

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Project title:	GENDER INDICATORS FOR THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION
Project Venue:	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Project Duration:	60 months
Proposed Starting Date:	March 2002
Project Budget:	
- External Source	US \$1,000,000.00 for each region
- Regional Commissions (in kind)	
- United Nations Statistics Division (in kind)	
- United Nations Organizations	
- FNUAP (in kind)	
- UNIFEM	US \$
Participants:	Governments, United Nations organizations
Executing Agencies:	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

BACKGROUND

Growing awareness, both in the world of the social sciences and in the sphere of public policy, of the need to develop systems of gender statistics to monitor changes in the situation of women as against that of men, has led to recognition of how vitally important it is to select indicators that are appropriate for this purpose.

Acknowledging this fact, the Platform for Action adopted by the IV World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995), under the strategic area H "Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women", addressed the necessity of generating and disseminating gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation (H.3). The Platform recommended to governments, statistical institutes and the United Nations agencies to collect, compile, analyse and present on a regular basis data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic and other relevant indicators, including number of dependants, for utilization in policy and programme planning and implementation, while it especially requested the United Nations to promote the further development of statistical methods to improve data that relate to women in economic, social, cultural and political development¹.

These mandates were reinforced by the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (Beijing+5), which assessed that in spite of the important progresses made in the measurement of the situation of women there was still significant problems to resolve. On the first hand, comparable data was not available for all countries and each one of the 12 strategic areas of the Platform for Action, while on the second, a minimum set of gender indicators that would allow the monitoring and follow-up of international compromises at national, regional and global levels was still lacking. Thus, Member States underlined that effective and coordinated plans and programmes for the full implementation of the Platform for Action required "a clear knowledge of the situation of women and girls, clear research-based knowledge and data disaggregated by sex, short- and long-term time-bound targets and measurable goals, and follow-up mechanisms to assess progress". They also recommended that efforts were needed to ensure capacity-building for all actors involved in the achievement of these goals, as well as to increase transparency and accountability at the national level².

Nevertheless, in its 1999 "Meeting on the work being carried out by the United Nations system and other relevant international and national institutions on basic indicators to measure progress toward the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up of all aspects of major United Nations conferences and summits" (New York, 10-11 May 1999), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) found that there was a serious lack of relevant and timely developed information - a problem which needed to be addressed through statistical capacity-building at the national level - as well as a problem of inconsistency in some areas among data disseminated by different agencies at the international level, which needed to be addressed through better coordination in the production and dissemination of indicators³. Later, resolution

¹ United Nations (1995), *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995), A/CONF.177/20, par. 206b and 208b.

² United Nations (2000), *Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly*, A/S-23/10/Rev.1, par. 64.

³ See ECOSOC (1999), *Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits: A critical review of the development of indicators in the context of conference follow-up. Report of the Secretary General*, E/1999/11.

1999/55⁴ adopted at the ECOSOC substantive session included a section (II) related to basic indicators where the following five themes were addressed: a) networking and exchange of relevant information and metadata; b) further development of indicators for means of implementation; c) harmonization and rationalization of conference indicators; d) identification of a limited number of common indicators and e) mobilization of resources to support national statistical capacity-building in developing countries and coordinate statistical capacity-building programmes.

Looking at the progress achieved two years later, it is important to recognize that sectorial indicators are already available at the global level or for some regions and that the methodology used to develop them can be shared in the framework of the United Nations system. One example is the publication of *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics* by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)⁵, which compiles the latest data documenting progress for women worldwide in six areas: health, human rights and political decision-making, work, education and communication, population, and families. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has also published in 2000 a second edition of *Women and Men in Europe and North America*, following the recommendations of the Expert Group of Gender Statistics created by the Conference of European Statisticians, and collaborated with the ECLAC in a first interinstitutional project on making available gender indicators for policy-making.

Taking into account these efforts as well as the serious gaps still to confront in the existing information, the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality meeting at its sixth session IANWGE (New York, 27 February to 2 March 2001) requested its Task-Force on methodologies for gender impact analysis, monitoring and evaluation - whose members include the UNSD, ECE and ECLAC - to design a five years project on gender indicators that would lead to the next evaluation of the implementation of the Platform for Action (Beijing+10) while stimulating the coordination between its members and avoid the duplication of efforts.

Previous experiences of collaboration among IANWGE's members have showed the importance of the step-by-step approach and consensus building with all stakeholders on a group of selected indicators, as well as of the systematic collection of data as a global public good. It also revealed that the construction of gender indicators, and their use and efficacy required both technical capacity and political will, including recognition that indicator development and use is a process, not a one-time effort. Meanwhile, the various processes carried out by different agencies and organizations have shown the necessity of a common framework of gender indicators that can be used to monitor advances in the status of women and that would take into account the heterogeneity of their needs, situations and contexts - i.e following the bottom-up approach.

It is based on these previous collaborations⁶ - taking into account the aforementioned context of flexibility and the need to strengthen the diversity of initiatives in the construction of gender indicators - that ECLAC is proposing the present project of indicators for the Follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action, on behalf of the Task-Force on methodologies for gender impact analysis, monitoring and evaluation of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.

⁴ *Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits*, E/1999/55, 30 July 1999.

⁵ DEV/2245-WOM/1197, also available in the electronic site <http://www.un.org/depts/unsd/ww2000/tables.htm>.

⁶ Various of which have taken place between ECLAC, ECE, FAO, UNFPA, UNIFEM, WFP and WHO/PAHO.

This project intends to make a better use of the existing capacities in the statistical divisions of the United Nations organizations and to enhance the relation producers-users of information with their governmental and non governmental counterparts, in order to further monitor compliance with the agreements of the Beijing Platform for Action and the recommendations made by the General Assembly at its last session to the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and to the Commission on the Status of Women regarding follow-up to its special session entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”⁷.

The project will be implemented over the next five years in order to provide reliable indicators at the 10-year benchmark of the adoption of the Platform of Action in the year 2005, which will also correspond to the 5-year benchmark of the United Nations Millennium Declaration where all the State Members of the General Assembly resolved "to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable"⁸.

Past experience in the development of gender statistics has demonstrated the importance of incorporating the following parameters in its execution:

- i) Work on gender indicators is a process that builds on existing work in related areas;
- ii) Regional Commissions should play a catalytic role in coordinating the various stakeholders, including users and producers of statistics;
- iii) Participating organizations need to continue their efforts to raise the awareness of statisticians on the importance of a gender perspective in the collection of data and to make their know-how available to policy makers and representatives of civil society in their work;
- iv) Dialogue between producers and users of gender statistics must be stimulated, particularly with regard to developing new concepts and emerging issues that require monitoring tools;
- v) The five-year project proposal on data collection and use of gender indicators for policy making will be designed, executed and monitored in liaison with the UN Statistics Division and other statistics offices of the organizations involved in order to take advantage of their work on indicators in the context of the World Conference follow-up.

I. OBJECTIVES

The institutional goal of the project is **to strengthen the capacity building for collection, processing and analysing of gender indicators at national, regional and global levels.**

⁷ General Assembly, (2001), *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly*, A/RES/55/71.

⁸ A/RES/55/2, 18 September 2000.

The development goal of the project is **to make gender indicators available for the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action and the preparations for the 10-year review and appraisal process of the implementation of the Platform for Action.**

Specific objective I

To adopt a core of common indicators, based upon existing experiences, by the multilateral system to permit global analysis of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action;

Specific objective II

To provide periodically in each region a minimum set of the most relevant comparative gender indicators for the strategic areas of the Beijing Platform for Action;

Specific objective III

To identify in each region emerging issues for which gender indicators are needed as well as future indicators that should be developed to further monitor the implementation of each strategic area of the Beijing Platform for Action⁹;

Specific objective IV

To assist national governments in the implementation of the minimum set of gender indicators proposed by their regional commission in view of the preparation of their national reports to the 10-year review and appraisal process of the implementation of the Platform for Action.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The project involves the five regional commissions, the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Statistics Division and the other statistics offices of the system, particularly those of the organisms participating in the IANWGE Task-Force on Tools and indicators for gender-impact analysis, monitoring and evaluation. These include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Office (ILO), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO-PAHO).

⁹ In the implementation of this specific objective, it is would be interested to take into account the experience of the Economic Commission for Europe which is proposing to divide each set of gender indicators between core, supporting, background and future indicators. See the *Final Report* of the ECE/UNDP Task Force Meeting on a Regional Gender Web-site held in Geneva, from 2 to 4 May 2001.

Participants in the fourth component (specific objective IV) will also include governments of the Member States of the United Nations system and their national statistical institutes, non governmental organizations and others users and stake holders from civil society.

II. ACTIVITIES¹⁰

- 1.1 Task-Force meeting to discuss the project proposal and plan its budget as well as the necessary activities of fund raisings with the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.
- 1.2 Integration to the project of the commentaries and requests made by the Task-Force meeting (2001)
- 1.3 Activities of fund-raising and establishment of memorandum of understandings between the regional commissions and the regional offices of the specialized agencies that integrate the Task-Force (2001-2002)
- 1.4 Compilation of an inventory of activities of all the organizations of the United Nations system, by actor and type, with regard to gender indicators in order to avoid duplication (2001)
- 1.5 Presentation of the final version of the project proposal and launching at the seventh meeting of IACNGE both on ECLAC and DAW's websites of the electronic report reflecting the results of the inventory of activities prepared by ECLAC (New York, February 2002).
- 1.6 Technical workshop with the members of the Task-Force and the Statistics Units of their organizations to define immediate and future tasks, taking into account the quantity of available resources in this frame of time (New York, March 2002).
- 1.7 Compilation by the United Nations Statistics Division of the information produced in the five regions (2004).
- 1.8 Publication by the United Nations Statistics Division of a methodological guide on gender indicators for the 12 thematic areas of the Beijing Platform for Action (2004).
- 2.1 Regional experts meetings in the region of Western Asia, Asia and the Pacific and Africa to study the minimum set of gender indicators needed to express the situation of women and men in their region (second semester of 2002).
- 2.2 Collaboration to the contents of the regional website on gender statistics proposed by ECE that will consist of a central regional website and series of national inter-connected websites, where users would also have access to a set of gender indicators compatible with ECLAC's for all the countries of this region (2002).
- 2.3 Training activities in ESCWA, ESCAP and ECA oriented toward the design of regional data base for the regions of Western Asia, Asia and the Pacific and Africa and its integration in websites that would mirror those of ECE and ECLAC (2003).
- 2.4 Compilation of data calculated on the basis of the minimum set of indicators identified in each region (2003-2004).

¹⁰ Each Regional Commission may choose in this listing the activities which are most relevant for its own region.

- 2.5 Publication by each regional commission of a fact-sheet on the situation of women that would highlight the specific problems of their region (2004).
- 2.6 Publication by the United Nations Statistics Division of a Series that would compare the situation of women and men in the territory of each regional commission following thematic issues (2005).
- 2.1 High level expert meeting to identify emerging issue for which gender indicators are needed and orient their definition (2003).
- 2.2 Preparatory meeting of one international expert and regional consultants from the five regional commissions to work on a minimum set of gender indicators for the new issues identified by the high level expert meeting (2003).
- 2.3 Integration in the websites of the five regional commissions of all new data and indicators developed in the duration of the project (2005).
- 4.1 Integration of a one-day session in the five preparatory Regional Conference for the 10-year review and appraisal process of the implementation of the Platform for Action to open the dialogue with policy-makers on the use of gender indicators in the follow-up of the Platform for Action in the preparation of their national reports (2004).
- 4.2 Training activities in 10 selected countries of each regional commission to reinforce the integration of gender indicators in the preparation of their national reports for the Beijing+10 Special Session (2d semester of 2004 and 1st semester of 2005).

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 An inventory of activities of all the organizations of the United Nations system with regard to gender indicators, including geographical scope and beneficiaries;
- 1.2 A manual on the methodological aspects of the construction and definition of gender indicators in each thematic area of the Beijing Platform for Action (published in the six official languages of the United Nations system).
- 2.1 A network of user friendly regional web-sites that will include complete statistical data bases - which will facilitate the follow-up of the situation of women in most countries of the world for international organizations, national governments and organizations of civil society;
- 2.2 A series of reports from the regional commissions that will highlight the situation and specific problems of women in each region;
- 2.3 A series of thematic publications on gender equality issues that will compare the situation of women and men in the territory of the five regional commissions (published in the six official languages of the United Nations system).
- 3.1 A series of comparative indicators and data, as well as methodological tools, on emerging issues identified as priority at regional level.
- 4.1 A series of regional reports to the 10-year review and appraisal process of the implementation of the Platform for Action.

PROJECT MATRIX

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
I. To adopt a core of common indicators, based upon existing experiences, by the multilateral system to permit global analysis of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action	1. Integration to the project of the commentaries and requests made by members of the Task-Force (2001)	1. Inventory of activities of all the organizations of the United Nations system with regard to gender indicators, including geographical scope and beneficiaries
	2. Activities of fund-raising and establishment of memorandum of understandings between the regional commissions and the regional offices of the specialized agencies that integrate the Task-Force (2001-2002)	
	3. Compilation of an inventory of activities of all the organizations of the United Nations system, by actor and type, with regard to gender indicators in order to avoid duplication (2001)	
	4. Presentation of the final version of the project proposal and launching at the seventh meeting of IANWGE both on ECLAC and DAW's websites of the electronic map reflecting the results of the inventory of activities prepared by ECLAC (2002)	
	5. Technical workshop with the members of the Task-Force and the Statistics Units of their organizations to define immediate and future tasks, taking into account the quantity of available resources in this frame of time (2002)	
	6. Compilation by the United Nations Statistics Division of the information produced in the five regions (2004)	2. A manual on the methodological aspects of the construction and definition of gender indicators in each thematic area of the Beijing Platform for Action (published in the six official languages of the United Nations system)
	7. Publication by the United Nations Statistics Division of a methodological guide on gender indicators for the 12 thematic areas of the Beijing Platform for Action (2004)	

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
II. To provide periodically in each region a minimum set of the most relevant comparative gender indicators for the strategic areas of the Beijing Platform for Action	1. Regional experts meetings in the region of Western Asia, Asia and the Pacific and Africa to study the minimum set of gender indicators needed to express the situation of women and men in their region (2002)	1. A network of user friendly regional web-sites that will include complete statistical data bases - which will facilitate the follow-up of the situation of women in most countries of the world for international organizations, national governments and organizations of civil society
	2. Collaboration to the contents of the regional website on gender statistics proposed by ECE that will consist of a central regional website and series of national inter-connected websites, where users would also have access to a set of gender indicators compatible with ECLAC's for all the countries of this region (2002)	
	3. Training activities in ESCWA, ESCAP and ECA oriented toward the design of regional data base for the regions of Western Asia, Asia and the Pacific and Africa and its integration in websites that would mirror those of ECE and ECLAC (2003)	
	4. Compilation of data calculated on the basis of the minimum set of indicators identified in each region (2003-2004)	
	5. Publication by each regional commission of a fact-sheet on the situation of women that would highlight the specific problems of their region (2004)	2. A series of reports from the regional commissions that will highlight the situation and specific problems of women in each region;
	6. Publication by the United Nations Statistics Division of a Series that would compare the situation of women and men in the territory of each regional commission following thematic issues (2005)	3. A series of thematic publications on gender equality issues that will compare the situation of women and men in the territory of the five regional commissions (published in the six official languages of the United Nations system)

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOME
III. High level expert meeting to identify emerging issue for which gender indicators are needed and orient their definition	1. High level expert meeting to identify emerging issue for which gender indicators are needed and orient their definition (2003)	1. A series of comparative indicators and data, as well as methodological tools, on emerging issues identified as priority at regional level
	2. Preparatory meeting of one international expert and regional consultants from the five regional commissions to work on a minimum set of gender indicators for the new issues identified by the high level expert meeting (2003)	
	3. Integration in the websites of the five regional commissions of all new data and indicators developed in the duration of the project (2005)	
IV. To assist national governments in the implementation of the minimum set of gender indicators proposed by their regional commission in view of the preparation of their national reports to the 10-year review and appraisal process of the implementation of the Platform for Action	1. Integration of a one-day session in the five preparatory Regional Conference for the 10-year review and appraisal process of the implementation of the Platform for Action to open the dialogue with policy-makers on the use of gender indicators in the follow-up of the Platform for Action in the preparation of their national reports (2004)	1. A series of regional reports to the 10-year review and appraisal process of the implementation of the Platform for Action
	2. Training activities in 10 selected countries of each regional commission to reinforce the integration of gender indicators in the preparation of their national reports for the Beijing+10 Special Session (2004-2005)	

