



Gender & Statistics

Gender-differentiated Statistics and Indicators

“What hasn’t been counted, does not count!” – Gender-differentiated statistics

Statistics offer an essential numerical representation of realities and thus provide an important basis for political decisions. At the 4th World Women’s Conference held in Beijing in 1995, it was established that the lives and realities of women and men, girls and boys are often shaped very differently. Therefore, it is necessary to compile, analyse and publish data separately for both sexes. In some areas, for instance in the health and education sector, due to the increase of gender-disaggregated data compilation and analysis, it was possible to gear services and developmental interventions more towards the partly different needs of both sexes. In order to take into account gender-specific disadvantages, needs and potentials, it is important to compile gender-disaggregated data in many other areas, e.g. data about the time use and the division of labour, the distribution of property and assets between women and men,



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as well as sensitive issues like gender-based violence. A gender-sensitive analysis of statistics should go beyond simply disaggregating data according to sex, thus a mere “sex-counting” is not sufficient. Rather, it should question the underlying gender relations which are reflected in the data.

The importance of measurement of women's unpaid work.

In nearly all economies around the world, women perform a larger share of unpaid work than men. Time use surveys provide information about the kind and length of different activities that are carried out by women and men over the course of 24 hours. Such information allows detailed conclusions to be drawn concerning the division of labour, and thus the unpaid work that usually does not appear in many statistical measurements. Given that women often work in the informal sector, their economic contributions are also seldom statistically measured in the ‘paid sector’. This leads to a distorted representation of what women and men respectively contribute to economic wealth and production. Specific information about how women and men use their time are of pivotal importance for the planning of economic and socio-political interventions and for assessing the impact of a government’s revenue and spending policies.

“You can’t monitor development progress without good data!” – Gender-differentiated indicators and indices

In contrast to statistics that reflect the current situation, indicators make reference to changes and objectives, which means that their focus is more on processes. Indicators serve as means to measure the achievement of projects’, programmes’ and policies’ objectives. Gender-differentiated indicators specify whether inequality between the sexes has increased or decreased over time – e.g. in the employment sector, indicators measure access to productive resources or wage ratios. For instance, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is monitored through clearly defined indicators, e.g. the proportion of women in the national parliaments.

In order to measure the various aspects of inequality, several indices have been established in recent years that weigh the economic, political and social dimensions of gender differences and integrate them into a common value. One such example is the index compiled by The World Economic Forum, which combines quantita-

1 World Bank: World Development Indicators 2008, Washington D.C.

Example for gender-differentiated statistics: gender bias in earnings in Cameroon

Sector of employment	Average earnings				Female/Male earnings ratio
	male		female		
	CFA-Franc BEAC per month	US \$ per month	CFA-Franc BEAC per month	US \$ per month	
Formal	79101	190	51346	124	0,65
Informal	31501	76	16504	40	0,52
Agriculture	25540	61	12064	29	0,47

Source: Klasen, S. and W. Kumase, Gender Gap Profile for Cameroon, 2008.

tive and qualitative data from five key areas in order to measure the global gender gap and uses this as a basis to produce a ranking of 128 countries. Furthermore, the African Gender and Development Index was devised by the UN Economic Commission for Africa to enable the monitoring of national efforts and of the progress to reduce the sex-specific disadvantages and inequalities in Africa. The index consists of different data, such as the wages in the formal and informal sector, child mortality and school drop-out rates.

Starting position for German Technical Cooperation

In order to ensure that the availability and the quality of gender-differentiated statistics and indicators are improved, a gender perspective should consistently be integrated into the procedures of national statistical systems.

Analysis of gender-disaggregated data in Cameroon

In Cameroon, the GTZ Gender Programme commissioned a study on the elaboration of a Gender Gap Profile on the basis of existing national data. The data set was analyzed in a gender-sensitive way and the results show precise values on prevailing gender gaps mainly in education, employment and earnings. In this context, a second study – based on own data collection – was elaborated in the agricultural sector of Southern Cameroon. It revealed and statistically demonstrated male domination in the control of revenue of a specific agricultural product – cocoa. Concurrently the work load was shown to be the same for males and females.

The German Technical Cooperation offers advisory services in following areas:

- *Conceptual revision of data collection:* Advice related to the analysis of data that is already available and to their better utilisation. Support for specification of content, to determine which data is required to demonstrate the living conditions of women and men and to develop gender-differentiated policies.
- *Revision of questionnaires:* The wording of questions at times predetermines certain answers that do not adequately reflect reality. In particular, the notion of “employment” often is associated with work in the formal sector, which leads to a systematic under-representation of women’s work.

→ *Adjusting the terminology:* Consultancy in overcoming the emphasis on technical terms in the language used in questionnaires and instruction manuals.

→ *Revision of the interview design:* Many interviews are exclusively conducted with the head of household, who in most cases is male. Especially in countries where the employment of women is culturally not fully accepted, there is reason to assume that men do not admit in interviews that female members of the family are engaged in employment. In order to ensure more realistic results, women should be involved to an equal extent.

→ *Revision of human resource policies:* Advising the statistical offices to increase the recruitment of female members of staff, specifically by hiring female interviewers. In many societies, due to cultural reasons, only women can conduct interviews with women and thereby ensure that a gender specific point of view is sufficiently represented.

→ *User-producer dialogue:* Strengthening the analytical capabilities of public officials and politicians so that they can more accurately define the information needs which the indicators should satisfy. Supporting dialogue between the persons in charge of the statistical systems, gender experts and representatives of women networks on the types of data that should be collected and the conclusions that can be drawn.

→ *Gender-training for employees:* Training and sensitisation of persons at all levels of the hierarchy who are involved with the collection and the processing of data.

→ *Circulation and analysis of the information:* Support for the analysis and the publication of gender-disaggregated and sex-specific data.

Literature & Links

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische
Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn / Germany

T: +49 6196 79 -0
F: +49 6196 79 - 11 15
E: info@gtz.de
I: www.gtz.de

For further information, please contact:

Programme Promoting Gender Equality
and Women’s Rights
Christine Brendel
(Programme Director)

T: +49 (0)61 96 -79 -4121
F: +49 (0)61 96 -79 -80 4121
E: gender@gtz.de
I: www.gtz.de/gender

