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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Workshop on Gender Statistics

Geneva, 9 May 2023

Report

Note by the Secretariat

I. Attendance

1. The capacity development workshop on gender statistics was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Financial support for the workshop was provided by the partners and through the United Nations Development Account (12th tranche) project “Statistics for gender-responsive trade policies”.

2. The workshop was attended by participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United States, Uzbekistan, European Institute for Gender Equality, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNCTAD, United Nations Population Fund, UN Women, World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO) and Gothenburg University.

II. Organization

3. The workshop was designed principally to benefit experts dealing with gender statistics in national statistical offices (NSOs).

4. The following topics were discussed at the workshop:

- (a) gender and trade
 - (b) measuring violence against women
5. The workshop took place immediately before the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics (10–12 May 2023).
6. The workshop programme and contributions are available on the at [the UNECE website](#).

III. Summary of proceedings

A. Gender and trade

7. This session focused on data needs and tools for measuring gender-in-trade. The Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment most recently expressed the policy need and international agreement in that direction and called for the sharing of gender focused statistics related to trade. In 2019, three transformative free trade agreements (FTAs) were created, all of which included an individual and separate chapter exclusively dedicated to gender. Since then, the number of FTAs with a chapter on gender has been growing and reaching around 20 such agreements at the moment.

8. Gender-in-trade statistics is a new area, and first efforts are being made to be mainstreamed into the regular statistical production. It was noted that raising awareness and highlighting indicators produced by data integration can help achieve gender goals and inform policy on the gender implications of trade.

9. As a first step and preferred method in producing gender-in-trade data, the statistical experts noted the use of already available administrative data and data linking. The benefits of analysing microdata are evident. They provide flexibility of deriving gender-in-trade indicators, at different level of disaggregation and with high precision. Despite that microdata linking is the most accurate method, linking at the aggregate, macro level also provides useful indications. This approach aims to minimise the need for new surveys and instead have the experts perform a thorough analysis of already existing statistics and built capabilities. Dedicated surveys (in most cases also already existing) could further fill the gaps.

10. With support from UNECE, a survey of national statistical offices (NSOs) on gender-in-trade was conducted before the workshop. Responses were received from nine countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan). In most countries, the exports and imports data were recorded by the customs agencies however data exchange between NSOs and the data owners was not always assured. All countries reported using the same identifiers across different government agencies. All but one surveyed country indicated enterprise-level data availability on trade of goods. The majority of the surveyed countries had data on enterprise ownership and enterprise

management. However, differentiation by sex was available only in 3 countries for enterprise ownership and in 5 countries for enterprise management.

11. Pilot studies from Georgia (2021), Kazakhstan (2022) as well as the ongoing studies in four African countries revealed the great potential of existing data and enabled sharing of good practices in different data environments. The speakers focused on merging trade data with enterprise-level data from business statistics surveys. They outlined the important gender dimensions of trade, including employment, earnings, well-being and ownership. In both Georgia and Kazakhstan, the NSOs used large trade data sets provided by the customs authorities, involving 120,000 trade enterprises in Kazakhstan and 60,000 in Georgia. In Georgia, the non-trade data came from business registers, enterprise surveys, structure of earnings survey and in Kazakhstan from labour statistics. This allowed to produce several gender disaggregated data, such as for example gender pay gap or shares of women and men by level and type of occupation in trade. In Georgia, in addition, the microlinking was done by selected export sectors.

12. The UNECE pilots and the concise survey show that the production of many basic and disaggregated indicators is feasible for the countries without significant preparatory activities. Both Georgia and Kazakhstan expressed support in going into the direction of gender in trade statistics becoming a part of the regular statistical production. Further information on the methodology used in the two countries can be found in the reports of the pilot studies available on the workshop meeting page.

13. Market survey on the state and prospects of economic activities of enterprises in the Republic of Moldova helped to reveal the gender characteristics of the enterprises involved in trade (enterprises from industry, construction and wholesale and retail trade). The findings allowed to see the expectations of trade revenue and volume as well as on the risk factors to the economic activity, all by gender characteristics of the enterprises.

14. Survey studies have been developed in Tajikistan with support from the World Bank. Two questionnaires were filled by trade firms and customs brokers. The questions focused on areas related to the Trade Facilitation Agreements under the World Trade Organization. Data was collected on trade volumes by women and men, access to trade financing, memberships in industry/trade associations, as well as by marriage status. The results show that the representation of men in trade firms is stronger.

15. The experience by Finland, a country with advanced use of registered data and data linking, showed that while the trade data are available challenges remain. For example, different data sources are constructed for different reasons and methodology is not yet complete (how to account for employee working in multiple enterprises or for a partially employed person). Although the issues mentioned are not gender-specific, they affect linking and potentially distorts gender-specific indicators alongside other employee characteristics.

16. All speakers stressed the fact that an effective communication and engagement from all parties involved is needed, with external partners such

as the customs authorities but also within the statistical office between gender and economic statistics and international relations departments.

17. At international level, as next steps, UNCTAD outlined the development of a tentative conceptual framework for measuring gender and trade, reflecting the policy data needs. UNCTAD also informed that upcoming recommendations considering gender aspects and a core set of business indicators in the United Nations trade statistics manuals are being currently developed. UN Women noted that the attention to digital trade is growing and in some countries the analysis on gender equality already covers areas like e-commerce.

B. Measuring violence against women

18. This session considered recent experiences on designing and implementing a national prevalence survey on violence against women (VAW). The need for reliable VAW data continues to be strong. Severe violence is more likely to be reported, and therefore, found in administrative data. Surveys, in addition, allow to capture more of the non-severe cases. Studies however show that the actual prevalence remains above these levels and often many aspects, such as non-physical violence are omitted from statistics.

19. More concretely, the participants noted as deficiency for example if violence is measured by looking only at the current or most recent partner. Other survey limitations included lack of data on violence against older women, VAW with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. Surveys often miss listing of the types of the intimate partner's acts of violence, in some cases there is no information on the perpetrator of violence.

20. The discussion focused on the ways to extend the measurement scope and capture trends. Usually, the definition of prevalence shows the number of women who have experienced abuse in a certain period of time. A common practice in the European Union, for example, is to look at VAW in the last 5 years. Furthermore, using a more detailed instrument that asks about occurrence and frequency of acts is likely to raise the percentage of people who reply positively.

21. Selection and training of interviewers, as well as guiding the data collection in the field is crucial for improvement of survey taking. They should also involve consideration to ethical and safety standards. The participants indicated that more clarity is needed about methods used in the survey like weighting, data gaps and operational definitions.

22. The session further discussed the lessons learned from various context on implementing a survey on VAW. The mentioned data sources include the legal system, medical establishments, crises centres and court system. For example, a medico-demographic survey was conducted in Tajikistan in 2018. The same survey will be done also this year and will cover 35 indicators, including VAW indicators. Kyrgyzstan showed combined data from statistical sources (crisis centres, shelters, aksakals' courts, centres providing

social assistance to the population) and administrative sources (the Prosecutor General's Office, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Healthcare, and the Ministry of Justice). The experts agreed that coordination of the data between the different sources is a challenge (e.g., same person can be reported by several systems).

23. As reiterated by Armenia, pilot surveys have an important role and help to avoid mistakes during the full-scale survey. In Georgia thanks to the pilot survey several updates were made to finalize questionnaires, brochures were distributed to respondents and protocols were prepared, for example for interviewing children under 18. The pilot survey in Kazakhstan facilitated the organization and use of tablets. In Portugal, the pilot survey, which showed difficulties with interviewing elderly, helped them to define the upper age limit at 75.

24. A key point discussed when undertaking surveys with the various time intervals (7 years in Kazakhstan, 2 and 11 years in Armenia) were how to preserve comparability while adding new questions. In this context, a UNECE initiative on developing conceptual frameworks and a common understanding of how to measure VAW, especially with regard to new forms of violence was welcome.

25. Improvement of methodologies to further address intersections with respect to sampling plans, disaggregation, or denominations are much needed. In some cases, the introduction of specialized modules, e.g. special module on women aged 50 and older can facilitate data collection on intersections. While higher income countries report on violence against older women, lower income countries often omit it from their statistics. Kazakhstan highlighted again the importance of interviewers, especially in the context of interviewing older women. WHO said data is also missing on the type of the violence act and the perpetrator.

26. Special attention was paid at technology-facilitated violence against women, an emerging trend reinforced during the Covid pandemic when more people switched to the online space.

IV. Conclusions

27. The workshop concluded with thanks to international partners for their active involvement in supporting the countries. Countries expressed commitment for following up on the gender-in-trade pilot studies and with conducting surveys on violence against women.

28. Participants considered the workshop to be a valuable opportunity for sharing of knowledge and experience. The combination of presentations from invited experts, sharing of national experiences in participants' countries, and guidance from international partners was greatly valued.