



National Workshop on Gender Policy-Data Integration in the context of Women's Economic Empowerment in the Philippines

1 – 3 August 2018, Manila, Philippines

Workshop Summary

A. Background

The UNESCAP Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative (GPDI) is designed to support evidence-based policies and programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment. It contributes to the work of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics (RSG-PSS) in Asia-Pacific, which adopted 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.¹ The first phase of the GPDI (April 2018 - March 2019) contributes to goals 1 and 3, with a particular focus on women's economic empowerment (WEE).

The Philippines, represented by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) (hereafter the "Philippine Core Team"), participated in the Inception Workshop for the GPDI held in Bangkok in April 2018, and expressed interest to undertake national-level activities as part of the project. These involve the application of two sets of tools (being developed by UNESCAP), which were presented and experimented during the Inception Workshop:

- (i) the generic Policy-Data Integration Tool (EPIC), which facilitates the identification of information and data needs through policy content analysis (in this case, on WEE policies) for strengthening the responsiveness of national statistical systems to policy demands through the development of a comprehensive indicator set; and
- (ii) the draft template for progress assessment and gender analysis on WEE issues, which facilitates the production of data-driven products/publications to enhance analysis and use of gender-sensitive data in the context of WEE.

It was agreed that the results of application of the tools would be translated into the following national outputs:

1. **Output A:** Consolidation of results of applying the EPIC tool on the Magna Carta of Women (MCW)² - selected as the primary policy document for review by the Philippine Core Team, including the development of a comprehensive national indicator set for monitoring WEE issues in the Philippines.

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/events/first-meeting-regional-steering-group-population-and-social-statistics-and-expert-meeting>

² Republic Act No. 9710. The Magna Carta of Women was selected for content analysis as it is a key policy document related to gender equality and women's empowerment issues in the Philippines. Besides it is almost ten years old and is due for revision over the coming years.

2. Output B: An analytical report on progress assessment and gender-based analysis on a selected WEE issue/s. Two potential topics of immediate relevance for the Philippines are (i) women's access to social protection and (ii) rural women's access to agricultural resources.

B. National Workshop on Gender Policy-Data Integration in the context of Women's Economic Empowerment

Against this background, the above mentioned National Workshop in the Philippines was organized to bring together a range of relevant national government agencies (NGAs) in the context of WEE to raise awareness and to build capacity around the two sets of tools, as well as to lay the foundation for planning and implementing the national-level activities under the GPDI.³ Detailed application of the tools prior to and during the National Workshop was done by participants that represented the Philippine Core Team. The workshop resulted in:

1. Enhanced understanding of priority issues and target groups, data and information needs, including disaggregation requirements, through a detailed content analysis of the MCW.
2. A preliminary set of national sustainable development indicators on WEE, by aligning national, regional, global indicators, including the SDGs, with issues/policy actions as contained in the MCW.
3. A preliminary concept, plan and outline for production of a data-driven analytical product involving progress assessment/gender-based analysis of women's access to social protection in the Philippines.
4. A preliminary plan outlining timelines and roles of NGAs toward completion of national outputs for the project.

C. Outcomes of the National Workshop

1. *Identification of policy and data needs and gaps related to WEE based on content analysis of the MCW*
 - Identification of policy needs/gaps:
 - These were cases where there was need to be more specific about target groups for each policy action/issue mentioned in the MCW (beyond just mentioning women and/or girls as the target group). Examples of potentially relevant more specific target groups for future consideration include women farmers; rural women workers; returning migrant workers; workers in the formal and informal economy; senior citizens; solo parents; urban poor; private educational institutions; etc.⁴
 - These were cases where there was need for additional policy actions/issues for future consideration. Examples of potentially relevant policy actions/issues include developing culture-sensitive training modules (for indigenous women workers

³ National agencies who participated in plenary sessions: Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DoH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Senate of the Philippines (SEPO).

⁴ Non-exhaustive list of examples of policy actions/issues and target groups derived from the results of the EPIC exercise.

including Muslim women); apply disincentives or sanctions to agencies or private institutions not providing special leave benefits to women etc.⁴

- Identification of data needs/gaps:
 - These were cases where policy actions/issues were not adequately or appropriately monitored by national indicators. Examples of policy actions/issues currently not monitored by national indicators include: increased participation and equitable representation of women in decision and policy making processes and bodies; equal treatment of women before the law through elimination of discriminatory provisions; recognition of women's paid and unpaid work as bases for their direct and indirect contribution in the development of the land; skills training for women before taking on jobs overseas, and possible retraining upon return to the country; removal of barriers interfering with women's access to health services and information.⁴
- Development of a preliminary set of national sustainable development indicators on WEE:
 - By mapping national indicators⁵ as well as the SDG indicators and Core Set of Gender Indicators for Asia and the Pacific on policy actions/indicators from the MCW; and
 - Reconciling the indicators identified from the national documents with those from the SDGs and the Core Set of Gender Indicators for Asia and the Pacific.

2. *Recommendations for refining the draft policy-data integration tool (EPIC) and observations related to its application at the national level*

The hands-on application of the EPIC tool on the MCW led to the following observations/suggestions for the improvement of the tool:

- On the EPIC process/steps: it was observed that users of the tool need comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the background/objectives/intent of the policy document to be able to identify target groups, when those are not clearly specified in the policy document.
- On the core concepts:
 - The definition of each core concept using key questions was not found to be very intuitive.
 - Core concepts related to policy actions/issues should be separated from those that relate to target groups.
 - Since the suggested core concepts did not adequately address the context of the MCW, the EPIC template should provide space for refining/adding new core concepts as relevant.
- On the development of the national sustainable development indicator set on WEE:
 - It was observed that users of the tool must have a comprehensive overview of relevant national, regional and global indicator frameworks to successfully undertake the indicator-mapping exercise.
 - The EPIC guidelines need to better explain the significance of reconciling indicators identified from national indicator sets with those from global/regional frameworks. This is not a matching exercise to make the indicators perfectly comparable, but an exercise to align national development priorities with priorities agreed to/endorsed

⁵ The national indicator sets used include indicators from the Monitoring Framework of the Republic Act 9710 (MCW), the Compendium of Monitoring and Evaluation indicators for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) in the Philippines, and the Philippine SDG indicators for initial monitoring.

at the global/regional levels, as well as an exercise to build on nationally developed indicators on WEE with missing/additional dimensions from global/regional indicator frameworks.

- Given that the compendium of GEWE indicators is already vast, further guidance is needed on how to limit the total number of indicators in the national sustainable development indicator set on WEE. One suggestion was to group the indicators by NGA responsible for compilation, so that the total number of indicators does not seem overwhelming to any one NGA. Another suggestion was to group the indicators by measurable targets.

3. Recognition of the value added of the EPIC tool for WEE policy formulation and monitoring, and some related immediate opportunities in the Philippines

In the context of WEE, participants to the national workshop recognized the value added of the EPIC tool in:

- Monitoring the implementation of and outcomes based on the MCW interventions as well as for the upcoming revision of the document and its logical framework (to include a more comprehensive coverage of policy actions/issues and target groups).
- Improving the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment plan and finalizing/refining the Compendium of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) indicators for WEE monitoring, to ensure their direct responsiveness to the GEWE plan and the MCW, in order to address data gaps and avoid data waste.
- Informing improvements in data collection/compilation by adding relevant variables and disaggregation characteristics related to WEE in household surveys/administrative records etc.
- To streamline the research mandate/agenda of the PCW on WEE at the national level.

In general, participants to the workshop recognized the potential of the EPIC tool in:

- Streamlining and prioritizing indicators to make them responsive to policies.
- Optimizing national resource allocation and use by avoiding policy and data waste.
- Fostering systematic and structured collaboration and engagement across NGAs, especially data users and producers.
- Drafting/improving future policies/plans and strategies, through the identification of missing policy actions/issues and target groups in existing policies.
- Updating the results matrix of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022.

Some immediate opportunities identified to raise awareness on and promote uptake of the EPIC tool in the Philippines:

- Feedback session to M&E Division within PCW.
- The existence of inter-agency committees (IAC, by sector) in the Philippines, and the possibility to have a pilot run of the tool at the next IAC meeting. This could eventually help foster a “whole-of-government” approach in using the EPIC tool.
- Upcoming revision of the MCW and GEWE plan (starting 2019).

4. Work plan for the completion of the national outputs

The Philippine Core Team drafted a work plan for the completion of the two national outputs.

- (1) The finalization of the application of EPIC on the MCW and the consolidation of results

- Group meeting including PSA-CTCO-SS Planning for coordination and budgeting (August 2018).
- NEDA has been tasked to consolidate the results of the EPIC group work (Aug – 2nd week of September 2018)
- Philippine Core Team meeting to review EPIC progress and results (3rd week September 2018).
- Finalization of consolidated EPIC (end of October 2018).
- NGAs to be involved: PSA, PCW and NEDA.

(2) The production of an analytical report on progress assessment and gender-based analysis on a selected WEE issue/s

- Preliminary topics suggested by the Philippine Core Team include: the access of marginalized women to social insurance (including for women with disabilities), livelihood and employment (including for returning migrant women) and health insurance (for senior citizens and indigents).
- The purpose of the progress assessment is to assess whether the existing MCW indicators are being used and whether they are sufficient to monitor actions and program activities aiming to solve above mentioned issues.
- Target audience: Policymakers and planners from the PCW and other concerned NGAs like DOLE, DSWD, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippines Social Security System (SSS), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), etc.
- The report targets policy makers and planners from PCW and other NGAs.
- Conceptualization to progress assessment report to begin after finalization of EPIC results. Writing of the progress assessment report (October – December 2018) and finalization of the report (2nd week of January 2019).
- NGAs to be involved: PSA, PCW, NEDA and other NGAs involved in social protection and agricultural resources.

It was recognized that the results of the EPIC tool would be fundamental for the conceptualization and production of the progress assessment and gender analysis report for WEE as the results of the former could guide the selection of policy actions/issues and target groups under the topic and would provide a list of relevant national indicators on WEE for progress assessment.

D. Workshop proceedings

The Workshop consisted of five sessions, alternating between plenary sessions and group work. The first two sessions, involving key national stakeholders for WEE within the Philippines Government, introduced the objectives of the Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative, the rationale for policy-data integration in the context of WEE, and the national policy-data landscape for WEE. The third session was dedicated to the hands-on and comprehensive application of the EPIC tool on the MCW. The fourth session touched upon the process of conducting the gender progress assessment and analysis on selected WEE issues. During the last session of the Workshop, participants reflected on lessons learned from the application of EPIC and the preliminary plan for the gender progress assessment, and developed a short-term plan for the completion of the two country reports. The proceedings are further detailed below.

The first session began by setting the scene on the rationale for policy-data integration in the context of WEE, including understanding the economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions of WEE and the need to identify intersectionalities in the context of vulnerable population groups.

The session also included presentations from the Philippine Core Team on the Philippines' policy-data landscape on WEE:

- NEDA briefed the audience on SDGs nationalization process and the integration of WEE in the PDP and other sectoral policies;
- PCW presented the existing national policy and monitoring frameworks related to WEE, while explaining how the cross-cutting nature of the MCW led the Core Team to select this policy document for the EPIC exercise;
- PSA further explained the intricacies of WEE across the SDGs and reported on the status of compilation of SDG indicators related to WEE.

The session ended with a presentation and discussion on the conceptualization of the policy-data integration process and the identification of policy/data gaps, waste and void.

The purpose of the second session was to give an overview of the EPIC tool to representatives of different NGAs responsible for WEE, and let them experiment the tool. The Philippine Core Team presented their experience on application of EPIC on the PDP, done prior to the National Workshop. Participants reflected on EPIC's conceptual framework and flow chart, and on potential opportunities to use the tool in their respective sector/agency to strengthen on-going work/processes.

The third session involved only members of the Philippine Core Team and focused on comprehensive application of EPIC on the MCW. The Philippine Core Team, divided in four sub-groups with a mix of representatives from PSA, PCW and NEDA, started by reviewing policy actions/issues and target groups and linkages with relevant core concepts. The sub-groups then initiated the development of the national sustainable development indicator set on WEE, by mapping national/global/regional indicators to previously identified policy actions/issues and then reconciling identified national indicators with those from the SDGs/Core Set of Gender Indicators for Asia and the Pacific.

The fourth session focused on the gender progress assessment and analysis on WEE issues. This included a trigger presentation on the considerations, approaches and steps to do such an assessment and analysis. The Philippine Core Team presented the preliminary concept, outline, modalities and timeline of their planned data-driven product. The session also included a short training on statistical methods/approaches for progress assessment and analysis.

During the last session, the fifth session, each sub-group presented the outcomes and lessons learned from the application of EPIC conducted during session 3, and reflected on the value of the tool and opportunities for uptake at the sector and national levels.

Workshop documents and presentations can be found at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/national-workshop-gender-policy-data-integration-context-women-s-economic-empowerment-issues>
