

Gender Mainstreaming



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

Good practice

ESCWA is the first of the five regional commissions to put in place a plan of action for gender mainstreaming as of early 1998. This included (1) establishing a network of gender focal points in substantive divisions to monitor planning and implementation exercises; (2) using the number of work-months to measure the gender component and monitor implementation of activities therein (proportion improved from 27 per cent during 1998-1999 to 33 per cent during 2000-2001); and (3) implementing an ESCWA-wide capacity-building workshop for gender mainstreaming during 1999 and 2000.

ESCWA is committed to gender mainstreaming in research and operational activities, including, advisory services and technical assistance; data collection and processing; formulation, implementation, monitoring and assessment of activities. Efforts are made to ensure that issues across all areas and activities are well defined so that gender differences are diagnosed and no assumptions of gender-neutrality are made.

ESCWA
Chief, Women and Development Section
Social Development Division
P.O. Box 11-8575
Beirut, Lebanon
Fax: 96-1-981-510-12
E-mail: fkassem@escwa.org.lb
<http://www.escwa.org.lb/>

Recent policy statements

In the Revised Medium Term Plan for the period 2002-2005 under Subprogramme 2 (Integrated social policies), ESCWA intends to pursue the following strategy in carrying out its mandate: "Contributing to increasing awareness of gender issues through conducting media campaigns, organizing meetings and workshops on critical issues, building the capacities of national mechanism for the empowerment of women and their advancement by advocating an approach based on gender equality in the region, including the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into policies, plans and programmes;" and among its expected accomplishments, it is specified that "increased responsiveness of policy makers to the formulation of gender-sensitive policies, programmes and mechanisms, understanding of the main issues involved in the empowerment of women and awareness of the significance of gender mainstreaming"

Programme objectives

The objective of this subprogramme is the achievement of regional cooperation in the advocacy and promotion of comprehensive and integrated social policies that are region-specific, gender and culturally sensitive and have a practical orientation. *Inter alia*, the subprogramme focuses on increasing gender awareness, using media campaigns and meetings and workshops on critical issues, and on building the capacities of national machineries for the empowerment and advancement of women by mainstreaming a gender perspective into policies, plans and programmes.

Operational activities

ESCWA provides technical assistance and advisory services to national machineries and NGOs in gender mainstreaming. Additionally, ESCWA has launched and will continue carrying out a region-wide media campaign for gender awareness and gender mainstreaming. ■