

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT (ACGD)

**SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON THE GUIDEBOOK FOR
MAINSTREAMING UNPAID WORK AND HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTION
INTO NATIONAL STATISTICS, BUDGETS AND POLICIES**

AIDE MEMOIRE

1. Background and Justification

The United Nations, through the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals has identified non-market work (NMW) as a key area of policy intervention for improving the situation of those in unpaid sector, especially that of women. However, ten years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, countries have not yet integrated household production, which represents largely women's contribution into national income accounts.

Economics is blind to the unpaid work and production of women (and men) within the households. The economy is equated with activities that are open to monetary exchange; work being defined as paid work. Consequently, only paid employment and the exchange of commodities for money is registered as part of GDP in national accounting systems. By doing so, women's contributions to the national economy are invisible. Policy discussions about growth and development and the economy do not factor in household production and services as contributions to the total national economy, neither do they consider reforms at the household level as well.

Moreover, national and regional statistical systems in Africa have not made progress to generate gender-disaggregated data (GDD) that are needed to help understand, evaluate and monitor systems and policies. The lack of GDD on the household sector is a major bottleneck, both at the national and regional levels, in the process of designing, monitoring and evaluating gender-responsive policies and strategies including poverty reduction.

The ECA has developed a Guidebook for integrating household production into national poverty reduction policies in Africa. This Aide Memoire will introduce modalities of operationalising the Guidebook. The Guidebook contains a compendium of tools that policy makers can use to improve the effectiveness of

economic policies that target poverty reduction and gender equality. One of the key components relates to procedures to help governments prepare satellite accounts. The African Center for Gender and Development (ACGD) plans to introduce the Guidebook to national experts in 5 sub-regional workshops.

2. Objective of the Workshop

The overall objective is to strengthen national capacities in the production, use and dissemination of statistics related to gender issues at the national and regional levels in order to influence policies and programmes for the benefit of women. In particular, the workshop will enhance the capacities of national practitioners in collecting data for preparing regular National Satellite Accounts of Household Production (NSAHP) as well as constructing and analysing the outcome of NSAHP.

3. Expected Outcomes

A total of 125 experts from the 5 sub-regions of Africa will be trained in the use of the Easy Reference Guide.

At the end of the workshop, participants will be expected to:

- Become better acquainted with the field of household production, household economy and gender statistics;
- Better understand the international classification of activities for time-use statistics, undertake time-use studies, and prioritize further work at the national level to prepare satellite or parallel accounts of women's and men's unremunerated economic contribution;
- Build their knowledge to improve (and adopt) the concepts and methods in the Guidebook for generating data on the full contribution of women and men to the economy by taking steps to measure and make visible their participation in the informal sectors; and
- Use more gender sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects and to integrate gender concepts, including through household production and the household economy, into the statistical system.

4. The Training Program

The training program will comprise of two parts:

4.1 Introductory Session

During this session, participants will share their experiences on data collection relating to gender and the household economy. Specifically, participants will inform each other of the work they are already undertaking in the area of statistical collection and analysis and their existing databases in order to learn where they are regarding collection of gender – related and household production statistics, and to identify some gender issues being addressed in national statistics, programmes and policies in their own countries.

4.2 Training Modules

The principal training document for the workshop is the Guidebook. It is organized in three parts. Part I contains information on concepts relating to household production. Part II shows how new official statistics through time-use surveys, national accounts of household production and continuous household surveys can be produced to cover the glaring gaps in the present statistical systems of Africa. Part III explains in more detail the important linkages of household production to macroeconomic policy. It provides insights into the ways in which a wider vision of production and work can guide policy in promoting greater gender equity.

The Guidebook consists of the following 7 modules:

Module 1: Household Production and the Household Economy

This module explains the meanings of Household production and Household economy. The household production refers to the production of goods and services by members of a household, for their own consumption, using their own capital and their own unpaid labor. It also includes helping other households without receiving monetary reward either directly on a household-to-household basis or on a cooperative basis through voluntary organizations, schools, clubs and societies.

Module 2: Time-use Surveys (TUS)

This module provides tools for conducting time-use surveys. Time-use surveys are used to investigate how women, men and children allocate time among different tasks and the time they have for rest and leisure. Time use surveys help

in promoting better understanding of the economy and society. They can also help in estimating total economic production and income for good quality national accounts, which are vital for economic policy-making and research.

Module 3: National Satellite Accounts of Household Production (NSAHP)

The focus of this model is on NSAHP as the main framework for mainstreaming gender in national accounts, budgets, and policies. NSAHP are sets of accounts developed as an expanded version of the central accounts that provide an overall picture of the productive activities of households and give an estimate of the value of household production undertaken mostly by women. They cover domestic and care-giving services; subsistence production and other kinds of informal enterprises for own final use; unpaid volunteer/informal domestic and care giving services to other households; and production of housing services by owner-occupiers (imputed rents of owner-occupied housing).

Module 4: Continuous Household Surveys

This module provides a tool for conducting continuous household surveys. Continuous household surveys are national studies of a representative sample size of not more than 5,000 households per country conducted annually, rather than monthly as they are in most developed countries. The data would be used through NSAHP to understand the short-term dynamics between the household economy and the market economy, and to generate gender-disaggregated data for constructing gender-aware macroeconomic models.

Module 5: Policy Strategies on Household Production

This module outlines six policy strategies for a national policy on household production. It provides a guide as to how macroeconomic policies can be used to reduce gender bias and how a continuous monitoring of national policies on household production can be maintained.

Module: 6 Impacts of national policies on poverty reduction and welfare

This module provides a guide to understand the implications of integrating household production into national policies on welfare and poverty reduction. It demonstrates the applications of statistics on household production in national accounts systems and identifies policy options, responses and advocacy channels to promote gender equality by integrating household production in the development process.

Module 7: Integration of Household Production in Government Budgets

The final module explains how the government budget can be used as an important tool of macroeconomic policy to enhance both women's contributions and men's contributions to total economic system and poverty reduction and welfare enhancement.

Government budgets are particularly important in redressing the heavy time burden on women. Gender Responsive Budgets (GRBs) can have a significant impact on the heavy time burden of domestic work. Reducing time burden means increasing labour productivity in the household economy and hence reducing poverty. Thus it is important for poverty analysis to include gender-based time budget analysis, and to give the highest priority to measures that save time.

5. Target Group

The workshop is intended for producers and users of statistics. The target groups for the workshop include the following:

- Senior National Statisticians from National Statistical Bureau
- Senior National Accountants from National Statistical Bureau
- Senior Gender Experts from the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

6. Date and Venue

The Workshop will be held on 12-16 December 2005 in Rabat (Morocco).

For further information, kindly contact Ms. Semia Guermas de Tapia

SAO

UNECA-SRO/NA

Tel: 00-212-39-322 346

Fax: 00-212-39-340 357

Email: tapia@un.org

Email: srdc-na@uneca.org