Report

Seventh Workshop on Forging Partnerships for Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific:

Effective Collaboration for Increasing Availability, Access and Use of Quality Gender Statistics

10 - 11 September 2018

Chiba, Japan

Background

In September 2013, the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics established *the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific*, with a mandate to act as a facilitator of information-sharing and of coordination among national statistical training institutions, regional and international statistical training providers and donor agencies providing funding for statistical training in the region.

One of the key strategies adopted by the Network to carry out its mandate is to establish subgroups that look at training needs and challenges for specific statistical domains. As of 2018, the 26-member Network has established two such subgroups—one on agricultural and rural statistics and another on economic statistics.

In 2016, UN Women launched a flagship programme initiative, Making Every Women and Girl Count (MEWGC). The MEWGC aims to bring about a radical shift in how gender statistics are used, produced and promoted in countries by strengthening the enabling policy environment, addressing data production gaps and increasing effective demand for, availability of and access to gender data and statistics. This initiative provides a collaborative framework for all relevant actors – governments, international agencies and implementing partners, including civil society organizations and the private sector— for providing coordinated support, *including capacity building through training*, to ensure that the challenges impeding the production and use of gender statistics are addressed in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The MEWGC is being implemented *initially* from 2016-2021.

As part of its founding resolution, UN Women maintains a Training Centre (TC) dedicated to supporting the UN and other stakeholders to realize commitments to gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights through transformative training and learning. In terms of capacity-development strategies and techniques, the TC makes maximum use of on-line training techniques, paying special attention to e-learning courses and an active learning approach.

Working with TC and other training partners, MEWGC aims to develop and implement a 3-year capacity-building/learning plan (MEWGC-CBLP) addressing the capacity development required for different audiences at different levels and contexts. The MEWGC-CBLP will map existing training tools and resources, develop the content of trainings for different modalities and targeted audiences and provide training to government officials and users in Asia-Pacific countries.

In the Asia-Pacific region, TC and UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) propose to work with *the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific* in the development of the MEWGC-CBLP. Engagement with *the Network* will strengthen coordination, provide access to training expertise, including in developing tools and training resources as well as in their delivery at the regional level, and facilitate South-South cooperation in knowledge sharing, among others.

Specifically, UN Women has proposed that *the Network* establishes a subgroup on gender statistics. While prioritizing MEWGC project countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the training resources developed will be freely available to countries in the region. SIAP and UN Women co-organized the *Seventh Workshop on Forging Partnerships for Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific: Effective Collaboration for Increasing Availability, Access and Use of Quality Gender Statistics* in Chiba, Japan, on 10-11 September 2018.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were the following.

- To deepen understanding of the capability of national statistical systems to produce, compile, analyse and use gender statistics for policy formulation and planning, as well as for the implementation and monitoring of national development strategies and specific gender equality and women's empowerment commitments
- To review the ongoing capacity-building initiatives on gender statistics, with focus on training-related components of these initiatives
- To develop and agree on the terms of reference of a subgroup of *the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific* for gender statistics
- To map out an initial programme of work of the subgroup

Participants

The meeting was attended by twenty four participants from sixteen countries: Albania, Bangladesh, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Thailand, and UNSD, UN Women and SIAP including the Chair of the Network.

Conclusions

In many countries gender-related SDGs have not been given priority, and thus the normative and strategic environment is not conductive to the consistent production and dissemination of quality gender data. Other challenges behind the regular production of quality gender data include methodological, financial and technical limitations, regarding the skills of data users and producers. In many cases, even if data exist, they are not disseminated in a timely manner, and there is a mismatch between the needs and priorities of data producers and data users. Training can be an important tool to overcome some of these limitations.

Gender statistics is broad topic, covering issues from sex disaggregation to the production of specific statistics that capture the different realities in the lives of women and men. Thus, participants of the

workshop focused on identifying outlining training strategies, rather than developing new methodology. The subgroup, however, can work towards identifying training areas in which new methodology is needed or where it already exists but is not widely used yet. One key statistical area where training is needed is time use surveys, as different methodological developments have taken place in recent years and the utilization of time diaries is still not in place in many countries. Another important area is violence against women, which requires focused training to ensure enumerators, data analysts and respondents are ready to deal with the sensitivity of this topic and that data collection and analysis capture this information accurately.

Participants of the Workshop agreed with the establishment and the terms of reference (TOR) of the subgroup on gender statistics; the group that will report to the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific. A two year initial timeline was established for the subgroup to deliver on each of its commitments.

The two-year work programme of the subgroup was formulated such that every task in the programme should respond to the objectives of the subgroup. The deliverables for each of the identified tasks were also included in the work programme. In the next two years, the subgroup identifies the priority areas for the development of gender statistics and it was agreed that the following are the priority activities with 2019 as the Development Stage and 2020 is the Implementation Stage.

After the meeting of the Network, UN Women shared the draft TOR among the meeting participants for comments. Afterwards, the meeting notes and group's TOR are to be shared among all Network members to extend an opportunity to express interest in membership to the subgroup. The subgroup, in its organizational meeting scheduled to take place in early 2019, will identify work priorities and the specific gender statistics topics to cover in its work. The organizational meeting will be held for 2-3 days around 15 January 2019, after finalizing nominations by 31 October and sending invitation letters on 15 November 2018. The activities envisaged for the meeting's agenda include:

- Determining the steps for conducting a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) in connection to gender statistics across all countries in Asia and the Pacific
- Designing a questionnaire for the TNA, informed by the model TNA questionnaire used by the subgroup of the Network on agriculture statistics
- Decide on who will be the subgroup's the chair and the modalities of work regarding the coordination of different activities
- Finalize the subgroup's schedule of activities
- Jumpstart the work for mapping available training resources to training needs established through the TNA

The leading agencies coordinating this work are UN Women and SIAP, in coordination with member states interested in group's membership.

Other than the upcoming organizational meeting, the subgroup's priority activities for 2019-2020 are as follows.

1) A coordination meeting will be held for 2-3 days in July 2019. The objectives of the meeting will include:

- Discussing results of the TNA and resource mapping exercises
- Designing an advocacy strategy for training on gender statistics
- Initiating the work for developing a training curriculum on gender statistics, including discussions on broad indicators, modalities, and procedures for drafting course content

2) Longer term plans for capacity building on gender statistics are envisaged as follows.

Output	Key activities	Completion date	Lead agency	Resources needed	UN Women's contribution
Integrate gender across other forms of statistical training	0) Development of guidelines for reviewing content of statistical training, and distribution among members of the subgroup	One month	The subgroup		
	1) Review of the content of all courses offered by the training institutes	Seven months	National training institute	Support for meetings	
	2) Integrate gender statistics into training course content/outline	One month	National training institute		
	3) Sharing of experiences/information (among training institutes)	Ongoing	The subgroup	N/A	
Integrate gender across NSO training plans	1) Dissemination of training courses/outlines among NSOs and National Statistical System more broadly	One month	National training institutes	N/A	N/A
Periodic implementation of gender training (sustainability)	1) Establishment of a reporting system to provide feedback to the subgroup on the training implemented, for monitoring purposes	One month	The subgroup	N/A	N/A
	2) Implementation of at least one gender statistics-related training course/workshop	Once a year	National training institutes	Financial resources for some countries	N/A
	3) Implementation of at	Once a year	National	Financial	N/A

	least one gender statistics training workshop (to learn about analysis and connections between data and policy making)		training institutes	support, expert	
Adapting to emerging areas/shifting priorities	1) Establish a tracking system to identify emerging issues and needs for statistics training in the area of gender statistics	Six months	The subgroup	N/A	N/A
Long term advocacy strategy	1) Formulate a long term advocacy strategy to ensure stakeholders understand the importance of training on gender statistics	One year	The subgroup	Workshop support	Yes
Possible events where the subgroup can present its work	Meeting of the Network /Session of the Governing Council of SIAP/ESCAP Committee on Statistics/UN Statistical Commission	One year	The subgroup	Financial support	UN Women/ SIAP