Through Sleet and Snow: Overcoming Challenges in the Field during the First National Study on Violence against Women in Mongolia

Action Area A. Engaging users and investing in statistics (SA3)

Data users and investment

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GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SURVEY

This landmark study, as part of “Combating gender-based violence” project in Mongolia, aimed to improve national capacity to combat Gender-based violence (GBV), in particular domestic violence (DV), with financial and technical assistance by UNFPA and SDC.
SURVEY OBJECTIVES

• Obtain information about reliable estimates of the prevalence and incidence of different forms of violence against women

• Produce quantitative data on GBV and DV

• Obtain source, evidence and investment for data users and for developing policies intended for target social groups

• Measure UN VAW indicators and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators 5.2.1. and 5.2.2.) and enable comparability
SAFETY AND ETHICS

• Safe name: Women’s health and life experience
• Random sampling: Nationally and provincially representative 7860 households were selected through random sampling method, and 7319 women aged 15-64 were surveyed
• Ensuring comparability, WHO standard methodology was used
• 21 days of training for interviewers and supervisors
DATA COLLECTION

Data collection – May, June 2017, 15 teams with guide, drivers

Support from local administration was helpful.
Virtual Event 15-18 June 2020
2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week
Leaving no one and nowhere behind

7935 households visited
More than 7300 women interviewed.

Interviews were conducted privately.
DATA COLLECTION

Overcame a range of challenges

- Pass through high mountains
- Stuck in mud, sand
Huge challenge:
• Team that was only composed of women

Overcame all sorts of obstacles
“I felt empowered listening to women’s stories... of hardship and violence... Their tears run, and mine run too, and their voices break. But I felt overjoyed seeing women’s faces brighten with relief from sharing the burden of violence and abuse.”

*Survey enumerator*
Prevalence of different forms of intimate partner violence among ever-partnered women aged 15-64 (N=6913)

Note: N is the number of ever-partnered women interviewed in the survey (denominator). Prevalence rates are calculated using weighted data.

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ACTIONS MADE BY ON THE RESULTS

• Based on the survey results, 10 OSSCentres has been created in the provinces and districts which shown the highest cases of violence, by the investment of UNFPA, SDC and the local governments.
• The raw data has been used by numerous data users both locally and internationally for their different types of studies.
• As a result of presenting the survey results to the policy makers and governors of all 21 provinces and 9 districts and doing influential works, governments have started concentrating more and investing on the issue.
• Based on the raw data of the survey, in the following years, the UNFPA has planned to conduct 3 more in-dept surveys and approved the investment budget.
REFLECTIONS

Three tips to be more responsive to user needs:
1) Use an effective **participatory approach** in survey planning and implementation – actively engage users throughout
2) **Discuss the findings with key users** as part of writing up the results – enriches the report to have their inputs and ensures users will understand the data
3) Involve users in developing recommendations to help link the data to action

On investment in statistics:
For surveys on sensitive topics the most important investment is the recruitment and training of interviewers. This is crucial for the safety on respondents and research team, but also for the data quality.

**Tools to optimize investment in statistics:**
For violence against women surveys many great tools and technical guidance are readily available (e.g. through the UNFPA kNOwVAWdata initiative)