national capabilities in the field of gender statistics. The compilation of best practices would enrich creativity, and highlight expertise knowledge in each of the gender statistics fields.

8. **Gender Database**

A database could be for statistics, documentation or terms. A Gender Database section may include the following databases:

- Statistical Database: a database of sex-disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators to monitor the situation of women and men in each country, and provide policy makers and planners with evidence-based data. Data is to be divided by different sectors and it is recommended that the sectors follow the policy areas listed in the Gender Issues section;

- Publications Database: inventory of national publications, reports, technical material by area of concern, author and year supported by a search engine;

- Glossary: link to the “Arab Glossary on Gender Statistical Terms” hosted by the Statistics Division at UN-ESCWA website.
9. **Training Resources**

National and international training resources of workshops are listed here. E-learning multimedia resources are encouraged to be developed and disseminated under this section.

10. **News and Media Tools**

News on Gender activities at the national, regional and international level as well as advocacy materials (videos, documentaries, interviews…) can be provided under this section. In addition a gender photo gallery of national events and profiles of gender related issues need to be archived to document national activities and are most useful to use towards gender-related publications and customization of databases.

11. **Networking**

National, regional and international contact information of statistical offices, women’s machinery and experts and users of gender issues and statistics facilitates coordination and collaboration. Networking will be most effective when contact information of gender related meetings’ participants are provided under this section.