



KWDI



SUMMARY REPORT:

KEY RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE SDG BASELINE PUBLICATION

Evidence-based Policy Advocacy for Gender Equality and
Localisation of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific

15-17 November 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

Organised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and
UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
with Generous Support from the Korean Women Development Institute (KWDI)

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The views expressed in this publication are those of the participants, and do not necessarily represent the views of UN Women, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organisations.

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COVER PHOTO: Participants of the Regional Consultation on the SDG Baseline Publication: Evidence-based Policy Advocacy for Gender Equality and Localisation of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, 15 November 2016, Bangkok.
Photo: UN Women Asia Pacific Regional Office



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BACKGROUND

Data and statistics are important tools for devising policies to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, assessing their impact, and ensuring accountability. At the international level there have been important advances in normative and technical standards related to gender statistics. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise that having quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data is essential to help measure progress and ensure that no one is left behind. In adopting the SDGs, Member States called for strengthening data collection and statistical capacity at national level, and to develop baselines where they do not yet exist.

The importance of data was also recognised during the regional Beijing +20 process, where policy makers from Asia and the Pacific specifically highlighted the need for better sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics. They also stressed the need to increase the capacity of policymakers to interpret and use this data to inform evidence-based policy and programming.

At the regional level, the development of a baseline publication focused on gender equality and the SDGs will serve as a critical evidence-based policy advocacy tool to advance the strategic positioning of gender statistics as a key part of evidence-based policy-making for the next 15 years. In this regard, rigorous evidence is integral to inform policy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The Baseline Publication, which is being led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UN Women, is expected to provide a snapshot of the current status (baseline) as well as concrete measurements of progress towards gender equality in relation to the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific region. Simultaneously, it aims to identify data gaps (in statistics) as well as provide a policy tool to help governments in the region to improve gender equality outcomes by 2030.

The formulation and use of this publication requires close collaboration with other UN agencies, which have different leading roles in various priorities areas under the SDGs, as well as a wide range of partners, including governments and civil society representatives. Simultaneously, regional multi-stakeholder consultation is required to enhance strategic partnerships and ownership of the SDGs Baseline Publication as well as its policy recommendations among the Member States, civil society and key relevant stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

Organised by ADB and UN Women with the generous support of the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), the overall purpose of the regional multi-stakeholder consultation was to garner feedback on the key findings of the Baseline Publication and to support the use of the Baseline Publication as a policy tool to advocate for achieving gender equality, empowerment of women and promotion of women's rights in the context of SDG localisation at the regional and country levels. The consultation also aimed to lay the groundwork to promote a common and harmonised approach to enhancing collaboration on gender statistics.

More specifically, the objectives of the consultation were:

- ▶ To share the initial findings of the study and garner feedback and technical inputs from country officials and experts;
- ▶ To provide a platform to facilitate the exchange of country experience;
- ▶ To serve as a starting point for connecting data producers and users, and to generate future policy support for countries.

The consultation was expected to lead to the following key results:

- ▶ Common understanding of the current situation on gender equality and women's empowerment, including, trends, gaps, opportunities and challenges in the region;
- ▶ South-south learning and knowledge exchange on data availability and comparability across the region for tracking progress across all the gender related SDGs and targets;
- ▶ Critical feedback from key national stakeholders to finalise the Baseline Publication;
- ▶ Recommendations to support the roll out of the Baseline Publication and the indicator framework for monitoring progress towards gender equality vis-à-vis the SDGs tailored to the Asia-Pacific region;
- ▶ Initial user-producer dialogue to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics. This consultation will identify potential entry points to institutionalised forums for national statistical offices to engage with policy and decision makers to prove their understanding of statistical information and identify data gaps;
- ▶ Identification of specific areas for capacity development for countries in areas of gender statistics. These includes areas of work for capacity development of government, civil society and other actors to use and analyse and use gender statistics to inform policy decision-making processes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report was prepared by Jo-Anne Bishop and Yumiko Yamamoto. The following persons also contributed to the report as rapporteurs; Laurence Levaque and Mary Alice G. Rosero (ADB); Ruangkhao Ryce Chanchai, Maria Hvittfeldt, Diya Nanda, Andrea Nyberg, Maria Palitzyne, Nuntana Tangwinit, Awotash Tefera and Patharaporn Villeneuve (UN Women); and Chihiro Kobayashi (UNDP).



SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

DAY 1: 15 NOVEMBER 2016 WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION



Presenters:

Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors
UN Women Deputy Regional Director and Representative of Thailand

Ms. Sonomi Tanaka
Technical Advisor (Gender Equity), ADB

Dr. Myung-Sun Lee
President of the Korea Women Development Institute, KWDI

KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ **The 2030 Agenda provides an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate progress on gender equality and women's empowerment.** With its universal mandate and commitment to 'leaving no one behind', it represents a common aspiration for a more equitable and inclusive world. The SDGs recognise that creating an enabling environment for substantive gender equality and women's empowerment represents a critical part of transformative change. With its focus on ensuring women have equal voice, choice and safety, SDG 5 goes beyond the more obvious targets of the MDGs to address the underlying structural inequalities and power relations which are at the heart of gender discrimination.
- ▶ **Achieving gender equality is not just as a priority goal in its own right, but is also understood as an enabler and precondition for achieving all of the SDGs.** For instance, achieving SDG 8 on decent work for all, SDG 10 on reducing inequalities between and within countries, or SDG 16 on inclusive and accountable governance, will not be possible as long as women are discriminated against, undervalued at home and at work and in society, and live with violence or the fear of violence just going about their daily lives.
- ▶ **Although the region has seen remarkable achievements in recent decades, the benefits of development have not been evenly distributed, and women are much more likely to be amongst those left behind.** Even as many countries have achieved or surpassed gender parity in education – in some countries, girls now have higher enrolment and completion rates than boys – this has not resulted in corresponding equality of opportunity in the labour market.
- ▶ **Targeted policy measures are needed to ensure that women are able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by economic growth, trade and investment.** This includes recognising, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work, including by increasing access to paid parental leave and scaling up availability of affordable child care. It means supporting women entrepreneurs, including with increased access to finance, technology and markets. It also involves ensuring non-discrimination in law and in practice, including by giving women equal access to resources such as land and property, but also on matters such as citizenship or freedom from all forms of violence.
- ▶ **Violence against women is perhaps the most pervasive barrier for the creation of safe and peaceful societies.** At the national level, countries in the region have come a long way in adopting and amending laws to criminalise violence against women. Around 80 per cent of countries now having dedicated legislation on this issue. This is a clear sign that violence against women is now longer seen to be a private issue, but a matter of public policy. But significant implementation gaps remain.
- ▶ **Sexual and reproductive health and rights are an essential element for the achievement of sustainable development.** Family planning has been a game-changer in the history of women's empowerment, as reproductive choices in the private sphere have enabled women to play a greater productive role in the public sphere. Yet today, sexual and reproductive health still eludes too many women and girls – contributing to gender inequalities, to discrimination, to violence, and even too many preventable deaths. Girls continue to be forced to marry – a clear violation of their reproductive rights and a devastating form of violence. In addition, harmful traditional practices and the misinterpretation or misuse of customs and traditions continue to hold back progress. Many factors affect sexual and reproductive health outcomes, and these need to be addressed and promoted simultaneously.
- ▶ **Women's leadership and political participation have shown greater propensity to raise issues of ending violence and discrimination against women in public debates and law making and are powerful dividends in peace building.** Yet only 19 per cent of Parliamentarians in Asia, and less than 16 per cent of Parliamentarians in the Pacific, are

women. A global study on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 found that women's leadership and participation leads to deeper peace benefits for communities; improves humanitarian assistance; strengthens protection efforts of peacekeepers; contributes to the conclusion of peace talks and the sustainability of peace agreements; and enhances economic recovery after conflict. Yet over the past two to three decades, only four per cent of signatories to peace agreements have been women, and women make up only three per cent of UN peacekeepers. We need to do much better.

- ▶ **Data experts and policy makers have a critical role to play in helping to build a collective evidence base on these complex and intersecting issues.** If there is access to this data, and governments are able to hold themselves accountable by tracking progress along the way they will be better positioned to achieve a Planet 50-50 by 2030.
- ▶ **ADB's Gender Vision 2030 calls for greater focus on transformation, with the emphasis on systemic changes in gender relations.** Among others, these changes are aimed at: tackling social norms; addressing women's safety and mobility; law and institutional reforms; asset ownership; paid and unpaid care work; voice and leadership, access to higher skills and technology; and greater investments in women's groups to build climate resilience.
- ▶ **This work on the SDB Baseline Publication was the first of this kind across all global regions. The SDG gender benchmark publication is a flagship partnership initiative that ADB and UN Women launched in September 2015.** Since then, a joint team has been established, an expert group meeting was conducted on the concept paper for the publication and a global consultant team started work on the publication in early 2016. The consultation will provide an opportunity to receive country input on the preliminary statistical section and the emerging findings related to the thematic analysis. This feedback will be used to finalise the report by early 2017.



Presenters:

Ms. Janneke van der Graaff-Kukler
Regional Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women
ROAP

Ms. Laurence Levaque
Social Development Specialist, ADB

KEY MESSAGES

From the MDGs to the SDGs: What has changed for gender equality and women's empowerment?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a declaration for a peaceful, equal, just world for everyone; it sets the bar high to achieve gender equality. It treats gender equality as a goal in itself and as a precondition. That is, gender equality has to be achieved if the vision of the SDGs are to be achieved.

Key aspects of the Agenda 2030:

- ▶ It was developed based on a broad consultative process; it is globally agreed whilst implementation is nationally-owned and led; it is applicable to all Member States.
- ▶ It pushes gender equality to new heights and addresses gender equality in greater depth than the MDGs. It includes a specific focus on women's voice, choice and safety and as a universal agenda, it is relevant to all women and girls.
- ▶ It was developed within the context of a changing world – a world where there are inequalities within and between nations. Related to this, a key aim of Agenda 2030 is to “leave no one behind”
- ▶ It speaks to ICT and the private sector, outlining their accountabilities and roles as well as issues of climate change and conflicts. Economic, social and environmental sustainability is the key.
- ▶ It is a transformative agenda which includes the development and implementation of policies and laws that promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

Empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial to accelerating sustainable development: The Sustainable Development goals and targets are interconnected.

GENDER EQUALITY: Central to Sustainable Development



Tiers of Indicators under the SDGs: Under the SDGs, there are three tiers of indicators. For Tier 1, most countries have data for the indicators that can be monitored. For Tier 2, the data and methodology for measuring is uneven between countries. For Tier 3 there is no methodology yet, and whilst countries might not be collecting the data, there might be some isolated innovations. Since there are challenges with measuring some indicators and measuring the targets under SDG

5, women’s machineries have an important role to play in supporting these efforts, in particular, in the review of policies and national frameworks.

Purpose and Approach of the SDG Baseline Publication. The Publication intends to provide a snapshot of gender inequality and to identify key data gaps. At the same time, it also aimed to provide an evidence-based policy piece to improve gender equality outcomes by 2030. The conceptual framework consists of several dimensions, with four pillars for action. The first pillar is on equality and human capabilities. The second pillar looks at the issue related to women’s economic empowerment. The third pillar is on women’s voice, leadership and participation and the fourth one relates to women’s safety. The publication has tried to map the 85 SDG indicators – more than one-third of the total number of indicators - that are unique to gender equality into these four pillars. The 85 indicators can be categorised as gender-specific (women’s and girls’ related targets), gender-sensitive (sex-disaggregated data required), and relevant to gender equality (for example, relating to access to basic infrastructure and services).

Within the publication, inter-linkage of the four pillar areas will also be examined. For example, women’s participation in economic activity may depend on her choice in sexual and reproductive health such as when to have child and how many children to have.



The ‘no one left behind’ concept is very much embedded in the publication and in the pillars. The analysis looks at how sex intersects with other identities of the individuals such as disability. The conceptual framework also takes demographic change, growth-driven urbanisation, interconnectivity (ICT, infrastructure, access to information etc) into account. The publication goes beyond SDG 5. Under each pillar we look at other relevant SDGs; the indicators from 14 SDGs (out of the 17 SDGs) were included in the publication.

The consultation will play a key role in informing what sub-regional and national issues should be addressed within the Baseline Publication so participants were encouraged to play an active role during discussions.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were questions about the Tier System of the indicators and the four pillars for action proposed for the Baseline Publication. It was clarified that Tier 1 data should be compatible for all 57 countries included in the publication and available internationally and publically. Tier 2 data was collected from UN agencies and others including DHS, MICS and other sources.

It was further elaborated that the concept of 'no one left behind' will be mainstreamed across the four pillars. The 85 indicators selected are the key ones to set up the baseline for monitoring. There is still a need to look more broadly at all indicators. However, the publication team regards the selected indicators as stepping stones, which will take the discussion on the SDGs forward and ensure that the priority areas of women's voice, choice and safely are addressed.

It was recommended that the publication should include specific analysis of the Pacific and Asia in certain subjects such as demographic change. It was agreed that participants would address sub-regional and even national concerns either in group work or during plenary sessions and that the last day would provide an opportunity hear more about country level needs and experience and to discussion regional level initiatives to support greater south-south cooperation, partnership and collaboration.

SESSION
2

STATE OF GENDER EQUALITY AND THE SDGs IN
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: WHERE DO WE STAND?



Presenter:

Mr. Christopher Kuonqui
Zero Poverty Solutions

KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ **Action on gender equality impacts all 17 SDGs.** They are interrelated and together the two frameworks form one coherent roadmap for sustainable development, which addresses the barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment in economic, social and environmental development.
- ▶ **Measuring gender (in)equality remains a work in progress.** Progress on reducing gender gaps is difficult to measure if data only 'count women' without deeper consideration of gender discrimination and power relations, which by excluding women (or men) from certain rights, privileges and institutions can result in an imbalance of numbers and data.
- ▶ **Among the forward-looking elements of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action was the seminal call for improvement in gender statistics**—for sex-disaggregated data, but also for data that illuminates the conditions of women and girls from a gender perspective. This call was reinforced in the 2015 20th anniversary of Beijing progress review in Asia-Pacific, noting its limited implementation to date at a prescient moment prior to the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ▶ **Measures of gender equality are challenged both by methodological issues and the availability of gender data.** For example, 80 per cent of the indicator data under the SDG 5 are unavailable. While it has long been argued that "some data" on gender equality and women's rights are better than "no data" at all, the "wrong data" present a dangerous risk to policy and programming. Such data distorts the reality of women and girls, and portrays women as inherently more dependent and less productive than men. This introduces biases in the definition of concepts, measurement tools and methods used to undertake surveys into the conditions of a society.
- ▶ **The Gender Development Index, Gender Inequality Index and Human Development Index are all important measures of gender equality and women's development in the Asia Pacific region.** Related to the **Gender Development Index (GDI)**, Asia-Pacific societies have largely experienced progress with the exception of a few countries. The **Gender Inequality Index (GII)** shows a more mixed picture. While most countries with data have seen steady, and in some cases, sharp declines in the inequalities between women and men, several others have seen drops and then rises in gender inequality.
- ▶ **Gender inequality is serving as a brake on the SDGs.** The comparison of GI and SDG Index illustrates one key point: countries with high gender inequality have poor SDG starting points, and countries with low gender inequality have far better chances of reaching the goals. Discriminatory family code, restricted physical integrity of women and girls, and restricted access to resources and assets are the most significant drivers of gender inequality in Asia-Pacific.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Top-three factors affecting gender equality in each sub-region

Across the sub-regions, the main factors identified that affect gender inequality were: a) limited economic participation of women (and related to this, the number of women in poverty and women's limited access to financial resources and the burden of unpaid work they often

experience); b) traditional, social, cultural and patriarchal norms; c) lack of commitment to invest in women and girls (reflected through the government budget/public finance management); and d) lack of women's participation in decision-making and leadership.

Specific to East Asia and South East Asia, women's access to education and support services was mentioned as well as governance-related issues such as limited access to justice and poor enforcement of laws. In South Asia, the challenge of decreased female labour force participation was raised as well as the existence of gender-neutral policies of government ministries. In the Pacific, violence against women was identified as well as the influence of the church and faith-based organisations, women's lack of land rights and the lack of a coordinated women's movement. Challenges related to the lack of human and financial resources of national women's machinery were raised for both South Asia and the Pacific.

Impressions and feedback on the trends identified

For South Asia, it was noted that there have been general improvements towards gender equality, with the exception of conflict affected countries. It was also pointed out that countries with stronger anti-discrimination laws generally have lower levels of inequality.

In response to the emerging trends identified during the presentation of the SDG Baseline publication, a number of missing areas were identified that participants felt should be addressed in the final publication. These include: a) missing data (e.g., poverty data for the Pacific and on India; b) information and data related to intra-household inequalities; c) information on financing for gender equality (in line with indicator 5.c.1); d) data on informal work and e) information about regional disparities including intra-country disparities and urban-rural divides. The need for a greater focus on women's unpaid work and a discussion related to intersectionality in the qualitative section was also raised. Another key issue raised was related to comparability of data, especially in light of differences of how methodology is applied across countries. The need greater application and use of indices such GDI and GII was also mentioned.

Identification of additional issues and trends

Participants suggested a number of additional issues to be addressed in the SDG Baseline Publication including greater detail about how parliaments and national women's machinery across the region engage in data collection processes. Some participants thought that the Publication should discuss challenges faced by countries in approval processes for methodology of data collection and also challenges in relation to limited capacity. In this regard, if gender-related questions for SDGs are to be reflected within the existing surveys, the timing of the consultation with National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and relevant line ministries is important. For instance, for countries that are already completing population census, there is limited time and resources to collect new data for the SDGs.

There were suggestions to address women's positive contribution to climate action and to look at trans-boundary data since a number of the gender equality issues under the SDGs are trans-boundary in nature. Many felt that a discussion on challenges in coordination between government and state/local/provincial departments would also be important to include.

The influence of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) statistical division and the Australian Bureau of Statistics on data collection and supporting data in the Pacific also mentioned during the discussion. Participants suggested to use the publication to support and inform ongoing conversations between donor agencies and governments and between producers and users of data. Finally, some participants noted the usefulness of the 'dashboard' and recommended that every indicator should be presented in this way.

Presenters:**Ms. Melissa Alvarado**

Ending Violence against Women Specialist, UN Women ROAP

Discussant:**Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald**

Gender and Human Rights Technical Adviser, UNFPA APRO

KEY MESSAGES

Key Issues related to Violence against Women (VAW) and the SDGs

- ▶ The consequences of violence on women and girls are significant. VAW has an extreme impact on physical and mental health and quality of life. It restricts women's movement and their income earning capability as well as employer productivity and profitability. Hence, programmes targeting girls and women to increase income/resources, and building workforce capacities need to address VAWG in order to achieve results
- ▶ VAW has a large economic cost. At an economic level, the costs of violence against women and girls has been estimated relative to national GDP.
- ▶ Investing in ending violence against women and girls has transformative effects in advancing gender equality and attaining the SDG goals. Within the SDGs, many targets specifically recognise women's equality and empowerment which can be accelerated by ending violence against women, as both the objective, and as part of the solution.
- ▶ Underreporting and the lack of comparable data limit the understanding of the full extent of VAW. Data on VAW is a critical tool for informing and advancing policies to end violence against women, assessing their impact, and ensuring accountability.

Ending Violence against Women and Girls - Linkages across the SDGs

- ▶ SDG 1 (No poverty) - Poverty can be a consequence of violence, causing women to lose income, housing and affecting their capacity to work or complete their education. In Nagpur, India, women had to forgo, on average, 7 days of paid work per violent incident
- ▶ SDG 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing) - Women who experience intimate partner violence have a 16 per cent greater chance of having a low birth-weight baby. Studies have shown that intimate partner violence can increase the risk of HIV infection by around 50 per cent.

- ▶ SDG 4 (Quality Education) - Fear for girls' safety in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea have led parents to withdraw girls from school. Violence against girls at school causes compromised attendance, lower academic results and higher drop-out rates
- ▶ SDG 5 (Gender Equality) - 35 per cent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.
- ▶ SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) - Women and girls are frequently subjected to unacceptable risks of violence, including sexual violence, while accessing water and sanitation facilities.
- ▶ SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) - 20 per cent of the women in Cambodia who experienced domestic violence reported that they missed work and their children missed school.
- ▶ SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) - Violence against women and girls limits women's mobility and the use of public spaces, keeping them away from school, work, and transport. According to a 2013 survey on women's perceptions of safety in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, 2 out of 3 women live in fear of sexual violence.
- ▶ SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) - 38 per cent of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner. Women comprise 98 per cent of the estimated 4.5 million people forced into sexual exploitation. Women who face violence often find obstacles to justice, including lack of trained legal professionals on VAW, male-dominated justice systems biased against women, and fees at many steps on the journey to justice.
- ▶ SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) - Governments worldwide increasingly use gender-responsive budgeting to ensure implementation of gender equality policies and action plans. However, costing of selected national action plans such as gender equality, ending violence against women (EVAW), gender parity in the workplace, show financing deficits as high as 90 per cent.

Status of SDG Baseline Data

Target 5.2

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Indicators:

- 5.2.1 ("**Inter-personal violence/IPV**") Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group
- 5.2.2 ("**Sexual violence/SV**") Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by age group and place of occurrence

Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 have been classified as Tier II indicators meaning that data for these indicators is lacking in a larger number of countries.

Issues and Challenges related to VAW Prevalence Data in the Region

- ▶ The types of violence experienced by women in the Asia Pacific region varies by country and type with 50 to 68 per cent of women experiencing violence in the last six months.
- ▶ Violence data is collected whether the violence is committed by an intimate partner, or by others. Yet, only 17 countries in the region have national data on VAW by non-sexual partners. Indicators under target 5.2 ask the sexual violence in the previous 12 months. The response is as low as 1 per cent in Singapore and as high as 46 per cent in Timor-Leste. But the data does not show lifetime prevalence, which tends to be high in the Pacific and low in Southeast Asia.

- ▶ It is necessary to understand the specific context of each country in order to understand the VAW prevalence. In this regard, place of occurrence is an important category to capture in survey data. Out of nine countries who are able to report on Indicator 5.2.2, most of them do not mention where violence took place.
- ▶ What constitutes physical, sexual, economic or psychological violence is not clearly stated in the SDG indicators.
- ▶ On harmful practices, child marriage is still practiced in some South Asian countries, and FGM in some parts of ASEAN countries. Child sex selection is observed in China and India as 'missing women' data indicates.
- ▶ SDG indicators under SDG 16 provide a proxy on VAW. Indicator 16.1.1 asks for the number of victims of intentional homicide by sex and age and indicator 16.1.4 relates to the proportion of population that feel safe walking along around the area they live. Indicators 16.2.1 and 16.2.3 capture the violence against boys and girls and young women and men.
- ▶ Administrative data collected at police and court do not show the prevalence of VAW since many victims do not report. Countries should use the WHO guidance for collecting national prevalence.
- ▶ Collecting data is expensive and time-consuming. But it is important to move beyond data collection for the sake of data. It is not enough to add questions as a module in existing surveys such as household survey. Data collection has to be done carefully to protect women and respect confidentiality.
- ▶ We should not that voices of women who are the worst affected - for example those who have died or who have been institutionalised or hospitalised - are silenced. We need to make the best use of the women's voices we hear in order to ensure effective efforts VAW response and prevention.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ A number of countries, particularly in the Pacific, have conducted prevalence survey and successfully used data to lobby for EAW legislation. Yet, policy and programme implementation remains a challenge, particularly at the community levels, given customary practices and social norms.
- ▶ Many countries still have not conducted the prevalence surveys including where VAW is not considered as a priority for many governments. In some instances, where VAW data is collected, politically-driven factors often prevent the disclosure of it.
- ▶ VAW needs to be understood and addressed in the broader context of social and gender-based discrimination. Linkages between VAW and women's economic empowerment are also important since economic power is a key determinant for women to decide whether and when to leave violent partner, household or community.
- ▶ Coordination and collaboration between agencies and participation of the parliamentarians and other stakeholders is crucial in improving VAW data, data quality, analysis, reporting, legislation formulation and implementation.

- ▶ Greater leadership by NSOs, adequate allocation of resources for VAW statistics, and public awareness mobilisation were raised as key issues for moving forward. Technical expertise in handling sensitive VAW issues and assuring the confidentiality of personal information was also highlighted as an issue for capacity development of those who collect or analyse the data.
- ▶ In some countries, costing of VAW prevention to support the implementation of EVAW national action plans has not done properly.
- ▶ Women often do not want to report violence and are reluctant to speak about it in the societies where stigma is high or there is acceptance of violence. High levels of violence are unreported especially for young girls.

Presenters:

Mr. Christophe LeFranc
Regional Population and Development Technical Adviser, UNFPA

Ms. Carinne Brody
Zero Poverty Solutions

KEY MESSAGES

Under the SDGs, SRHR issues are included under SDGs 3 and 5.

Target 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global Maternal Mortality Ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

Target 3.7: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

Target 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Key points related to the SDG indicators

Indicator 3.1.1: Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) – maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

- ▶ MMR is obtained by dividing recorded (or estimated) maternal deaths by total recorded (or estimated) live births in the same period and multiplying by 100,000. The MMR can be calculated directly from data collected through civil registration systems, household surveys or censuses. MMR is difficult to measure precisely, as maternal deaths are a rare event. As a result, maternal mortality data are often inconsistent, especially between national and international estimates. The Maternal Mortality Estimation Interagency Group (MMEIG) regularly produces global, regional and country estimates for MMR¹.
- ▶ Under the 2030 Agenda, production of globally modelled estimates (such as MMR) will shift to national level. Although indicators are to be disaggregated to ensure “no one is left behind”, only few countries with good civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems can disaggregate data and estimates MMR at the subnational level.

¹ Current MMR estimates are limited to countries with population of greater than 100,000.

Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

- ▶ This is an indicator of access by pregnant women to appropriate delivery care that can provide quality management of labour and delivery, assess obstetric risks, treat and refer appropriately. It is defined as percentage of live births attended by skilled health personnel during a specified time period. However, it indicates only contact with a qualified health personnel and does not provide an indication of the quality of care provided or whether women receive all necessary interventions. Data for this indicator generally comes from household surveys or health information systems.
- ▶ When disaggregated by relevant social, economic and geographic stratifiers, it helps to identify areas and groups that are not being reached with appropriate delivery care.

Indicator 3.7.1: Percentage of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

- ▶ The indicator aims at assessing the coverage of family planning programmes and services. The computation method for this indicator is 'contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) due to modern methods' divided by CPR plus unmet need² multiplied by 100, data collected from nationally-representative household surveys³.
- ▶ Possible criteria for disaggregation include age, geographic location, marital status, socioeconomic status and other categories, depending on the data source and number of observations

Indicator 3.7.2: Adolescent Birth Rate (10-14 and 15-19) per 1,000 women in that age group

- ▶ This indicator measures the annual number of births to women 15 to 19 years of age and/or adolescents aged 10-14 per 1,000 women/girls in that age group. It is also referred to as the age-specific fertility rates for age groups 10-14 and 15-19. There is a major issue of the availability of data for the 10-14 age group.
- ▶ CRVS systems are the preferred data source for this indicator, mostly available in high-income countries and in some middle-/lower-income countries with 90 per cent or more of live births coverage by CRVS. Other possible data sources are household surveys (DHS and MICS) and population censuses. Criteria for disaggregation include marital status, place of residence, mother's education and household wealth.

Indicator: 5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

- ▶ The indicator is computed as a result of answers to 3 questions; whether women have a say no to sex, have a decision on contraceptive use as well as on the use of reproductive health care. 42, 57 and 59 countries in the region have data on the questions respectively. However, the questions are currently asked to women who are married or in union.
- ▶ The main data source for this indicator is household surveys (DHS and MICS, covering most of low and middle income countries). Data has been available at the global level since 2005.
- ▶ There is ongoing methodological development to have a question(s) that will speak directly to measuring decision-making about reproductive health care.

2 Unmet need is defined as the percentage of women of reproductive age, either married or in union, who want to stop or delay child-bearing but are not using any method of contraception.

3 Examples of the surveys are DHS, MICS and RHS. Sources of national estimates are given in: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2016). World Contraceptive Use 2016 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2016).

Indicator 5.6.2: Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

- ▶ Laws and regulations are a key enabling factor of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action.
- ▶ This indicator responds to restrictions on women's access to sexual and reproductive health care and information, for example, without third party authorisation or restrictions due to age or marital status.
- ▶ There is a methodological development for this indicator through inter-agency stakeholder group, with support from team from Columbia University. That includes technical review of the metadata with key stakeholders and development of strategy to strengthen operationalisation and methodology of the proposed indicator.
- ▶ The proposed methodology is to create a survey that will measure the number of countries with national laws and regulations (including their interpretation by courts) that guarantee access for women aged 15-49 to the following components of sexual and reproductive health care, information and education: a) pregnancy and childbirth; b) contraception and family planning; c) abortion including post-abortion care; d) comprehensive sexuality education and information; and e) sexual health and well-being.
- ▶ Methodological challenges are; terms such as "guarantee" need to be defined/operationalised to facilitate measurement, plurality of laws/legal systems, capturing the breadth of sexual and reproductive rights issues (laws and regulations) in a few questions, and how to deal with implementation of laws and policies as opposed to mere existence of laws and regulations.
- ▶ Issues for consideration include; who should administer the survey, who will complete the survey, and how will the responses be validated. Disaggregation will also be a challenge for federal states and determining how disaggregation to state level will be ensured.

Emerging Findings from the Baseline Publication

- ▶ Countries such as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Timor-Leste that have experienced big declines in the MMR for the past 15 years still have high levels of maternal deaths at over 150 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Other countries with high maternal deaths include Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.
- ▶ Where gender inequality is the greatest, the risk of maternal death is higher as a result of limited access to skilled antenatal and delivery care.
- ▶ There are several reasons for non-use of modern contraception among women. In the context of high gender inequality in South and Southeast Asia women are less likely to have control over when and how often they have sexual intercourse.
- ▶ Women make up about 35 per cent of all people living with HIV in Asia. Gender inequality, lack of awareness, and less autonomy and power to negotiate safe-sex including high levels of violence, puts them at risk. Sex workers and drug users face high levels of intersecting stigma and discrimination and violence. Gender inequalities exist in women's access to services for HIV and STI diagnosis, counselling and treatment; in the training of health professionals and their responses to female HIV+ patients; and in research into new drugs and treatments.
- ▶ Many countries in Asia Pacific apply a legal age restriction to accessing sexual and reproductive health care services without parental consent. Adolescent pregnancy undermines achievement towards the SDGs. Evidence demonstrates clearly that Comprehensive Sexuality Education contributes broad sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender equality outcomes.

- ▶ Out-of-pocket health expenditure on SRH is very high across Asia-Pacific region, in some countries exceeding half of total health expenditure. It is partly due to the absence of adequate social security schemes such as universal health care in those countries. This is a bigger issue for women who have less control over finances, less earnings and need to support family.
- ▶ Despite economic progress, there is insufficient health spending by the governments in many countries in the region. This results in inadequate number and density of healthcare providers and an overreliance on out-of-pocket expenditures to finance the costs of health care. For SRH, it is especially important for a wide range of SRH services to be covered.
- ▶ There are laws and policies that impede access to SRH services. Examples in Asia-Pacific are the laws that: a) restrict access to SRH information and services to married people; b) require parental consent for minors to access HIV testing; c) criminalise of sex work and abortion; d) limit access to legal abortion; e) criminalise same-sex relationship and of HIV transmission; and f) require male consent over women's access to SRH.

KEY POINTS FROM THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Adolescent SRHR

Discussion led by Dr. Josephine Sauvarin, HIV/Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Technical Adviser, UNFPA

- ▶ 6.3 million adolescent girls (15-19 years) have an unmet need for contraception in Asia and the Pacific and in South Asia, 50 per cent of unmarried sexually active girls have an unmet need for contraception, the highest region globally.
- ▶ Approximately 34 per cent of the unsafe abortions in Asia are in young women. This means that approximately 3.6 million young women have an unsafe abortion year, often with higher risk of complications as they seek abortions later in the pregnancy.
- ▶ In Asia Pacific, there are 600,000 young people living with HIV, 110,000 new infections each year with 300 new infections every day. 95 per cent of the infections are in young key populations—men who have sex with men, transgender, people selling sex and people injecting drugs.

What are the key challenges with collecting data?

- ▶ Questions are often asked to married women but there is limited information on unmet needs for unmarried adolescents. Even when health organisations have data on unmarried adolescents' pregnancy, they often will not disclose this. In some countries, raising the issue of sexual activities outside of marriage is a taboo, making it difficult to include questions on unmet needs for unmarried adolescents in the national survey.
- ▶ Coordination between different actors is needed to ensure the data collection and quality.
- ▶ In some countries, for under 18 marriages, the couple needs parental consent for contraception. Parental permission is often required in order to approach adolescent for surveys.
- ▶ In general, data on adolescents are missing, particularly unmarried adolescents and young women, aged 10-14 and 15-19 years old.

- ▶ Legal access for adolescents to SRH services and data on percentage of schools providing comprehensive sexuality education are also missing.

Giving data availability, what are the key policy and implementation challenges?

- ▶ A highlighted good practice related to the response to teenage pregnancy in Thailand where evidence that was extracted from registered births among teenagers led to the recent adoption of adolescent pregnancy laws. Now, various ministries are responsible for delivering services such as SRH education at school and workplace and SRH services to this age group.
- ▶ In some countries, there is a policy that encourages the provision of SRH services to teenagers. However, with the absence of data and evidence to support the policy, no implementation of the policy and programmes. Collaboration across ministries and with UN and NGOs is key for this.

Unmet needs for contraception, fertility control and family planning services

Discussion led by Ms. Alexandra Johns, Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)

What are the key challenges with collecting data?

- ▶ Data at the provincial level is lacking. Decentralisation and disaggregation is needed.
- ▶ Many governments are not willing to provide data for marginalised groups. The lack of disaggregated data hampers efforts to target groups.
- ▶ Lack of collaboration across ministries and agencies including Ministry of Health, NSOs and UN agencies in sharing and using data. Gaps also remain in terms of government capacity and training to collect and use data.

Given data availability, what are the key policy and implementation challenges?

- ▶ There are challenges in terms of awareness and determinants of rights. Often it is difficult to assess and monitor the data, even though it is mentioned under SDGs.
- ▶ Misuse of data and evidence by politicians who come with their own interests.
- ▶ UN agencies need to support governments in addressing social, economic, religious challenges (related to rise in conservatism in some countries) in both pursuing data collection and analysis.

Maternal and child health services

Discussion led by Ms. Kyoko Shimamoto, MNCH Specialist, UNICEF

What are the key challenges with collecting data?

- ▶ Respondents may not report completely. Therefore, collectors of data should be trained to ask and elicit sensitive data.
- ▶ Collecting data is a multi-sectoral task. Lack of resources for data collection is also a challenge. Coordination between ministries is crucial for establishing a systematic and institutionalised system of data collection at both national and sub-national levels.
- ▶ 'Illegal' abortion causes women to go underground; thus, it goes unreported and not counted.
- ▶ In some countries where there is government reluctance in addressing SRHR, NGOs have taken the lead in collecting SRHR data. This often limits government ownership of data, thus policy formulation and implementation.

Giving data availability, what are the key policy and implementation challenges?

- ▶ Greater resources are needed to support stronger linkages between policy and programmes with data and evidence.
- ▶ The political environment in countries often influences whether or not governments include SRHR in programmes. Some countries are also reluctant to address child marriage. Data could influence politicians to advocate for a stronger focus on SRHR issues and data.
- ▶ Religion plays a significant role in whether or not SRHR is addressed. To enhance public awareness, especially in rural areas, media and education outreach is important.

Linking SRHR to Universal health coverage (UHC) and social protection

Discussion led by Dr. Anderson Stanciole, UNFPA Technical Advisor on Health Economics

UHC provides an important opportunity in the region as many countries are committed to reach UHC. Thailand has already committed towards achieving UHC and Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Iran, Myanmar, Viet Nam are considering UHC.

In order to ensure that UHC facilitates increased access to SRHR, there is a need for a more nuanced understanding of whether, how and to what extent UHC has integrated SRH. Currently there is a joint study underway commissioned by UNFPA and ADB, which examines SRH service provision within UHC in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Mongolia.

Under UHC, it is important to look at which population groups are covered, what services are covered, what are the financial protections or how much were out-of-pocket expenses, and how decisions around these aspects are being made.

What are the key challenges with collecting data?

- ▶ Data on out-of-pocket expenses paid by women to access SRH services are not available. Related questions should be included in national household surveys or in census.
- ▶ Data disaggregation at the sub-national level as well as data about private sector are lacking.
- ▶ There is a need to strengthen institutional coordination on data collection and sharing and to map out how services are being delivered in order to know more about coverage.

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KEY MESSAGES

Women's economic empowerment is a priority issue for the UN and the region. The UN Secretary General formed the High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment and released its first report in September 2016. Female labour force participation rates have stagnated globally. Sex-disaggregation by industry, occupation and the types of work remain. Gender pay gap remains wide.

Addressing Gender Deficits in Decent Work

The most sustainable way out of poverty is through earning a decent income. In the Asia-Pacific region, rural poverty has been reduced drastically but the economic growth has not been inclusive for all. Women face barriers to join the labour force due to unequal distribution of unpaid care work and societal discriminations that persist. As a result, 65.3 million working women are unable to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Wage gaps persist between women and men due to limited women's academic and skills attainment, occupational segregation and workplace discrimination. Women are often missing in managerial positions, which exacerbate gender inequality in voice, decision making and representation. In terms of preparing young people for the work place, technology and science fields face labour shortage; but the rate of female students in the fields remains low.

SDG Indicators related to Decent Work

- ▶ The decent work agenda is covered mainly under SDG 8 but linkages are also evident under Goals 1, 4, 5 and 10.
- ▶ Indicators under SDG 8 include 'proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment by sex' (8.3.1), which can be a proxy for estimating job quality.
- ▶ Indicator 8.5.1 on 'average earnings of female and male employees by occupation, age and persons with disabilities' relates to the gender wage gap and provides important information to help assess inequality between male and female earnings.
- ▶ Indicator 8.5.2 on 'unemployment rate by sex and age and persons with disabilities' can be a misleading indicator in the labour market especially in developing countries and requires careful examination. Due to the lack of social protection and informality, lack of support/safety net, people tend to choose whatever jobs that can help them earn extra income, so it would be better to look into employment policies to track progress on decent work.

Women's Access to Land

Secured access to land is key to economic empowerment of women. Women account for 43 per cent of agricultural labour force, including unpaid and wage workers and 75 per cent of women who are economically active are engaged in agriculture. Women make significant contributions in agriculture and rural areas in terms of food production and marketing. Women's economic roles span from being cultivators on their own or others' plots – as unpaid or paid workers, employees or employers – to being wage labourers in on- and off-farm enterprises. Gender inequality imposes real costs on the agricultural sector, food security, economic growth and broader social welfare.

SDG indicators provide the means to monitor and track land ownership, including land rights and the extent to which women can make decisions over land but data remains scarce. SDG target 5.8 relates to women's equal right to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control over land. Its indicators are interconnected with other targets of SDG 5 and other SDGs.

At country level, the evidence provided by the statistical data should inform the type of special measure to adopt, discontinue or revise, where the disparities are, and in what tenure type. The collection of data under Indicator 5.a.2 should be done in conjunction with the collection of information under Indicator 5.a.1. Disaggregated data on land ownership or secure rights over agricultural land will help clarify the situation of women's legal security in relation to agricultural land. Data on the share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land will provide a clearer picture of the gender disparities that exist. The disaggregation by type of tenure can help prioritise the tenure arrangements where the widest gaps have been found.

Indicator 5.a.1

- ▶ This is a Tier III indicator. It focuses on agricultural land because it is a key productive resource in countries where poverty reduction strategies are likely linked to agricultural development.
- ▶ From a gender perspective, it is very important to collect a series of proxies that provide information about women's capability to make decisions, control and benefit from the land.
- ▶ Although data for this indicator are scarce and frequently incomparable, land ownership data can be collected through surveys simply inserting a devoted module in existing data collection programmes including a) National Household Surveys (preferably); b) Integrated Income Household Surveys; c) Living Standard Measurement Surveys; d) Multi-purpose Household Surveys; and e) Agricultural Surveys and Censuses (alternatively).

- ▶ **Methodological work** for this indicator is led by the The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project, a joint initiative of UNSD and UN Women, in collaboration with the ADB, FAO and WB. Key findings of this work so far are that: a) **Administrative data** are **inadequate**, especially in developing countries and to generate gender-relevant indicators; b) **Documented ownership** is an **insufficient** proxy measure; c) Overlap between documented/reported ownership and other rights is imperfect and there is the need to explore **the bundle of rights**; d) it is important to collect ownership/right status of at least one adult household member, randomly selected, rather than based on the **sex of the household head**; e) it is important to capture **joint ownership**.

Indicator 5.a.2

- ▶ This is a Tier II indicator. It requires states to undertake and monitor reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws". Namely, it requires the adoption of women-specific measures to promote women's de facto secure rights to land. It relies on a "process approach" that breaks down the different stages of implementation of policy and legal reforms
- ▶ The indicator collects all existing national policy objectives, draft provisions, legal provisions and implementing legislation that reflect good practices in guaranteeing women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control. It is based on 3 proxies: 1) Government budgetary commitments to strengthening women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control; Joint titling and c) Protection of women's land rights in legally recognised customary tenure systems.
- ▶ FAO is working with countries and partners to scale up the availability of this indicator and is developing a reporting methodology which includes: a) Designation of Responsible Entity (MoJ, Human Rights Commissions); b) Designation of National Legal Expert; c) Expert analysis of the policy and legal framework (questionnaire); d) Validation of the results by Responsible Entity and e) Communication of the results to FAO.

Unpaid Care and Domestic Work

What is unpaid work? Unpaid work is essentially that work that does not receive any direct remuneration. Unpaid non-SNA (System of National Accounts) work includes household upkeep, care and voluntary services. Unpaid SNA work refers to unpaid family help, subsistence production and collection of free good. Unpaid work has no or low visibility, is poorly recognised and excluded from national policies.

The distribution of unpaid work is not a matter of free choice. It is imposed on women as a social construct. It is a life time tax on women that pushes them into invisibility/margin-exclusion from mainstream economics. This is why it is included as SDG target 5.4 'Recognise and value

SDG Target 5.a

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

Indicator 5.a.1:

- (a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population) by sex;
- (b) Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

Indicator 5.a.2:

Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Time Use Survey (TUS) gives visibility to unpaid work of men and women and provide in-depth picture of participation and the average time spent by men and women on different SNA, non-SNA and personal activities. TUS also provides information about gender inequalities in the patterns of time use (area based, household based and individual characteristics) and can be used to assess the impact of the unequal distribution of time by men and women on women’s opportunities in life (compared to men’s).

Time-use data is a must for effective implementation of SDGs, particularly in the context of gender equality and women’s economic empowerment. Time-use data is essential in monitoring the SDGs. Indicator 5.4.1 ‘Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location’, should include a timeline for achieving this goal. For instance, each country should mainstream time use surveys in their natural statistical systems by 2020 and collect data 5-10 years later to assess change and progress for monitoring the progress in 2030. In order to highlight women’s double burden, an additional indicator - the ratio of total work (SNA + non-SNA) by men and women - could be added.

TUS has not been conducted in full-scale for many reasons, but the modular survey approach is insufficient, with limited scope for data collection. High cost, low level of literacy, time-consuming, a lack of technical expertise to collect and analyse the data and a poor appreciation of time-use data are the reasons behind why many countries conduct modular surveys as part of other surveys. Full-scale TUS, however, provides rich information about informal employment, work-life balance and issues related to transportation and other infrastructure gaps.

The interest of all women will be compromised if unpaid work is neglected. Then, policies based on a partial view of the economy will be faulty. A number of groups will be left behind if TUS excludes working poor; women who are time poor; women in agriculture; women in remote/lagging areas; and women in care of chronically sick including HIV/AIDS care.

Status of TUS	Countries
Developed countries where TUS is mainstreamed	Australia, Japan, Korea (ROK), New Zealand
No TUS conducted	Afghanistan, Brunei Darussalam, Maldives Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Palau, Singapore
Small TUS only	Indonesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
Official Pilot TUS only	Philippines
Only Rural / urban TUS	Iran (Islamic Republic) – only urban TUS
National modular TUS	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Timor Leste, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cook Islands
National / Large TUS using time diary	Bangladesh, China, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Thailand

Source: Presentation from Dr. Hirway

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ **Evidence from TUS has been analysed for social policies by researchers and less so for economic policies and by governments for policy making purposes.** Researchers in developed countries use data to address issues of work-life balance, social activities and transportation. But time-use analysis are rarely used to shape economic policy or employment policies. Poor quality of data or lack of appreciation of the data are some reasons for lack of interests among the policy makers. However, using time-use data for economic policy, even for macroeconomic policy, is an increasing trend even among researchers.
- ▶ **It will be important for the Baseline Publication to address issues related of migrant workers.** Overseas migrants pay very high recruitment fees that go against decent work standards. Migrants' decent work issue is an important priority for the Asia Pacific region given the high share of women migrants and in the informal sector. SDG target 8.8 is specific to labour rights of migrants but issues around women migrants need to come out more clearly in the Baseline Publication.
- ▶ **Rural to urban migration is also transforming rural households** in terms of seasonal migration and feminisation of households, leaving women, children and the elderly in rural areas. Whilst there is no specific indicator on this, the next round of the agricultural census has a module to capture who is doing what agricultural activities. The decision whether to include the module will be voluntary, depending on each country's will.
- ▶ **A key challenge in addressing gender data gaps is financial limitations and budget constraints faced by NSOs.** Whilst collecting and analysing data and information on marginalised population groups is important, conducting special surveys such as TUS can be costly. Governments need to think out of the box in terms of how to collect data in a less costly way through collaboration and using technology.
- ▶ **The indicator to measure NEET (a young person who is Not in Education, Employment or Training) by sex is currently being developed under Tier II classification.** However, ILO has a depository of the information as the school-to-work transition survey was conducted under the labour force survey and will publicise this. The issue is also linked to the changing landscape of the labour needs. Transformative changes in the labour market driven by technology will have a major impact on workers, particularly those in low-skilled sectors, largely represented by women.
- ▶ There is a clear gender gap in terms of women's work being concentrated in rural and low paid work. On the other hand, **there is no clear relation between high ratios of women in tertiary education and women's labour force participation, particularly in decent jobs.** This may indicate that gender inequality can increase, rather than decrease.
- ▶ **Overall, there is a need for more and better sex-disaggregated data, including measuring other dimensions of poverty such as time poverty and asset poverty.** Gaps between data collection and analysis still remain. Many countries do not report on the results. **It is important that governments ensure that statistics tells a coherent story about the current country situation related to women's economic participation and poverty.** For example, while some country female-headed households are poorer than male-headed households, in other countries it is the other way round. Intra-household differences are not always captured. **Supplementary data and evidence is needed to validate and ensure an accurate reading of the evidence.**

KEY POINTS FROM THE SUB-REGIONAL WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Monitoring and reporting priority areas related to women's economic empowerment to address within the SDG Baseline Publication

Participants were asked which of the following areas related to women's economic empowerment should be a priority for monitoring and reporting based on the SDG framework for enhanced policy action:

- ▶ Women's economic participation (unemployment, labour force participation)
- ▶ Male-female pay gaps
- ▶ Women's access to quality employment
- ▶ Social protection and gender
- ▶ Women's unpaid care work
- ▶ Women's ownership and access to land and property

The highest ranked priority was women's unpaid care work (33 per cent of participants identified this as their top priority), followed by women's economic participation (28 per cent). Other priority areas included women's access to quality employment (18 per cent) and women's ownership and access to land and property (11 per cent).

Key challenges in collecting women's economic empowerment (WEE) data related to the SDG indicators

- ▶ **Lack of appreciation of the data, thus, limited commitment for data collection** stem from various factors. There is a lack of general interests and awareness on the issues and how to collect it or how to utilise the data for policy making. National accounts systems do not have a room to value unpaid care work. SDGs commitment could lead to increased accountability by governments.
- ▶ **Technical expertise**, partly due to budget constraint, is lacking. Enumerators should be professional and well-trained but in reality, they are hired like seasonal workers.
- ▶ **Definition of 'ownership' and 'head' of household are vague, thus affecting the quality and reliability of data.** International guidelines for the definitions are useful to apply for household surveys and others. A review of household-level surveys from a gender perspective would help identify what questions to be included for intra-household relations and where and what to ask questions to individual members of the household.
- ▶ **Lack of coordination and collaboration across ministries and departments** is highlighted. An institutionalised gender-responsive national data collection system is required to avoid overlap and streamline the gender statistics. This would also help the ownership of the data make clearer. Relatively low position and budget constraint of NSOs and women's machinery is an issue. High cost of data collection needs to be overcome, particularly in small Island developing states and remote areas.
- ▶ **Remittance data** is not collected and analysed by sex.
- ▶ When the costing of VAW is done, **impact of VAW on women's economic empowerment is not collected.**

Key policy and implementation challenges in addressing WEE data

- ▶ Time-use data helped to develop a child policy in China; but there is a need for updated data to show the changing environment in order to support and inform policy advocacy.
- ▶ Although data on unpaid care work shows women's time poverty, policy and programmes won't follow since child care is not considered 'work' and women's work is not valued.
- ▶ There is a need for in-depth analysis of the determinants of pay gaps, whether the gaps stem from the kind of jobs held by men and women, differences in education and skills, or social norms.
- ▶ For many countries, decisions are taken first on policy and schemes and then data are plugged in. Therefore, linking the data and evidence for policy making and budgeting is important.
- ▶ Overall, there is a greater need to link users and producers. Data is not fully accessible, particularly at the village level which prevents community leaders in their planning efforts. Data and report should be produced in local languages as well.
- ▶ Fiji's Ministry of Women has a dedicated research unit, who works with NSO on gender analysis. Neighbouring countries wish to follow the good practice.
- ▶ Overall, there is a need for clearer institutional arrangement for data collection, analysis and advocacy with all stakeholder involved in order to ensure greater accountability and better coordination.
- ▶ More gender analysis disaggregated by geographical location and age among others is needed for policy intervention.

Presenters:

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KEY MESSAGES

Under the SDGs, target 5.5 relates to ensuring women's full and effective participation, voice and leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Attempt to address 'voice' requires capacity to influence decision-making. Women participate but do not necessarily have voice or receive services. Counting the number of leaders and participation is possible, but there are many grey areas in between.

The data for indicator 5.5.1a 'proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments' exists and is widely available. However, political participation does not necessarily address issues related to women's empowerment. In measuring women's participation in local governance, there are many issues to consider. For example, it is difficult to compare leaders of large districts with those of small villages. A means of systematising data needs to be agreed so that it can be comparable.

Data and methodologies for indicator 16.7.2 'proportion of women in decision-making processes' are limited. Although the ILO is collecting data on women and men in public service, this remains work in progress. Lack of incentives for women to enter politics – especially young women – also need to be further discussed.

In order to operationalise the notion of 'No One Left Behind', the following questions need to be asked. What restricts women's participation, voice and leadership? How are the political voices of women shaped and constrained by prevailing socio-cultural norms? How is the impact of intersecting ascribed identity (e.g., race, religion, caste)-based inequalities deepened by gender? How do we develop a situated gender equity for the region in these terms? How can we understand the active vs. passive drivers of inequality?

Cultural and contextual norms and other factors that limit agency and political participation of women need to be further understood. Opening space for collective action and civil society is important. 'Quota' debates in terms of advancing women's political participation and representation and issues related to women's participating in peace-building were also brought up during the discussion.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A question was raised related to how identity and intersections of identity were presented in the Baseline Study findings. It was mentioned that identification is largely subjective and often based on self-identification. The authors explained about intersectionality, which examines how the sex-disaggregated data interact with other socio-economic stratification such as income level, location, caste, region, etc. to find out how do we go beyond the sex-determined barriers. A suggestion was made to use of the term 'descriptor' rather than identity, in order to be more objective and to address multiple factors for discrimination.

On the question on 'No One Left Behind' it was explained that voice is a perception-based concept, thus, it is difficult to collect information on it. It requires various information such as meaningful participation (e.g., group membership) and women in leadership positions. The indicators often look at women's representation at decision-making levels. However, it also applies for women who are engaging in services delivery, as it is localised and it addressed different levels of discrimination. The evidence shows that when women are included in service delivery, they are able to reach more women.

Presenter:**Ms. Hannah Schmidt**
Zero Poverty Solutions

KEY MESSAGES

Women and men and girls and boys are affected differently but the effect is greater on women and girls. Women are often affected in terms of health and safety, increased work load, aggravated economic hardship and poverty caused by climate change and related disasters. VAW during and after natural disaster are observed.

Climate change can be an opportunity for greater gender equality. As example, women play a key role in disaster risk reduction and response and in energy or solid waste management. There is a possibility for the creation of green jobs. A reduction in women's burden of unpaid work can also take place as a result of provision of cooking stoves, renewable energy, and irrigation systems. Women's participation in climate change related decision making at all levels is also encouraged.

Inclusion of women in climate change has progressed. Women's political participation, inclusion of gender issues in policies and plans were achieved because of increased attention on women inclusion in climate change. Nevertheless, there are persisting challenges including legal restrictions and customary laws. In addition, the sex-disaggregated data in relation to climate change and disasters is very poor.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the amount of climate financing made available globally, it was recommended that the study look into how gender issues have been addressed in the Green Climate Fund. As countries committed to implement the Paris Agreement, they need to link their national adaptation plans and policies to the Global Climate Deal. This is what makes this conducive to address gender in accessing finance facility.

It was suggested that the study exam issues of climate change, disaster and gender with the cross-cutting issues of women's voice, leadership, access to economic empowerment and health concerns. The need for a more systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data in order to push the gender and climate agenda was also highlighted.

There was also a comment on the publication finding related to green jobs. While the example of cooking stoves is important for women and their livelihoods, the gender impact of job creation in larger industries of renewable energy such as production of solar power panels is unknown. There is some evidence on green jobs by sex in the maintenance of solar power in India and the green procurement project in Bangladesh. The lack of comprehensive data on job creation by the green industry was also raised.

There was also a comment on climate impacts on human health and mortality. Data shows that increase in female mortality rate with climate change is not only about health problems such as water-related diseases. Poor quality of data cannot distinguish the impact of climate change caused by structural gender inequality from health-related impacts.

Presenter:

Dr. Jose Ramon Albert
Philippines Institute for Development Studies/Zero Poverty Solutions

KEY MESSAGES

Current stage of data availability and data gaps (in statistics) for monitoring SDG 5 and gender-related indicators

- ▶ Amongst 85 indicators, 55 per cent (46) are available but at varying levels of availability. 13 are widely available, another 17 are moderately available, and the remaining are somewhat available. Even among the data available for Tier 1, many are not disaggregated by sex yet. The UN Statistic Division compiled a global SDG Indicators Database but problems of consistency remain. Data compiled was also supplemented from publicly available data.
- ▶ Amongst 70 indicators where sex-disaggregation is relevant, only a third (24) have available sex-disaggregated data. The SDGs rely on official data source. So-called 'big data' is not considered as reliable source. For this reason, further standards and protocols for use of data are required.

There were discussions on resource constraints and limited capacity of NSOs for collecting required data for the SDGs. It was recommended to generate sex-disaggregated data for the SDGs indicators on available data sources and conduct new surveys, if required, with clear objectives of the data use in mind. The country delegates requested the international agencies to provide technical assistance or guidance on setting up the statistical standards for special surveys to NSOs and relevant government agencies.

Country delegates were asked to urgently respond to the questionnaire on gender equality and the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, which Zero Poverty Solutions team sent out earlier and the link to the *Regional Core Set of Gender Indicators* was shared.⁴

4 E/ESCAP/CST(4)/10, downloadable from <https://www.unescap.org/official-documents/committee-on-statistics/session/4>

KEY POINTS FROM THE SUB-REGIONAL WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

During working group discussions, countries were asked to share their experiences in collection and analysis of gender-related data (related to the themes discussed during the consultation) and well as a summary of future censuses or studies planned.

- ▶ A number of countries have initiated a review of existing data for the SDG indicators as part of their SDG roll-out and localisation. Some countries have already incorporated the SDGs into their national development planning process, with gender cutting-cross sectors included.
- ▶ A number of countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka publish a report on gender statistics and analysis regularly, led by Ministry of Women's Affairs or similar agencies. Myanmar recently published gender situation analysis study.
- ▶ A number of countries conduct population census, labour force surveys and household surveys such as social economic survey and living standard survey regularly and some countries have conducted gender analysis in relation to poverty.
- ▶ Some countries have conducted VAW prevalence surveys. In Bangladesh, based on the VAW database, helplines and mobile applications to track VAW cases have been developed. Cambodia, Indonesia and Mongolia plan to conduct the prevalence survey in coming years.
- ▶ Sex-disaggregated data on disaster impacts were collected in Bangladesh and Nepal. The latter used computer assisted personal interviewing for beneficiary analysis.
- ▶ In Sri Lanka, labour force analysis addressed the issue of availability of day care centres, which influenced the policy decision making process.
- ▶ Cambodia, India and Mongolia have a plan to collect sex-disaggregated data on property ownership including land and livestock.
- ▶ India, Fiji and Sri Lanka intend to conduct time-use surveys. Cambodia is planning to take a modular approach due to budgetary constraints.
- ▶ The Philippines conducted a gender assessment of ODA-assisted projects and produced gender-responsive planning guidelines with checklists.
- ▶ Several countries have conducted or plan to conduct surveys to look into intersectionality. For example, China has collected data on internal migrants that is disaggregated by sex. Indonesia, Philippines and Timor-Leste are conducting surveys on persons with disabilities whilst Cambodia has a plan to include a module in its national survey. The Philippines is planning a survey on indigenous people and Fiji and Timor-Leste are conducting well-being surveys, with the latter also focused on youth. Thailand is conducting a survey focused on LGBT persons for the first time.

This session included sharing and exchange of country experience and good practices in implementing and monitoring SDG Goal 5 and gender-related SDG Goals. Discussions were informed by good practices examples from the Philippines, Nepal, Bangladesh and Vanuatu.

PHILIPPINES: LOCALISATION OF SDG 5

Presenter:

Ms. Erlinda M. Capones

Director, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

A presentation was provided on how SDG localisation has been successfully advanced in the Philippines. This process started with building awareness through briefings on the SDGs for various national government agencies, universities and NGOs combined with thematic and sector-focused workshops. Following this, an assessment of the SDGs was conducted across the three tiers in order to identify gaps and where proxy data could be used. Following this, the SDGs were integrated into the Philippines Development Plan (2017-2022) and also included in the Philippines Statistical Development Programme Update (2011-2017). A multi-sectoral coordinating and monitoring mechanism was also established. The focus is now on developing an institutional SDG Implementation Roadmap outlining actions, resources, responsibilities and partnerships required. Capacity building efforts are also underway to build capacity of local leaders and communities and to strengthen statistical agencies. The Philippines is also supporting the formulation of an ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs.

Many countries have advanced their SDG localisation process. For example, a women's committee was established for SDGs in Myanmar. Cambodia drafted e-guidelines for monitoring SDGs. Sri Lanka now has focal points in each ministry. China has a SDG national plan but not a roadmap yet.

Country Participants were interested to learn more about how the SDG process has influenced development planning, political and priorities setting. Previously the Philippines had the MDG committee, and Parliamentarians asked NEDA to present regularly on the status of progress against MDGs. It is hoped now that the same updates will be requested for the SDGs. There were also questions about the central mechanism set up in the Philippines and localisation process. Other identified challenges related to SDG localisation include disaggregating data by other social stratifiers such as ethnicity and disability. Strengthening national statistical system and importance of cross-ministries collaboration was highlighted.

NEPAL: GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING (GRB)

Presenter:

Mr. Bharat Raj Sharma

Director/Chief of Monitoring, Evaluation, Data Analysis and Publication Section, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

An overview of Nepal's progress in advancing GRB was provided. In Nepal, GRB allocation has been increasing. In implementing GRB, each line ministry works with Ministry of Finance who coordinates this process and the Ministry of Women plays an advocacy role. Each ministry is responsible for implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation although there has been no gender impact assessment yet.

Localising GRB has been challenging. Currently 60 per cent of local units have conducted GRB, but GRB is not yet implemented at the village level. GRB is driving the budgetary scenario for line ministries, particularly education and health ministries. Nepal has many mechanisms for women's empowerment including its gender action plans; however, no costing mechanism for the plan is in place.

Participants learned that there is no one-size-fits-all approach and that countries have adopted GRB initiatives in various ways at both national and sub-national levels. Lead agencies and responsibility of line ministries also vary. The countries which have not adopted GRB mentioned that lack of interest and commitment from Ministry of Finance are the key obstacles. And there were discussions around how Nepal and other countries successfully managed to garner political buy-in. Challenges in localisation were also shared by Indonesia. Regarding the sustainability of the GRB initiative, ownership has been key. It was also pointed out that gender analysis and SDG indicators can be used to lobby for GRB allocations where investments are needed and for monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

BANGLADESH: SDG ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE M&E FRAMEWORKS

Presenter:

Mr. A B M Zakir Hossain

Joint Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Bangladesh

The good practice of Bangladesh in integrating the SDGs and gender equality priorities within its National Development Plan and Measurement Framework was shared and discussed. Gender equality is one of the 14 identified priorities in the Plan and gender related targets are included in the monitoring plan. Under the Prime Minister's leadership, an inter-ministerial committee for SDG monitoring has been established which includes 16 senior Secretaries from different ministries and divisions. A preliminary data gap analysis for monitoring SDGs was already conducted. The Planning Commission found that data on 63 indicators only are available in existing data generating system and 67 can be generated by modifying existing census and surveys (from aggregation

to disaggregation). The additional 108 indicators will require new survey or census to generate information. The NSO and several major agencies will require special support for dealing with new types of data collection and in disaggregating data by age, sex, regional locations and other areas. An SDG Implementation Plan is now being developed and will be finalised in August 2016.

It was discussed that high level commitment for coordination mechanisms since the MDG period is crucial. Strong coordination in identification of the lead agency and associated agencies at target levels is also important. Many NSOs have limited political power and are under-financed. NSOs need to work with planning ministry to form a strong coordination and collaboration across ministries.

VANUATU: USING GENDER DATA TO INFLUENCE PLANNING PROCESSES

Presenter:

Mr. Jimmy Tomoyan

Social Statistician, Vanuatu Statistical Office

The experience of Vanuatu in using gender data to influence policy was shared. Vanuatu has Vision 2030, which is aligned with the three pillars of the SDGs. The issue of 'culture' is cross-cutting. Vanuatu has a gender policy and departmental policies. Next year, Vanuatu will have a national baseline survey for the SDGs. There is a good coordination structure for gender statistics led by the national women's machinery together with the NSO. The NSO has played an important role in providing basic statistics training to all stakeholders so that line ministries can issue their own monitoring report.

Other countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, and Vanuatu have done SDG data mapping. A SDG Secretariat was set under the Prime Minister's office in Timor-Leste. The problem of 'cherry-picking' goals and targets by governments was discussed. Challenges in localising SDGs have also been brought up. Ensuring cultural sensitivity is another key factor. Often gender issues are competing with other priorities such as economic policy and indigenous act, although there are significant overlap concerns.

Indonesia has 'one data' policy whereby all ministries and stakeholders need to be clear on data, norms, standards and coordination mechanisms. SDG data mapping and identification of responsible parties and use of big data are underway. In other countries, both vertical and horizontal coordination and timely interventions were discussed in assessing intersectionality issues, forming related policies and measuring the means of implementation. Some others also raised the issues of methodology and definitions as remaining challenges.

Presenters:

Mr. Yanhhong Zhang
Chief Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division,
UNESCAP

Ms. Janneke van der Graaff-Kukler
Regional Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women
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Ms. Ryce Chanchai
Programme Specialist, UN Women ROAP

KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ **Supply and demand for data are inter-connected with data gaps and availability.** In assessing the demand for data, ensuring that sectoral plans and its monitoring framework address specific about the gender issues and target populations groups. Producers of data need to make sure the types of disaggregation meet the demand. Whilst indicators are useful for monitoring and benchmarking at the macro level, it is disaggregated data to evaluate policy options of different interventions.
- ▶ **In establishing demand, we need to ensure that national policies and legal frameworks leave no one behind.** In doing so, it is important to review work plans, goals and targets in terms of specific population groups. It is also useful to continue high level advocacy efforts to remind states of their commitments and to support disaggregation of statistics for the SDG monitoring. On user side, a lot needs to done to respect rules and confidentiality to ensure integrity of statistics.
- ▶ **UN Women has developed a Flagship Programme Initiative: Better Production and Use of Gender Statistics for the SDGs.** The programme aims to achieve three main results: a) ensuring that a supportive and well-coordinated policy environment is in place to support gender responsive localisation and effective monitoring of the SDGs; b) supporting the development of quality comparable regulations for gender statistics to address data gaps; c) ensuring that gender statistics are available. The basis for the programme is partnerships and ensuring that interventions under the programme are well-integrated and coordinated with other efforts.

KEY POINTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Coordination for gender statistics (including user and producer dialogues)

- ▶ Examples of collaboration for gender analysis were cited. For instance, the Cambodian Ministry of Women analyses survey results with the NSO. The census in Bangladesh has an analytical module, which was produced by line ministries and academia. Thailand and the Philippines have Gender statistics committees which have supported greater coordination in producing and analysing gender data. Examples of inter-ministerial group on gender statistics were also mentioned as a good practice that have supported greater coordination.
- ▶ Participants agreed that discussions are needed to first identify who is left behind, and then which variables or relevant questions are missing, and where surveys and modules need to integrate the questions and variables.
- ▶ Regional level advocacy and user-producer dialogue were highlighted as useful.
- ▶ Greater awareness of equality and rights is needed as statistics do not often assess rights.
- ▶ Policy makers are often not aware which statistics each ministry has and greater awareness about data and how to use it for policy making is required. Compilation of data from all the ministries that work on gender equality is useful.

Financing for gender statistics

- ▶ As more countries in the region become middle-income countries, External sources (ODA) have been declining. Therefore, domestic resource mobilisation for data collection and analysis is required. At the same time, such countries need to start thinking of cost-saving efforts. In this regard, harmonisation of different indicators from different sectors would ease financial constraints and supplement technical capacity. Use of ICT for data collection and partnership with private sector foundations or private sector was also mentioned as useful.
- ▶ It is important to make an economic case for integrating gender analysis in national development plans in order to advance SDG implementation.
- ▶ Governments should use SDGs indicators to justify amounts of budget allocation for development of statistics and SDG data should be used to support greater awareness and advocacy and partnership with budget committees.
- ▶ The participants suggested that international organisations and donor agencies should require gender statistics and indicators as a precondition for funding. Coordination across UN agencies on linked/integrated indicators is also needed in order to harmonise indicators of different sectoral ministries.
- ▶ Greater regional support will be needed to support implementation of gender aspects of the SDGs. For instance, opportunities to facilitate greater South-South exchanges and to bring users and producers together to share good practices. Convening regional statistical bodies such as SPC, statistics division of Australia and New Zealand was requested by the Pacific.

Methodologies and technical notes for gender-related indicators

- ▶ In shifting from the MDGs to the SDGs, regional guidelines are needed that can easily be contextualised by countries on why and what gender statistics.
- ▶ Regional-level guidelines on harmonisation of certain indicators and on approaches to gender-responsive statistics for the SDGs is useful.
- ▶ Dashboard and visualisation software is useful in supporting SDG data collection.

- ▶ Clearer definitions around land ownership or violence as well as the type and level of disaggregation should be provided.

Policy and legislation governing the collection of gender statistics

- ▶ In Cambodia and the Philippines, gender assessments are conducted every five years, which review and identify missing gaps and monitor progress. SDG indicators now need to be integrated although the challenge is that many of them require qualitative data.
- ▶ Countries need to have strong legal frameworks or national mandates that require collection of gender statistics.
- ▶ High level political commitment at level of Prime Minister's office is required for SDG committee and Minister levels for SDG data collection and monitoring.
- ▶ One particular challenge is that often statisticians are not doing the analysis. Capacity development for policy makers on use the statistics needs to be supported.

Gender and SDG localisation

- ▶ Countries should develop gender-integrated SDG roadmaps at national and local levels.
- ▶ Technical support is required for implementing methodologies and gender analysis, particularly for SDG taskforces and gender statistics committees.
- ▶ It is important to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in national and sub-national SDG plans and that budgetary resources are allocated to adequately to support implementation.
- ▶ In Tuvalu and Timor-Leste, efforts have focused on raising awareness across sectors on data issues and on localising gender-related SDGs across sectors and building raising awareness and capacity of local governments.

Suggestions on how to maximise utilisation and dissemination of the SDG Baseline Publication

- ▶ The report should be used to develop national assessment reports (one-page overview).
- ▶ The report and its findings could be used as training material for data collection and analysis.
- ▶ As an advocacy tool, the report could be used to lobby countries to collect data.
- ▶ The report should be disseminated at high-level national and sub-regional forums.
- ▶ The report should be used to support a further review of progress every two years.
- ▶ The report could be launched through different platforms across sub-regions such as CSW, ESCAP Committee on Statistics and the Pacific Island Statistical Meeting.



KEY CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Key Conclusions and Consultation Takeaways

- ▶ Data alone is not enough. More advocacy creates critical demand for production of data and evidence on gender equality and women's empowerment. At the same time, new evidence can only lead to genuine change if it can be used to influence policy/legislative change, link to effective programme interventions, and policy advocacy to lobby for increased investment in women and girls and social norm change.
- ▶ Although some data is available on the SDG gender and gender-related indicators, many gaps remain. Aside from resource issues, there are capacity issues in data collection and disaggregation. Data is needed so that policies will not be gender-blind.
- ▶ When data exists, often, it has not been used to address gender inequality and various dimensions of marginalisation. Intersectionality issues related to the notion of leaving no one behind need to be further identified and addressed.
- ▶ Overall, the policy space and legal and financial environment to produce gender statistics remains limited and there is a need for further capacity building and increased financial support to support these efforts to ensure greater coordination and collaboration of gender statistics, analysis and use for policy making and monitoring are also needed.
- ▶ Technical and financial challenges within NSOs continue to limit the sustainable production of gender statistics. Lack of access to data and limited capacity on the part of policy makers for data utilisation also need to be addressed to support the production and use of high quality gender data under the SDGs.

Follow-up Action and Next Steps

Country Participants were requested to remind NSOs for a response to Country Questionnaire on Gender Equality and the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific. They were also asked to provide further feedback on the statistical table to be included in the Baseline Publication.

The consultants leading the development of the Baseline Publication will incorporate the findings and discussion points from the consultation into the final study. The workshop report will be shared with all participants by mid-December. The final Baseline Publication will go through a peer-review mechanism and will be made available in 2017.

Country Participants were encouraged to share the report and information from consultation meeting with other key ministries and stakeholders in their respective countries especially in relation to highlighting the importance of sex-disaggregated data for SDG indicators and creating awareness about the new indicators and relevant survey methods such as VAW prevalence and time-use.

**Regional Consultation on the SDG Baseline Publication:
Evidence-based Advocacy for Gender Equality and Localisation of the SDGs
in Asia and the Pacific**

The Landmark Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
15-17 November 2016

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Day 1: 15 November 2016

Time	Topic	Key objectives and questions to be addressed
8.00-8.30	Registration	
8.30-9.00	Welcome and Opening Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors, UN Women Deputy Regional Director and Representative of Thailand Ms. Sonomi Tanaka, Technical Advisor (Gender Equity), ADB Dr. Myung-sun Lee, President of the Korea Women Development Institute, KWDI 	<i>Opening remarks and welcome message from the organisers</i>
9.00-9.15	Objectives of the Consultation and Process Overview Ms. Jo-Anne Bishop, Consultation Facilitator	
9.15-10.30	Session 1: Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment under the SDGs <i>Moderator: Ms. Ryce Chanchai, Programme Specialist, UN Women ROAP</i> <p>Presentations (40 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the MDGs to the SDGs: What has changed for gender equality and women's empowerment, Ms. Janneke van der Graaff - Kukler, Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women ROAP Presentation on the Conceptual Framework of the SDG Baseline Publication, Ms. Laurence Levaque, Social Development Specialist, ADB <p>Plenary discussion (Q&A) (35 minutes)</p>	<i>Setting the context. The two plenary presentations aim to answer to following questions:</i> <p><i>What are the key opportunities and challenges under the SDG indicators and monitoring framework for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls?</i></p> <p><i>Why gender equality and empowerment of women and girls are the key driver for the achievement of the SDGs?</i></p>
10.30-11.00	Break <i>(Group photo to be taken during the break)</i>	
11.00-12.30	Session 2: State of Gender Equality and the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific: where do we stand? <i>Moderator: Ms. Jo-Anne Bishop</i> <p>Presentation (20 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional overview: analysis of data and trends, Mr. Christopher Kuonqui, Zero Poverty Solutions <p>Working Groups by sub-region (40 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Asia (facilitated by Ms. Imrana Jalal, ADB) East and Southeast Asia (facilitated by Ms. Laurence Levaque, ADB) Pacific (facilitated by Ms. Janneke van der Graaff - Kukler, UN Women) <p>Gallery walk followed by plenary de-brief (30 minutes)</p>	<i>Taking stock from MDGs and establishing overview/snapshot of the current situation on gender equality and women's empowerment in the region, including key analysis and trends.</i> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>What are your impression and feedback on the trends identified? What is missing? Are there any critical issues/trends that have not been covered by the presentation especially from the perspective of your sub-region?</i> <i>What are the top three main factors that affect gender inequality in your sub-region?</i>

Time	Topic	Key objectives and questions to be addressed
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-15.00	<p>Session 3: Safety of Women and Girls Moderator: Ms. Imrana Jalal, Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender), ADB</p> <p>Presentations (20 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking Violence Against Women (VAW) to Sustainable Development, Ms. Melissa Alvarado, Ending Violence against Women Specialist, UN Women <p>Discussant: VAW Prevalence Data, Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, Technical Adviser, Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA (10 minutes)</p> <p>Working Groups by sub-region (50 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Asia (Facilitator: Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, UNFPA) • East Asia and Southeast Asia (Facilitator: Ms. Melissa Alvarado, UN Women) • Pacific (Facilitator: Ms. Imrana Jalal, ADB) <p>Gallery walk and plenary de-brief</p>	<p><i>Establishing the linkages between VAW and other SDG goals and indicators data; sharing issues and challenges</i></p> <p>Key questions for group discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key challenges with collecting VAW data in your context with emphasis on relevant SDG indicators?</i> • <i>Given the availability of data, what are the key policy and implementation challenges in addressing VAW?</i>
15.00-15.15	Break	
15.15-17.00	<p>Session 4: Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Moderator: Ms. Sonomi Tanaka, Technical Advisor (Gender Equity), ADB</p> <p>Presentations (30 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in the context of the SDGs, Christophe Lefranc, Regional Population and Development Technical Advisor, UNFPA • Key findings and analysis for Asia and the Pacific Region, Carinne Brody, Zero Poverty Solutions Team <p>Working Group Discussion (45 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal and child health services, Ms. Kyoko Shimamoto, MNCH Specialist, UNICEF • Unmet needs for contraception, fertility control, and family planning services, Ms. Alexandra Johns, Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA) • Adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights and comprehensive sexual education, Ms. Josephine Sauvarin, UNFPA Technical Advisor on HIV & ASRH UNFPA • Linking SHRH to universal health coverage/social protection, Mr. Anderson Stanciole, Technical Adviser, Health Economics <p>Gallery walk and Plenary de-brief (30 minutes)</p>	<p><i>Achieving the universal access to sexual reproductive health and rights: how can this be addressed through intersectional approach/linkages with other SDG goals and indicators?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key challenges with collecting SRHR data in your context with emphasis on relevant SDG indicators?</i> • <i>Given the availability of data, what are the key policy and implementation challenges in addressing SRHR?</i> • <i>What is missing? Are there any critical issues/trends that have not been covered by the presentation especially from the perspective of your sub-region?</i>
18.30-	Dinner Reception at the hotel	

Day 2: 16 November 2016

Time	Topic	Key objectives and questions to be addressed
8:45-9:00	Recap from Day 1	
9.00-10.30	<p>Session 5: Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) <i>Moderator: Mr. Francisco Cos-Montiel, Women's Economic Empowerment Advisor, UN Women, ROAP</i></p> <p>Panel Presentation (45 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing gender deficits in decent work: Towards Achieving the SDGs, Mr. Phu Huynh, Labour Economist, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific • Gender equality in agriculture and rural development: Challenges and opportunities around women's access to land and rural women's advancement, Ms. Clara Park, Gender Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific • Presentation on unpaid care work, Dr. Indira Hirway, Director and Professor of Economics, Center for Development Alternatives <p>Talk show: Participant Q&A and discussion (45 minutes)</p> <p><i>Presentation of key findings and analysis for Asia and the Pacific Region will be distributed for discussion</i></p>	<p><i>Presenting the analytical framework for key thematic focus areas of the Study and receiving feedback from key data producers and users in the region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is missing? Are there any critical issues/trends that have not been covered by the presentation especially from the perspective of your sub-region?</i>
10.30-10.45	Break	
10.45-12:30	<p>Small Group Discussions Focus questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In your country context, which of the following areas related to women's economic empowerment should be a priority for monitoring and reporting based on the SDG framework for enhanced policy action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's economic participation • Male-female pay gaps • Women's access to quality employment • Social protection and gender • Women's unpaid care work • Women's ownership and access to land and property 2) What are the key challenges with collecting WEE data in your context with emphasis on relevant SDG indicators? 3) Given the availability of data, what are the key policy and implementation challenges in addressing WEE? <p>Group discussions by sub-regions (1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East and Southeast Asia group (Facilitated by Ms. Laurence Levaque, ADB) • South Asia group (Facilitated by Ms. Ms. Clara Park, FAO) • Pacific (Facilitated by Yumiko Yamamoto, UN Women) <p>Plenary de-brief (45 minutes)</p>	
12.30-13.30	Lunch	

Time	Topic	Key objectives and questions to be addressed
13.30-14.30	<p>Session 6: Voice, Participation and Leadership Moderator: Ms. Jo-Anne Bishop</p> <p>Presentations (30 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda 2030: expansion of women’s voices, participation and leadership in Asia and the Pacific, Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta, Security and Governance Advisor, UN Women ROAP • Key findings and analysis for Asia and the Pacific Region, Mr. Christopher Kuonqui, Zero Poverty Solutions <p>Plenary discussion (30 minutes)</p>	<p><i>Linking SDG indicator and monitoring framework with women’s voice, participation and leadership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key challenges with collecting data on women’s voice, participation and leadership in your context with emphasis on relevant SDG indicators?</i> • <i>Given the availability of data, what are the key policy and implementation challenges in addressing women’s voice, participation and leadership?</i> • <i>What is missing? Are there any critical issues/trends that have not been covered by the presentation especially from the perspective of your sub-region?</i>
14.30-15.15	<p>Session 7: Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Moderator: Ms. Sonomi Tanaka, Technical Advisor (Gender Equity), ADB</p> <p>Presentation (15 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings and analysis for Asia and the Pacific Region by Zero Poverty Solutions Team <p>Plenary Discussion (30 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key challenges with collecting data on gender-responsive disaster risk management and climate change in your context with emphasis on relevant SDG indicators?</i> • <i>Given the availability of data, what are the key policy and implementation challenges in addressing gender-responsive disaster risk management and climate change?</i> • <i>What is missing? Are there any critical issues/trends that have not been covered by the presentation especially from the perspective of your sub-region?</i>
15.15-15.30	Break	
15.30-17.00	<p>Session 8: Summing Up: data availability and sex-disaggregated data for monitoring SDGs Moderator: Ms. Janneke van der Graaff - Kukler, Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women ROAP</p> <p>Presentation (20 minutes): Current stage of data availability and data gaps (in statistics) for monitoring SDG 5 and gender-related indicators, Dr. Jose Ramon Albert, Senior Research Fellow, Philippines Institute for Development Studies</p> <p>Working Group Discussion (40 minutes)</p>	<p><i>Highlight key issues and challenges related to data availability and sex-disaggregation of data for SDG goal 5 and gender related SDG goals and indicators (across all thematic areas), lessons learned from data mapping for the SDG Baseline Publication</i></p>

Time	Topic	Key objectives and questions to be addressed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please share good practices from your country in data collection related to thematic areas discussed during this consultation • What key research/ analysis related to gender analysis under the SDGs have been conducted and/or prioritised in your institution/country? • Are there any particular survey/studies in your countries that take into account sex-disaggregation and other types of disaggregation (e.g. geography, population groups, age, and etc)? <p>Plenary de-brief (30 minutes)</p>	

Day 3: 17 November 2016

Time	Topic	Key objectives and questions to be addressed
8:45-9:00	Recap from Day 2	
9.00-11:00	<p>Session 9: Asia-Pacific Café – Group <i>Facilitator: Ms. Jo-Anne Bishop</i></p> <p>Each break-out group will be hosted by one country. The group discussion will focus on the key lessons that can be extracted from the country experiences on key gender responsive policies/strategies. Each country host will provide a presentation (10-15 mins) followed by exchange of experiences and discussion. Following the discussion, groups will rotate so that all participants have a chance to learn about each country experience and to discuss different areas related to SDG monitoring and implementation of Goal 5 and other gender-related goals.</p> <p>Asia-Pacific Café Hosts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippines: Localisation of SDG Goal 5, by Ms. Erlinda M. Capones, Director, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines • Vanuatu: Using gender data to influence planning processes by Mr. Jimmy Tomoyan, Social Statistician, Vanuatu Statistical Office • Nepal: Gender-responsive Budgeting, Mr. Bharat Raj Sharma, Director/Chief of Monitoring, Evaluation, Data Analysis and Publication Section Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare • Bangladesh: SDG alignment with national development plans and gender responsive M&E frameworks 	<i>Sharing and exchange of Country experience and good practices in implementing and monitoring SDG Goal 5 and gender-related SDG Goals</i>
10.30-10.45	Break	
11.15-12.00	Plenary feedback (45 minutes)	
12.00-13.00	Lunch	

Time	Topic	Key objectives and questions to be addressed
13.00-14.45	<p>Session 10: Enhancing Evidence-Based Programme Interventions and Support towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment <i>Moderator: Ms. Janneke van der Graaff - Kukler, Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women ROAP</i></p> <p>Presentation(s) (30 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary Presentation, Yanhong Zhang, Chief Population & Social Statistics Section Statistics Division, UNESCAP (20 minutes) • Presentation on the flagship programme initiative on gender and statistics, Ryce Chanchai, Programme Specialist, UN Women ROAP (10 minutes) <p>Roving Working Group Discussions (1.5 hour)</p> <p>Rotating working groups each to focus on the following areas:</p> <p>Area 1: How to ensure a supportive and well-coordinated policy environment for gender-responsive localisation and effective monitoring of the SDGs?</p> <p>Questions to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For national SDG monitoring framework to be gender-responsive (i.e. the framework has fully taken up the priority population groups and issues identified in previous sessions), what would be its key features? What national actions are required for have such a framework for it to be effective? • What regional collaborative activities can best support national actions to strengthen a gender-responsive SDG monitoring framework? <p>Area 2: How to ensure quality, comparable, regular and accessible gender statistics to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments?</p> <p>Questions to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of the population groups and issues to be addressed as policy priorities, what opportunities are there for strengthening the availability and quality of statistics? What country actions are necessary and feasible to strengthen data and statistics to support the priority issues? <p>Area 3: How to ensure that data are accessible to all users and can be analysed to inform research advocacy, policies and programmes and promote accountability?</p> <p>Questions to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would be the practical ways to connect data users and producers at the regional and country levels? • What would be the specific areas that need capacity building support for SDG monitoring, gender and statistics in your country? 	<p><i>Produce recommendations of concrete actions to strengthen regional support and collaboration in each of the three areas, e.g. regional advocacy, analysis, development and dissemination of guidelines and toolkits, facilitating exchange of country good practices and lessons learned, training, etc.</i></p>
14.45-15.00	Break	

Time	Topic	Key objectives and questions to be addressed
15.00-16.00	<p>Session 10 (continued)</p> <p>Presentation on key recommendations for regional collaborative activities to support national efforts to strengthen data and statistics, including disaggregated statistics, for evidence-based policies and programmes to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls</p> <p>Plenary discussion</p>	<p><i>What regional collaborative activities can best support country actions to enhance the accessibility and use of data and statistics?</i></p> <p><i>What approaches are needed to maximise the utilisation and dissemination of the Publication?</i></p>
16.00-16.30	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection of Key Takeaways for SDG Baseline Publication, Zero Poverty Solution Team • Closing remarks: Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors, UN Women Deputy Regional Director and Representative of Thailand • Closing remarks: Ms. Sonomi Tanaka, Technical Advisor (Gender Equity), Social Development, Governance, and Gender Division, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB 	

