

BASIC PROGRAMME /PROJECT INFORMATION:



Development of national Gender Statistics Programmes

in the Arab Countries

RAB/96/007

Basic Programme /Project Information:

The Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries is a UNDP funded project with ESCWA as the executing agency. The project is aimed at strengthening the national capacities in the production, use and dissemination of statistics related to gender issues in an effort to influence policies and programmes and promote changes for the benefit of women. This is accomplished by working closely with national statistical offices and other national agencies concerned in a number of pilot countries, encouraging their participation and involving them as main factors in the project activities.

Currently, the project is being executed in eight different countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. The second regional workshop is expected to take place August 23-26 in Amman, Jordan. At the national level, most of the countries, with the exception of Algeria, are at the last stages of the preparation of national publications. The national publications on women and men have been prepared and advisory missions to discuss and review the publications have been carried over the last months. The publications will be ready for distribution in Arabic around August 1999. (Please refer to the projected plan of activities, Annex I for further details)

Programme/Project number and title:

Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries

Project - RAB/96/007/A/01/55

Executing Agency: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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Project Starting date:

Originally planned:January 1997 **Actual:** January 1997

Project Completion date:

Originally Planned:December 1999 **Actual:** December 2000

Total budget (US\$)

Originally: 600, 000**Last signed revision:**342, 989

PART I. GENERAL EVALUATION

What are the objectives of the programme at various levels?	
Level	Objective
National	Create awareness among national statistical offices, policy makers, researchers and women's advocates with regard to the importance of gender statistics in the formulation of policies
	Enhance the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the area of gender equality and statistical analysis
	Stimulate ideas for change specifically with regard to the status of women at the social, economical and political level
	Identify the statistics and indicators needed to measure the achievement of national goals related to gender issues
	Identify the key gender issues and concerns in the Arab region, uncover existing gaps and weaknesses of the national statistical systems and devise mechanisms to redress these deficiencies
	Facilitate the preparation of a national gender statistics publication by each country participating in

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	the project
	Improve the availability and use of gender-specific statistics
	Promote and develop quantitative and qualitative statistics and indicators on gender issues
	Develop national strategies to further enhance the process of data collection, analysis, and dissemination
Regional	Update ESCWA gender statistics database using the country publications prepared through this project as well as other sources
	Develop a plan-including an implementation mechanism-to replicate the project in other Arab countries in an effort to help UN agencies to overcome potential problems by identifying and carrying out similar cost-effective programmes in all areas related to women
Programme Component	1. Increasing Gender Awareness in the Arab Region
	2. Promoting Capacity Building
	3. Strengthening of the National Statistical Systems
	4. Consolidation of Gender Related Statistics

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	5. Ensuring the Sustainability and Dissemination of the Programme in Other Arab Countries
Programme Objective	Contribute to the development of national gender statistics programmes in the region as tool for sustainable change specifically with regard to identified priority gender issues

Who are the target groups and direct beneficiaries of the programme and what are their needs and expectations?	
Target Groups	Needs/Expectations
1. Statisticians from the national statistical offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing their understanding of gender related issues and concerns - Strengthen their national capacities in an effort to collect , analyze and disseminate gender sensitive statistics
2. Producers and users of gender statistics: a. High- and mid-level staff of governmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen their national capacities through training in the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-dissaggregated data
Units/departments responsible for incorporating gender issues in national development plans, of women's affairs ministries/departments, and of universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create awareness and understanding with regard to gender issues specifically in the area of gender statistics - Create a sustainable mechanism for ongoing production and dissemination of gender-dissaggregated data - Create a gender dissaggregated national database

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	- Development of a network as a means for maintaining ongoing cooperation between the member states in the production and dissemination of gender related statistics
b. Researchers and staff members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of gender and development	
DIRECT BENEFICIARIES	
<p>a. National Statistical Offices</p> <p>b. Ministries and other governmental offices/departments</p> <p>c. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)</p> <p><i>Of:</i></p> <p>- ESCWA member states</p> <p>(Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen)</p> <p>- Arab North African countries</p> <p>(Algeria, Tunisia)</p> <p>d. Regional Organization such as CAWTAR</p> <p>e. International UN-agencies operating at the national and regional level</p>	*As stated above *

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What changes are anticipated as a result of the programme?	
Level	Anticipated Changes
National	<p>In the short run, the project is expected to assist participating countries in :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing quantitative and qualitative statistics and indicators on gender issues - Compiling a list of relevant statistics indicators on gender issues and concerns
What changes are anticipated as a result of the programme? (cont'd)	
	<p>In the long run, the project is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a national network on gender related issues and concerns - Assist participating countries in the development of their national statistical databases
Level	Anticipated Changes
Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of national and regional gender statistics programmes - Ensure that sufficient statistical data is available for future work carried out on the feminization of poverty in the region
Programme Component	
1. Increasing Gender Awareness in the Arab Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise consciousness and awareness with regard to Gender issues - Persuade policy makers and promote changes for the benefit of women in the region - Improve the status of women in

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	<p>society</p>
<p>2. Promoting Capacity Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the area of gender equality and analysis of statistics - Stimulate ideas for change specifically with regard to the status of women at the social, economical and political level - Strengthen the national capacities of the target group in collecting, analyzing, presenting, and dissemination of gender related statistics - Improve the measurements, concepts, definitions and classifications used in the area of gender statistics - Create a network for the exchange of statistical information at the national and regional level
<p>3. Strengthening of the National Statistical Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain ongoing dialogue and continuous cooperation between users and producers of statistic - Identify key gender issues and concerns - Assessing data availability and gaps in national statistical systems with respect to these issues - Develop national plans of action and devising mechanisms to redress gender gaps and biases - Improve the currently practiced data collection methods and analyses and presentation to take into account stereotypes and social and cultural factors that might produce gender based biases

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<p>4. Consolidation of Gender Related Statistics in the Arab Region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a network that would improve the accessibility of statistics to all users in the region - Update ESCWA gender statistics database - Ensure updating of current existing data in the region
<p>5. Ensuring the Sustainability and Dissemination of the Programme in Other Arab Countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replicate the project in other Arab countries in an effort to help UN agencies to overcome potential problems by identifying and carrying out similar cost-effective programmes in all areas related to women - Development of a dissemination plan which includes activities such as press releases, press conferences, promotional material(flyers/posters), workshops, seminars and other related activities to promote the future replication of the project in the region

<p align="center">To what extent and how effectively is the programme achieving its objectives?</p>	
<p>Effectiveness</p>	
<p>1. To raise consciousness, persuade policy</p>	<p>- A pamphlet describing the project's national activities and expected outputs</p>

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<p>makers and promote changes for the benefit of women in the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefing of the national statistical offices and women's advocacy groups in participating countries on the project - Compilation of an integrated list of minimum data requirements for gender statistics publication and other UN publications
<p>2. To enhance the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the area of gender equality and analysis of statistics to stimulate ideas for change specifically with regard to the status of women at the social, economical and political level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a network of experts in the field of gender statistics to be used as resource persons for each country's gender statistics project - Preparation of a national gender statistics publication in two languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of a regional gender statistics publication
<p>3. To identify key gender issues and concerns in the Arab region, assess data availability and gaps in national statistical systems with respect to these issues, and develop national plans of action and devise mechanisms to redress these deficiencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of national reports on priority gender issues, identifying data gaps, assessing data needs, and presenting strategies to improve gender statistics at the national level - Development of a national plan of action and implementation mechanisms to improve gender statistics
<p>4. To update ESCWA gender statistics database</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of a regional publication on the situation of women and men in the Arab countries - Preparation of a compact disc containing statistics and indicators on the situation of Arab women relative to men

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<p>5. To develop a plan including an implementation mechanism to replicate the project in other Arab countries in an effort to help UN agencies to overcome potential problems by identifying and carrying out similar cost-effective programmes in all areas related to women</p>	<p>- A plan will be formulated to replicate the project in other Arab countries</p>
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What is the contribution of the outputs to component, programme and national objectives and UNDP thematic priorities?

The programme has been drawn up with a clear consideration to the UNDP areas of thematic facts under the SHD Framework. Its goals and objectives have been determined with special consideration to poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, gender consideration in development and sound governance in the Arab region.

In the long run, the project aims at addressing poverty issues in the region and hence improving the situation of men and women at the social, economical and political level. The availability of gender statistics is a crucial and an indispensable tool that can be utilized by policy makes, researchers and decision makers in the formulation of policies aimed at improving the livelihoods of men and women at the national and regional level.

As with regard to gender consideration in development, the project aims at creating an awakening in the region with regard to gender issues and concerns. Through the project activities and outputs we hope to create gender equity in the region. By identifying key

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gender issues and concerns and uncovering many of the existing gender gaps in each individual country, the project is creating a sustainable mechanism for redressing these issues in the future. This is best achieved through the production of the national publications, which we hope will carry on in the years to come. In the long run, this would help measure the progress and development achieved by the member states in addressing gender concerns within their particular countries as well as act as a system for comparative analysis and evaluation when setting development strategies for the region as a whole.

Furthermore, it is important to note that in the project's effort at strengthening the national capacities of the individual participating countries, many of the issues of sound governance are being tackled. For example through the establishment of the Steering Committees and National Working Groups, the various governmental and non-governmental agencies working at the national level are actively participating in the project activities at the national level. The effectiveness and efficiency of these groups in implementing the national project activities has a direct bearing on the success of the project as a whole. They are directly responsible for fostering continuous dialogue with users and producers of gender statistics as well as ensuring that cooperative work and effort is taking place between national statistical offices, policy makers, researchers and women's advocate groups. In the long run, it will be their responsibility to ensure that policy makers and decision makers in their respective countries are institutionalizing many of the changes identified as necessary for achieving equity and equal opportunities for men and women.

To what extent and how effectively is the programme achieving its objectives?

Efficiency

Since the signature of the project document in January 1997, the project activities have been progressing according to the time frames set out at the start of the project. Many of the project outputs have been finalized and completed. For a detailed list of these outputs please refer to the attached Revised and Projected Work Plan attached to this document.

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PART II. NUMERICAL RATING

Rate the relevance and performance of the programme or project using the following scale:

1-High satisfactory

2-Satisfactory

3-Unsatisfactory, with some positive elements

4-Unsatisfactory

X-Not applicable

SUBSTANTIVE FOCUS	Target Groups(s)	Programme or Project Manager	Gov	UNDP
Relevance				
1. How relevant is the programme or project to the development of country?		1		
2. How relevant is the programme or project to the promotion of sustainable human development?		1		
3. Does the programme or project address the gender-differentiation needs of the target groups?		1		
4. Given the objectives of the programme or project are the appropriate institutions being assisted?		2		
Performance				
1. Using the following indicators, rate the contribution of the outputs to the achievement of the immediate objectives:				
1. Production of national publication that are		1		

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<i>gender sensitive specifically with regard to</i>				
<i>the presentation of data tables and analysis</i>				
2. <i>Development of national and regional gender-sensitive statistical databases</i>		1		
3. <i>Development of national units responsible for addressing gender issues and concerns</i>		3		
2. Rate the production of target outputs		2		
3. Are the management arrangements of the programme or project appropriate?		1		
4. Are programme or project resources (financial, physical and manpower)adequate in terms of:		1		
1. Quantity?		2		
2. Quality?		1		
5. Are programme or project resources being used efficiently to produce planned results?		1		
6. Is the programme or project cost-effective compared to similar interventions?		1		
7. Based on its work plan, how would you rate the timeliness of the programme or project in terms of:				
1. Production of outputs and initiate results?		2		
2. Inputs delivery?		2		

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Please indicate your overall rating of the programme or project using the following letters:

A-High satisfactory

B-Satisfactory

C-Unsatisfactory, with some positive elements

D-Unsatisfactory

X-Not applicable

SUBSTANTIVE FOCUS	Target Group(s)	Programme or Project Manager	Gov	UNDP
Overall rating of the programme or project		A		

Explain the basis of your rating, which need not be limited to, or which may be different from, the relevance and performance criteria rated above. For the last year of the programme or project, the overall rating should include an assessment of the potential success of the programme or project as well as its relevance and performance

Over the past two years, the project has progressed according to the timeframes, financial and human resources set in the agreed upon project document. During the preliminary phase of the project, contact was initiated with participating countries. A national project agreement was drawn and signed and commitment was made for the execution of the project activities within the predetermined time schedules set for it.

The establishment of the Steering Committee and the National Working Group played an important role in the implementation of the project activities at the national level. Furthermore, the existence of a central agency willing to adopt the project as part of its national workplan have helped expedite the execution of the project activities as well as facilitate the monitoring of the project activities. The successful implementation of the project activities varied from one country to another depending on the effective planning and operation of the National Working Group, commitment of the national parties involved as well as the availability of financial resources, manpower and other technical support at the national level. For example, Lebanon was not among the pilot countries originally included in the project. Funds were raised nationally from a number of UN agencies and the project was adopted and implemented at the national level.

A big portion of the project activities took place in the **Second** year of the project operation; the national workshops were conducted, the statistical databases were created and the first draft of the national publications was produced. It should be noted that the development of the statistical databases and the preparation of the

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national publications are major project outputs. The quality of the produced publication with regard to content and format, combined with the level of its gender sensitivity is a main determinant of the project success at the national level. Furthermore, the establishment of a gender sensitive database is also another important success determinant.

PART III. TEXTUAL ASSESSMENT

What are the major achievements of the programme or project visa-a-vis its objectives during the year under review?

Jan. 1997- Dec. 1997: This period marked the beginning of the project activities at the national and regional level. It included the preparation of the groundwork for the launching of the project activities at the national level. A uniform plan of action for the implementation of the project was developed and a detailed step-by-step programme was prepared.

Among the major achievements of the project during this period was the conduct of a regional workshop and preparation of the final workshop report on the Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries. The aim of this workshop was to establish a framework and formulate preliminary plans for the launching of the programme activities at the national level. Furthermore, contact with member states was initiated.

Jan. 1998- Dec. 1998: This period marked the initiation of the project activities at the national level. Contact with participating countries was made and work plan with specific guidelines and timeframes for the implementation of the project activities was drawn for each country participating in the project. Please note that these agreements were drawn separately for each country and sparsely throughout the year.

Among the major achievements of the project throughout this year was the establishment of the Steering Committees and National Working Groups, conduct of a first national workshop for users and producers of gender statistics, preparation of final workshop reports, establishment of national statistical databases as well as the preparation of the first draft of the national publications.

Jan. 1999-Dec. 1999: This period represents an important period in carrying out the project activities and completing many of the national activities. Many of the project activities began to bear fruit during the first and second quarter of this year.

Among the major achievements of this period is the finalization of the national databases, preparation of the national publications, conduct of Second National Workshop to be held in July 1999, reviewing, finalization, printing and dissemination of the national publications.

** It is also important to note that other efforts to launch the programme in other non-participating countries such as Lebanon and Oman have been done. The purpose of this was to replicate the project activities in other ESCWA member states in a period simultaneous to that of the project RAB/96/007.*

2. What major issues and problems are affecting the implementation of the

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programme or project? How should these issues or problems be resolved? Please explain in details the action(s) recommended. Specify who should be responsible for such actions. Also indicate a tentative time frame and the resources required.

Among the major issues that affected the implementation of the programme activities was the commitment of the Steering Committee as a body responsible for providing direction, advice and guidance in the planning, coordination and implementation of the project activities. Furthermore the existence of a committed National Working Group organized by a central agency willing to adopt the project activities and include them within their organizational work plan has proven crucial for the overall success of the project at the national level. In addition to that, the existence of a sole individual, preferably head of the National Working Group, to monitor the project activities at the national level is indispensable. The direct field monitoring of the project activities by the regional coordinator on continuous basis have often helped address many of the problems faced by the National Working Group in the field as well as ensure that the project goals and objectives are continuously being met.

In the case of Lebanon, for example, the absence of a national counterpart to adopt the project at the national level and to execute and monitor the project activities, has hindered the implementation of the project activities in line with the programme goals and objectives. Furthermore, the lack of a unified central source of statistical data in the country has affected the establishment of a homogeneous national database and thus delayed the finalization of the national publication.

Jan. 1997- Dec. 1997: Among the major problems faced during this period was the initiation of a first contact with the national statistical bureaus or other government agencies and determining the party willing to adopt the project and ensure its execution at the national level.

Jan. 1998- Dec. 1998: Among the major problems faced during this period was the timely execution of the project activities within the predetermined timeframes assigned. Other problems included the execution of the project activities to meet the national objectives of the project in a manner that meets United Nations standards. In most cases the project had to be curtailed to match the needs of the individual participating country. Hence the output was often an individual nation's effort at work. Furthermore, bureaucracy in some participating member states proved to be a hindering factor that often affected the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Working Group.

Jan. 1999- Dec. 1999: Among the major problems faced during this period is finalizing the outputs produced according to the timeframes set to meet the expectations of the Programme Coordinator without jeopardizing the quality of this output with regard to format and content.

Other major issues and problems:

Existence of stereotypes in the region with regard to the traditional role of men and women

This problem unfortunately is hard and difficult to overcome. It is neither a managerial problem nor a technical problem that hinders the implementation of the project activities. It is a condition that is often typical of most traditional man-dominated societies. It often takes time to overcome such stereotypes that

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have been part of the traditional education and firm beliefs of women and men in the region.

One way to address this problem is through the establishment of widespread awareness campaigns on the important role women play in development and their productive input as an integral element of societies everywhere. This can come in the form of lectures, discussions, workshops, and other informative programmes initiated at the national level.

Lack of a clear understanding of gender

Gender is a new concept that is foreign to the traditional beliefs of Arab societies. The public in general lacks a clear understanding of gender and gender differences and its importance in improving the status of women. This often presents a problem to the National Working Group working on this project. In addition to acting as an implementing group at the national level, they have to play an important informative role. They have to generate widespread understanding of gender issues as well as to ensure the public is well informed as to the importance of this issue in our society. Unfortunately, this can not be done overnight. It will also take time for the public to be aware of these issues and their implications on society in general. It is the role of the government and women studies and research organizations to ensure that a widespread understanding of these issues is found in each and every society. It is also the role of the various UN agencies working in the field. A common group would be the interagency group working on gender issues.

The only possible way to address this problem is by integrating gender issues as part of the frame work of all activities and programmes initiated at the national level.

Lack of a centralized system of data compilation in some countries that would facilitate the availability of statistics to all users.

In most countries there is a center/bureau responsible for the production and dissemination of statistical information. Hence there is a general consensus on the data sources produced at the national level and continuous cooperation between the different producers of statistics at the national level. Unfortunately, however, some countries seem to lack such a system in spite of the existence of a central bureau of statistics. Lebanon is a prime example for the lack of a unified source of statistics and data.

One of the steps to address this problem would be through the establishment of the National Working Group. This would increase the level of cooperation between the different governmental and non-governmental agencies working in the area of statistics in an effort to create a well-coordinated and centralized system for the compilation and generation of gender sensitive data.

Lack of a unified set of definitions and concepts on statistics in the region

Some of the statistics regularly collected cannot be used to address gender issues because concepts and definitions used in data collection are not adequate. Furthermore, many countries in the region have failed to adopt the international standards and recommendations revised to better reflect women's and men's situations and contributions, thus making comparison in the region a complex task.

To address this problem, efforts should be made to harmonize statistical concepts,

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definitions and classifications in the field of gender statistics to facilitate regional and international comparisons and to build the databases needed for policy-making and for formulating programmes aimed at bringing about equality between the sexes.

4. What are the potential areas for the programme or project success? Please explain in detail in terms of potential impact, sustainability of results and contributions to capacity development. What actions would you recommend to ensure that this potential for success translates into actual success?

Creating a widespread understanding of gender issues in the region

Help generate continuous discussions at the national and regional level to insure that widespread awareness and understanding of gender issues is created. This is done by supporting workshops, conferences and meetings aimed at raising public's awareness on gender issues and concerns and its importance in society.

Attempt at changing some of the stereotypes common in the region with regard to the role of men and women in society

Support the National Working Group effort in bringing together users and producers of Gender statistics in round table discussions on continuous basis. This will help generate collaborative work between users and producers of gender statistics. This will create a uniform set of goals and objectives aimed at creating changes for the benefit of women in the region. Furthermore, this will help create a common agenda to better influence policies for the advancement of women at the national and regional level. At this stage, the role of the media is highly recommended as a dissemination strategy to create public awareness with regard to the role of men and women in the society.

Ensuring that gender statistics is available to a wide range of potential users

Provide technical assistance to statistical offices in the compilation, production and dissemination of gender statistics at the national level. This is done by carrying out individual missions to the countries participating in the project, conducting national workshops to train users and producers of gender statistics as well as supporting the production of the national publications on women and men on yearly basis.

6. What are the views of the target groups with regard to the programme or project? Please note any significant gender-based difference in those views.

The national project activities generated a positive response from the target groups identified below reflecting both their interest and support to the national project activities. Across all nations the need for such an activity was viewed as a necessity specifically in addressing many of the gender problems that currently exist in these societies

The target groups for the this project are identified as follows:

Statisticians from national statistical offices to collect, analyze and disseminate statistics on gender

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issues in participating countries

b. Producers and users of gender statistics in various sectors, including high-mid level staff of government units/departments responsible for incorporating gender issues in national development plans, women's affairs ministries/departments, and of universities; researchers and staff members of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) working in the field of gender and development, and information media.

7.To date, what lessons (both positive and negative) can be drawn from the experience of the programme or project?

This project has helped in creating a widespread exposure to gender issues. It has also helped in introducing the concept of gender statistics into the work of the central statistical bureaus and data collection and research organizations. Furthermore, it helped in creating a platform for cooperation between the various UN-agencies working in the field.

Positive

Attempt at altering and changing the common and traditionally accepted stereotypes with regard to the role of women in society

Attempt at inducing national groups in taking on the role of implementing gender related changes in their societies in both statistical and non-statistical related areas

Mobilization of the national groups to adopt gender based workplans

Gender Statistics creates a positive tool for change because it is concrete in its application of gender issues with final outputs representing the project activities and work programmes.

Negative

Lack of gender sensitive data in the region at the national and regional level

Lack of complete statistical coverage in all areas of public life, from education, to employment, to health, etc.

Existence of data gaps specifically with regard to coverage and time series, and lack of international classification for time-use statistics

Scatter of data and therefore the lack of a centralized and uniformly accepted data set

Lack of communication between users and producers

8. What are the major achievements of the programme or project vis-à-vis its objectives? Please explain them in detail in terms of potential impact, sustainability of results and contribution to capacity development.

Creating Gender Awareness in the Region

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To date the project has succeeded in bringing the issues of gender statistics to the public attention. Furthermore, it has been successful in putting gender statistics as a priority goal on national agendas and work plans of the individual participating countries. Furthermore, the importance of gender statistics in policy formulation and programming has been clearly understood.

Identify the statistics and indicators needed to measure the achievement of the national goals related to gender

It is important to note that a clear set of indicators needed to measure the achievements of national goals related to gender issues has not yet been identified. It has been discussed at length for potential compilation, but a commonly used set is yet to be determined. If achieved, this goal would represent a major step with regard to the achievements of the project goals and objectives. Furthermore, this would work at eliminating many of the stereotypes in the region as well as create a long-standing understanding of gender in the region. This would in turn help bring forth many social changes for the benefit of women in the region.

c) Ensuring Capacity Building

This activity is one of the major outputs of the project activities. Apart from the direct impact it will have on presenting gender gaps and concerns and making it available to the average user and producer of gender statistics, if prepared, it will probably present a mechanism for the use, presentation and dissemination of gender disaggregated data. Furthermore, we hope that this publication would take on the form of yearly-produced publication to be prepared by the countries participating in the project. This in turn would help better address many of the problems faced by women in the region. Hence one can truthfully say that these publications address national capacity development.

d) Strengthening of the National Statistical Systems

This project has helped in identifying many of the gender issues and concerns in the Arab region. As an exercise in the preparation of the publications, the existing national data has been assessed with regard to gender sensitivity and the existing gender gaps have been identified.

Nevertheless, one can not yet claim that a national plan of action has been devised to redress these deficiencies. This is probably a long-term objective that would take sometime before it is institutionalized. Two to three years down the road, one can perhaps say that these goals will be implemented as part of the government or the country's work programme to addressing gender biases and differentiation in their respective nations.

e) Consolidation of Gender Related Statistics in the Region

We are in the process of updating ESCWA's gender statistics database using country publications prepared through this project as well as other sources. It is an ongoing process facilitated through the prepared national publications on men and women in each of the participating countries. We will continue to do so in the years to come. Furthermore, this would help consolidate all the data available on these nations in one statistical database available for use by the general public.

Ensuring the Sustainability and Dissemination of the Programme in Other Arab Countries

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Through the experience of the project in all of the seven participating countries, other ESCWA member states will be prompted to initiate similar project activities to replicate the project within their respective countries. ESCWA experience in the promotion of gender statistics and its effort in developing national gender statistics programmes in some of these countries will be used as a tool for future use. This would facilitate the implementation mechanism. This tool can be capitalized upon for better and more enhanced results especially in terms of output and outreach of the programme itself.

9. If the programme or project has been evaluated, what is the implementation status of the recommendations made by the evaluators?

Apart from our individual and internal evaluation, there have been no evaluations or recommendations made by external evaluators. Hence the implementation status of these recommendations can not be addressed in this report.

10. What activities or steps do you recommend as follow-up to the project?

Set up a handbook for the preparation of the national publications based on the results found in the first issue of the publication. This would be used as a tool in the future in the preparation of these publications.

Preparation of a handbook to demonstrate the lessons learned during the pilot experiences for the replication of the project activities in other Arab countries. Furthermore, this handbook would act as a point of reference for all nations.

Ensure that the country profiles, i.e. national publications are revised and updated at regular intervals. This would ensure that any new mechanisms or methods in the area of gender statistics are used and applied in the preparation of these publications.

Ensure the wide distribution of the national publication to be used by advocate groups operating nationally. This would help ensure that policies and programmes are by all means changing to reflect the equal status of men and women in this region.

Set up annual workshops for all ESCWA member states in an effort to discuss, share and compare government and non-government initiatives in addressing gender concerns and issues.

Provide assistance to national statistical offices in recruiting potential donors to finance the implementation of the recommendations of the plan drawn by the national steering committees to improve the area of gender issues in national statistical systems.

Development of Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries

Revised and Projected Work Plan

For 1999-2000

			Estimated dates	
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	Sequence of Events	Activity	Starting date	Completion date
	<i>Preparatory phase</i>			
1	Prepare a pamphlet in Arabic, English and French	1.1.1	May 1998	October 1998
2	Invite a gender statistics advisor from the United Nations Statistics Division	1.1.2	February 1997	April 1997
3	Carry out country missions to start the project	1.2.1	October 1997	March 1998
	<i>National work, phase 1</i>			
4	Establish a steering committee	1.2.2	June 1997	March 1998
5	Establish a national working group	1.2.3	June 1997	March 1998
	<i>Regional work, phase I</i>			
6	Review the available training materials and develop a curriculum	1.2.4	January 1997	March 1997
7	Translate the training materials from English into Arabic/French	1.2.5	March 1997	April 1997
8	Prepare pre-workshop exercise and issue invitations to participants	1.2.6	March 1997	May 1997
9	Invite an expert from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	1.2.7	May 1997	August 1997
10	Hold the first regional workshop	1.2.8	June 1997	June 1997
	<i>National Work, Phase II (for all countries)</i>			

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11	Hold The first user-producer workshop in each country	1.2.9	November 1997	July 1998
12	Convene meetings of the working group	2.1.1	November 1997	July 1998
13	Develop a plan for the production of the publication	2.1.2	November 1997	July 1998
14	Compile statistics and indicators for the publication	2.2.1	January 1998	November 1998
15	Prepare the draft publication for comments	2.2.2	July 1998	July 1999
16	Edit and refine the publication layout/artwork	2.2.3	August 1999	August 1999
17	Convene the second round of national-level user-producer workshops	2.2.4	December 1998	August 1999
18	Carry out advisory missions to countries	2.2.5	December 1998	July 1999
19	Finalize the draft publication	2.2.6	April 1999	August 1999
	Regional work, Phase II			
20	Hold the second regional workshop	3.1.4	July 1999	August 1999
21	Distribute the regional workshop report	3.1.5	September 1999	November 1999
	National work, Phase III			
22	Translate the publication into English or French	2.2.7	October 1999	December 1999
23	Print and distribute	2.2.8	December 1999	February

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	the Arabic version of the publication			2000
24	Prepare a list of gender issues and statistics and indicator on priority gender concerns	3.1.1	August 1999	September 1999
25	Document experiences/problems in the production of the publication	3.1.2	August 1999	December 1999
26	Present the report on needs assessment at the national workshop	3.1.3	December 1999	June 2000
	Sequence of Events	Activity	Starting date	Completion date
27	Undertake advisory missions to assist in the finalization of national plans of action	3.2.1	December 1999	June 2000
28	Develop national plans of action and implementation mechanisms	3.2.2	December 1999	February 2000
29	Convene national-level meetings donors to obtain additional funding for the implementation of plans of action	3.2.3	December 1999	June 2000
	Regional Work, Phase III			
30	Conduct a meeting with partners to prepare a data compilation plan for non-participating Arab countries	4.1.1		
31	Make use of the national publications to update the ESCWA gender statistics database	4.1.2	March 1999	June 2000

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32	Choose appropriate software to store and retrieve data and tailor to users	4.1.3	March 1999	June 2000
33	Produce a regional statistical publication on the updated situation of women and men	4.1.4	February 1999	December 1999
34	Consult other Arab countries to advocate the replication of the project	5.1.1	1999	2000
35	Formulate a plan to replicate the project in other Arab countries	5.1.2	December 1999	June 2000
36	Prepare project proposals and seek donors to replicate the project in other Arab countries	5.1.3	1999	2000
37	Carry out an external evaluation		July 2000	October 2000
38	Complete the final project report		October 2000	December 2000

Please note the following:

The above mentioned projected dates do not take into consideration the case of Algeria which has just recently joined the project activities. Nevertheless, carrying out of the project activities will be done within this new work-plan.

At the national level, the project National Work is at Phase II. At the regional level, the project is operating at Regional Work, Phase II as well.