



**UNESCO Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative:
Concept Note for national activities in the Philippines**

I. Background

The fifth session of the Committee on Statistics of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) agreed on the establishment of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics (RSG-PSS) in Asia-Pacific, to guide the implementation of the Regional Strategy to Improve Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The RSG-PSS held its first meeting in Bangkok in 2017 and finalized a work plan to achieve three goals: (1) creating an enabling policy environment to maintain demand for population and social statistics (2) enhancing data production and (3) enhancing data analysis and use.

The UNESCO Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative (April 2018 - March 2019) on strengthening data and statistics for evidence-based policies and programmes to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in the region was formulated along the lines of the approach adopted by the RSG-PSS and focuses mainly on women's economic empowerment to advance goals (1)¹ and (3)² of the RSG-PSS stated above. The Inception Workshop for the Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative was held in April 2018 in Bangkok involving the project countries, Armenia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, who are also members of the RSG-PSS and have expressed interest in this work.

In line with goals (1) and (3) of the RSG-PSS above, two sets of draft tools were made available during the Inception Workshop for hands-on experimentation and recommendations for refinement:

1. **The draft Policy-Data Integration Tool (EPIC):**³ This tool will facilitate the identification of information needs through policy content analysis for strengthening the

¹ **Goal 1:** Enabling policy environment to maintain demand for population and social statistics. Supportive and well-coordinated policy environment is in place to ensure effective demand for the production and dissemination of the core set of population and social statistics to support SDG implementation.

² **Goal 3:** Enhanced accessibility and use of the core set of population and social statistics. The core set of population and social statistics is accessible to all key users (including governments, civil society, academia and the business sector) and is used to promote evidence-based advocacy and analysis of policies and programmes.

³ EPIC (which stands for Every Policy is Connected) is an adaptation and expansion of an earlier analytical framework called EquiFrame <https://global-health.tcd.ie/assets/doc/EquiFrame%20Manual_May19_2011.pdf> that has been used elsewhere to analyze policy content based on social principles, mainly in the health sector, to ascertain the extent to which

responsiveness of national statistical systems to policy demands for SDG implementation. The RSG-PSS recognized the importance of providing member states in the region with a generic tool that national statistical offices could use to engage policy makers to enhance understanding and support for disaggregated statistics in the context of “Leave No One Behind” and the 2030 Agenda. The tool is being developed by UNESCAP in collaboration with experts and will be applicable for a wide range of sectors covering the economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainable development. The tool has so far been tested by Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu on the education sector in March 2018, by seven other sectors⁴ in Samoa in June 2018, and by Armenia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand (which are part of the UNESCAP Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative) at the Inception Workshop in April 2018 on women’s economic empowerment policies.

2. **The draft template and guidelines for progress assessment on women’s economic empowerment:** The template will facilitate the production of data driven products to enhance dissemination, use and analysis of gender-sensitive data in the context of women’s economic empowerment. The 2030 Agenda has emphasized that Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review in relation to the progress made in implementing the goals and targets. In response, UNESCAP is working with an expert to develop a generic template and corresponding guidelines to support countries in planning and implementing a systematic and effective progress assessment/situational analysis process, focusing on gender equality and in particular women’s economic empowerment issues.

At the Inception Workshop for the Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative, each country team consisted of three members with a combination of representatives from the national statistical office, the national women’s machinery and the department of planning or a relevant line ministry, which initiated the process of enhancing coordination between national data producer and user groups in the context of women’s economic empowerment. The Inception Workshop marked the first step of the Gender Data-Policy Integration Initiative, and will be followed by national level activities involving the application of the above-mentioned tools and the development of related country reports.

II. The case of the Philippines

At the Inception Workshop in April 2018, the Philippines was represented by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) (hereafter referred to as the Philippines Core Team).⁵

The Philippines Core Team applied the draft Policy-Data Integration tool (EPIC) on the Magna Carta of Women and in specific, analyzed the content of the Sections 22 (Right to Decent Work) and 23 (Right to Livelihood, Credit, Capital and Technology) of the fifth chapter on rights and

policies incorporate fundamental principles (rights based) that protect, promote, and fulfil individuals’ and vulnerable groups’ well-being.

⁴ Agriculture; Community Development; Trade; Tourism; Law and Justice; Health; and Public Administration

⁵ Philippines Core Team: Ms Josie Perez (from PSA), Ms Anita Estrera Baleda (from PCW), and Ms Dulce Paloma (from NEDA).

empowerment of women in the marginalized sector. Some of the key outcomes and lessons learned from this exercise were:

Outcomes:

- a) Identification of issues covered/not covered by the policy/plan, information needs, and related national indicators.
- b) The process of linking information and data needs to National and SDG/other Global/Regional Indicator sets on WEE showed that very few pre-existing indicators were useful to monitor WEE issues in the document under review. Acknowledging this gap was critical for initiating the development of a comprehensive national indicator set for WEE issues, to be continued during the implementation of the national component of the project.

Lessons learned:

- a) The process of policy-data integration requires a whole-of-government approach, including thorough familiarity with the policy/plan under review; and complete analysis of all relevant sections and paragraphs of the policy/plan document by all key stakeholders in order to get comprehensive results.
- b) Identification of a comprehensive set of national indicators relevant for the issues and target groups identified is a critical outcome of the policy-data integration approach. This is challenging process and requires careful consideration and engagement of a wide range of relevant national stakeholders.
- c) Due to time limitation during the Inception Workshop, the mapping with national/regional/global indicators could not be completed. However, the lack of indicators from the national, regional or global development frameworks corresponding to issues identified could be a reflection of information gaps.

III. National-level implementation of the Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative in the Philippines

National outputs for the project

Based on the above outcomes and lessons learned during the Inception workshop, the Philippines Core Team expressed interest to lead the implementation of a series of national activities, including organization of the current national workshop, leading to the development of the following outputs:

1. Output A: Development of a country report based on the results of applying the Policy-Data Integration tool (EPIC) on selected women's economic empowerment policy documents in the country. The report will consist of a set of outputs resulting from the application of the tool including a preliminary national indicator set on women's economic empowerment.
2. Output B: Development of an analytical report on progress assessment and situational analysis on selected women's economic empowerment issues on selected topics such as (i) lack of access of women to social protection and (ii) lack of access of rural women to agricultural resources.

IV. National Workshop on Gender Policy-Data Integration in the context of women's economic empowerment issues in the Philippines

The Philippines Core Team has identified that the achievement of the above-mentioned outputs would need consultation with, and the involvement of, a wide range of national stakeholders at various stages. In line with this, a national workshop will be organized, involving all relevant national ministries/departments in the context of women's economic empowerment, which will lay the foundation for planning and implementing national-level activities under the Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative.

A. Objectives of the national workshop

1. Introduce the latest update on the Policy-Data Integration tool (EPIC); as well as the guidelines for progress assessment in the context of women's economic empowerment and the rationale for these tools to all relevant stakeholders in the Philippines.
2. Conduct hands-on application of the Policy-Data Integration tool (EPIC) to selected policy documents as well as discuss the concept, plan and outline of the analytical report on progress assessment and situational analysis in the context of women's economic empowerment.
3. Finalize the workplan for completion of the national outputs for the project mentioned in item # (III) above and deliberate on the way forward to fully adopt the tools in the Philippines to meet requirements for national monitoring as well as for regional/global reporting in the context of women's economic empowerment.

B. Expected outputs of the national workshop

1. Understanding of information needs, including disaggregation requirements, as outlined in the selected policy documents.
2. Preliminary national indicator set for women's economic empowerment, by aligning national, regional, global indicators, including the SDGs, with policy issues as contained in the document.
3. Preliminary concept, plan and outline for production of a data-driven product involving progress assessment/analysis of selected issues related to women's economic empowerment.
4. Strategy for completion of national outputs for the project as mentioned in item # (III) above, including plan for engagement with relevant national stakeholders.

C. Policy documents for review

Preliminary work undertaken thus far, with support for the Philippines Core Team, has identified the following policy document to be analyzed for data needs and indicator development in the context of women's economic empowerment:

Main policy document to be used for application of EPIC:

1. Magna Carta of Women (MCW)

Planning logic/national indicators sets to be used:

2. Implementing Republic Act 9710 – Magna Carta of Women
3. Gender Equality & Women Empowerment in the Philippines: A Compendium of Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators

Supporting reference document (to be used as needed):

4. Philippine Plan for Gender Responsive Development (PPGRD) 1995-2025

D. National Workshop approach

The National Workshop will run over three days and will constitute of the following parts:

Part I: Plenary session involving all relevant national stakeholders in the context of women’s economic empowerment (1 Day)

Conduct an introductory session for all relevant ministries/departments in the context of women’s economic empowerment within the Philippines Government to:

- a) Provide an update of the Philippines’ progress on integration of the SDGs in national planning, especially on goals and targets pertaining to gender equality and women’s economic empowerment.
- b) Understand the objectives and potential benefits of policy-data integration and development of a comprehensive national indicator set for women’s economic empowerment issues.
- c) Introduce the objectives and rationale of the tools mentioned above.
- d) Understand how women’s economic empowerment issues are integrated in the mandates of various line ministries and how the tools could potentially be used to strengthen on-going work/processes.

Part II: Advanced application of the Policy-Data Integration tool (EPIC) across the selected policy document in the context of women’s economic empowerment (1 day)

Key national stakeholders responsible for the policy document/s listed above will review and finalize the results of application of the generic Policy-Data Integration tool (EPIC),⁶ including identification of the key issues and target groups addressed/not addressed by the policy/plan, association with relevant core concepts, mapping issues to relevant national indicators, and subsequently focus on identification of a preliminary national indicator set for women’s economic empowerment by mapping related national indicators with relevant global and

⁶ The Philippines Core Team will have led the preliminary application of the tool prior to the national workshop on 1-3 August 2018, leading to identification of policy issues, target groups and alignment with core concepts in advance of the workshop. The tool and related guidelines will be provided by UNESCAP prior to the workshop.

regional frameworks such as the SDGs and the Core Set of Gender Indicators for Asia and the Pacific.

Part III: Planning for the development of an analytical report on progress assessment / situational analysis on selected issues on women's economic empowerment identified in Part II of the workshop (0.5 day)

The Philippines Core Team will present their preliminary concept, plan and outline for a data-driven product involving progress assessment on selected women's economic empowerment issues to get feedback from other national stakeholders present at the workshop.⁷ A few statistical methods and approaches for progress assessment in the context of women's economic empowerment will be discussed.

Part IV: Final plenary session involving relevant national stakeholders in the context of women's economic empowerment – The way forward (~0.5 day)

The final plenary session will conclude the workshop with a briefing from the Philippines Core Team on progress made thus far on the application of the tools. The session will discuss lessons learned and involve the development and finalization of a work plan for completion of the two country reports (with remote support from UNESCAP), including timelines, national coordination mechanism/modality and roles of various national stakeholders. It will also seek to understand usefulness of the policy-data integration approach for national planning processes and development of related monitoring/indicator frameworks in the Philippines.

E. Expected participants

The following national ministries/department from the Philippines Government will participate in different sessions of the workshop:

Philippines Core Team:

1. Philippine Statistics Authority
2. Philippine Commission on Women
3. National Economic Development Authority

Other relevant ministries/departments:

4. Department of Education (DepED)
5. Commission on Human Rights (CHR)
6. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
7. Department of Health (DOH)
8. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
9. Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
10. Department of Agriculture (DA)

⁷ The Philippines Core Team will have developed a preliminary concept, plan and outline for the progress assessment/situational analysis report based on the draft template and guidelines to be made available by UNESCAP prior to the workshop.

11. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
12. Senate Economic Planning Office (SEPO)
13. Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD)

F. Resource persons for the national workshop

Resource persons for the workshop will include staff members from UNESCAP based in Bangkok and/or independent experts engaged by UNESCAP.

G. Timing and venue

Timing: The proposed timing for the workshop is 1st to 3rd of August 2018.

Venue: TBC

V. Resource allocation

UNESCAP will provide budgetary support to organize the national workshop (venue related costs and meals) and will also engage resource persons to support the national-level activities and production of national outputs for the project. The Philippines Government is expected to contribute and commit staff time for organization of the national workshop and for the subsequent follow-up and completion of Outputs (A) and (B) mentioned above, in addition to supporting any in-country travel/accommodation of personnel for the national workshop and subsequent activities.
