Piloting the application of EPIC tool for WEE indicators: Armenia

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Along the lines of the approach adopted by the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics (RSG-PSS) the UNESCAP formulated **Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative (GPDI)** on strengthening data and statistics for evidence-based policies and programs to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment in the region.

**The 1st phase of this Initiative** (April 2018 - March 2019) focuses mainly on **Women’s economic empowerment (WEE)** to advance some goals of the RSG-PSS.
The Inception Workshop was held in April 2018 in Bangkok involved countries who are members of the RSG-PSS and who had expressed interest in this project:

• Armenia
• Philippines
• Sri Lanka
• Thailand.

- During the Inception Workshop, the drafts of Policy-Data Integration Tool (EPIC), and the Template & Guidelines for progress assessment on WEE were made available for hands-on experimentation and recommendations for refinement.
The EPIC Tool

• The “EPIC” tool, which was developed by UNESCAP in collaboration with experts, is applicable to a wide range of sectors covering the economic, social, environmental, institutional dimensions of sustainable development.

• Its use enables integration of gender policies with existing data in the country, that minimize policy and data wasting, reveal missing data on policies.

• It is the best option to formulate a set of indicators for any policy, while its application also requires collaboration between the statistical system and other organizations.
ACTIVITIES have been done

April 2018

• The Inception Workshop marked the 1st step of the GPDI, and is to be followed by national level activities involving the application of the above-mentioned tools and the development of related country reports.

April 2019

• A National Workshop was organized in the Republic of Armenia to initiate national-level activities and to build capacity of relevant national government agencies.
The Components of EPIC Work

Core team members:
- Statistical Committee of Armenia (ARMSTAT)
- National Institute of Labor and Social Research of the MoLSI

Policy documents:
- RA Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men
- Development Strategy of Armenia for 2014-2025

National indicator sets missing:
There was no consolidated monitoring/indicator framework on gender equality and women’s Empowerment, including on WEE issues

Other agencies involved:
- Prime Minister’s Administration
- Ministry of Economic Development and Investments
- Ministry of Agriculture

A need to connect WEE policies to data/information through application of the EPIC tool

National indicator sets available
- Armenia SDGs indicators relevant for WEE
- Labor market indicators relevant for WEE
a) Identification of issues covered/not covered by the draft Strategy and Program of Activities for implementation of the Policy on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men 2018-2022 and information needs.

b) As the draft policy does not yet have a related monitoring indicator framework:
- links were established directly between the priority issues mentioned in the policy and the SDGs indicators,
- anticipating the compilation of a national indicator framework on WEE in line with the global / regional GENDER indicator frameworks (including the Regional Core Set of Gender Indicators for Asia and the Pacific and the Global Minimum Set of Gender Indicators).
c) Strengthened capacity and skills and better understanding of the policy-data integration process.

d) Enhanced team-work within the Core team, between users and producers of data.
Capacity building workshop on Gender Policy-Data Integration in Armenia

Objectives of the workshop

▪ Introduce the concept of policy-data integration in the context of WEE and latest updates on the EPIC tool.

▪ Hands-on application of the EPIC tool on selected policy documents with the aim of consolidating a national indicator set on WEE.

▪ Discuss plan for completion of the EPIC application/report drafting and national uptake and institutionalization of the policy-data integration process as part of the national planning process for gender equality and women’s empowerment.
Expected outputs of the capacity building workshop

a. Preliminary inventory of priority issues for action and target groups in the context of WEE for Armenia, for possible inclusion in the next draft gender equality strategy.

b. Understanding of information needs, including disaggregation requirements, for WEE, as outlined in the selected policy documents.

c. Consolidation of a national indicator set on WEE, using as reference global and regional gender indicators, including SDG indicators.

d. Plan for the engagement of other relevant national stakeholders, in order to ensure the completeness of the national indicator set on WEE.
The EPIC application improve user-producer collaboration mechanism for GEWE/WEE:

- The Users-Producers started to collaborate in revisiting the WEE indicators available already from the point of view of the concrete policy document needs.
- The piloting procedure showed that some issues in the policy papers are very general in order to be evaluated or monitored through measurable indicators.
- This procedure could help to check those indicators that can no longer be used, develop new indicators that can be taken from available census/survey/ administrative /register/non-traditional data.
- Strengthen the collaboration and working relationship within Statistical Committee in terms of data production, assistance in improving the data collection, processing and tabulation, dissemination of accurate and relevant indicators.
Considerations to build a “comprehensive national indicator set on WEE” in Armenia

Adapted the existing indicators to make them fit-for-purpose and responsive to policy, to find out the potential data gaps:

- to improve the specificity of policy documents (issues for action (IA) and target groups(TG)) to clarify disaggregated data needs.

Looked through potentially WEE-relevant IA and TGs that currently are not analyzed in the policy documents.

- Discussed the existing IA/CC combination with missing or incomplete TG.
Lessons learned from the application of EPIC tool in the context of WEE

- The possibility to plan the strategy according to measurable activities and accordingly indicators
- To develop more WEE oriented approach in the strategy
- To develop more comprehensive WEE gender analysis

- To develop new strategy or to review the existing ones according to this tool
- To improve or strengthen the cooperation among ministries and NSOs
- To organize a workshop on the application of this tool on wider audience of the ministries.
Thank you for your attention!

Official website of RA Statistical Committee
http://www.armstat.am
http://www.armstatbank.am
http://www.armdevinfo.am