

Acknowledgements

This report is the outcome of years of sustained and focused work to enhance the use of statistical tools to collect and analyze sex disaggregated data within African countries. It was developed under the dedicated leadership of the Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the ECA, Abdoulie Janneh and the Deputy Executive Secretary, Lalla Ben Barka. The African Women's Report (AWR) benefited from the former Director of the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGS), Josephine Ouédraogo, who believed in an index that can better reflect African member States' performance in addressing regional gender and social development issues. Deepest appreciation also goes to Monique Rakotomalala, Director of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGS). Since joining the Division in April 2009 she has been relentless in advancing the cause of women and children and demonstrating a passion for fostering positive change in their lives.

The AWR is the result of years of work in developing the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) which forms the basis for this report. Following the AGDI's development the UNECA piloted data collection based on this statistical and analytical tool in 12 African countries using an intensive two-way consultative process. Through this, the AWR benefited from the input of specialists with diverse sets of expertise from the fields of gender and development, statistics, political, social and development.

Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Chief of the Gender and Women in Development Section of the ACGS provided meticulous guidance and intellectual input into the report's production. Her interest and devotion to the project has been an inspiration to the team members.

Tacko Ndiaye and Beatrice Duncan were team leaders during the evolution of the AGDI and production of AWR at different times. Tacko Ndiaye was instrumental in the collection of data from the 12 countries, the finalisation of national AGDI reports, as well as the initial drafting of the AWR. Beatrice Duncan provided extensive technical contributions to the finalisation of the AWR. Her dedication to this work and the remarkable effort she invested in the collation of all the relevant data are greatly appreciated.

Acknowledgements also go to the two senior experts who assisted the UNECA develop the AGDI. Special thanks to Saskia Wieringa and Jacques Charmes for their contributions, guidance and support in the design of this groundbreaking tool. Saskia

Wieringa is the Director of the International Information Center and Archives for the Women's Movement in Amsterdam and is also affiliated as a senior researcher to the University of Amsterdam. Jacques Charmes is an economist and statistician serving as the Director of Research at the Institute of Research for Development.

A team of dedicated ACGS staff worked tirelessly to provide the technical expertise and background input required to ensure that the project was brought to completion. This team was comprised of Souleymane Abdallah, Souad Ben Abdennebi, Rose Aderolili, Houda Mejri, Omar Abdourahman, Meaza Ashenafi, Emelang Leteane, Selamawit Abebe, Tiruset Haile, Gladys Mutangadura, Adrian Gauci, Elizabeth Woldemariam, Oumar Diallo, Sher Verick, Sandra Zawedde, Meron Tewfik and Berhanu Tesfaye.

The administrative team of the Centre also provided invaluable support. Tigist Eshetu, Mekdes Faroni, Hannan Mohamed, Atkilt Ethan, Sofanit Abebe, Yatenayet Wogayehu, Meaza Bekele, Shitaye Tilahun, Tiblest Tesfaye and Abraham Kassa are to be given special mention. The Centre is also immensely grateful to Beatrice Nzovu who was an intern with the Centre from May-August 2009 for her dedicated contributions to the finalization of the report. Equally so is the support provided by Daniel Assefa in the production of some of the diagrams contained in the report.

The report could not have been produced without the willingness of the 12 countries involved in the study to provide well-researched information through the appointed teams. Gratitude goes to each of them for enthusiastically undertaking this task. The institutions and teams included: *Benin*-Marie-Odile Attanaso, Eric Abiassi, Gracia Adjinacou, Romeo Gansey, Franck Monsede Adoho, Albert Honlonkou and Hortentia Acacha; *Burkina Faso*-Kabore Moussa, Dabire Bonayi, Sandwidi Rose Marie, Kone Michel, Traore/PALE Celestine, Ouderaogo Aziz, Kam Ole Alain, Sanou Erjouman, Tougma Ignace and Zongo Abdoulaye; *Cameroon*- Members of the Economic Policy Research Group consisting of Njomgang Claude, Chameni Nembua Célestin, Binyoum née Libom Adèle Marie; *Egypt*- Salwa Sharawi Gomaa, Bothaina Mohamed Ally Eldeeb, Fatma El Ashry, Amal Fouad, Ghada Abdulla, Amira Gamal El Din, Madiha Soleiman, Nahed Abdel Hamid, Mervat Khalil, Hana El Huseny, Ahmed Haggag, Maha El Adawy and Ghada El Sherif; *Ethiopia*- Emebet Mulugeta, Haregewoin Cherinet, Original Giorgis, Rahel Bekele, Yigremew Adal, Dilu Shaleka, Mulumebet Zenebe, Salah Yusuf and Tizita Mulugeta; *Ghana*- Mariama Awumbila, Clara Fayorsey and Philomena Nyarko; *Madagascar*- Rakotomavo Freddie, Rakotondra Velo Hantalaina, Ramahatra Roland, Rambeloma Tiana, Randranarivelo Benjamina, Razafindrabe Leon, Rakotomavo Freddie, Rakotondra Velo Hantalaina and Ramahatra Roland; *Mozambique*-Destina Uinge, Filomena J. Malalane, Georgina Zoguene, Maria José Arthur, Rosita Alberto, Joao Paulo de Azevedo, Emilia Machaieie and Terezinha da Silva; *Tunisia*- Institut de Sondage et Traitement de L'information Statistique consisting of Hosni Nemsia, Moncef Youzabachi, Wifak

Barouni, Hassiba Chabaana and Hmida Chaouch; *South Africa*- Likhapha Mbatha, Debbie Budlender, Catherine Albertyn, Shireen Hassim, Grace Khunou, Ntibidi Rampete, Perthu Serote and Ponosi Tabane; *United Republic of Tanzania*- Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, consisting of Ruth Meena, Robert Mhamba, Agrippina Mosha, Jerry Makindara, Radegunde, Simon Peter, Claude Mung'ong'o, Radhiya Rajab and Lilian Liundi; and *Uganda*-Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women, consisting of Marren Akatsa-Bukachi, Florence Kyoheirwe Muhangazi Jane Mubehamwe, Regina Bafaki, Christine Nankubuge, Sam Tumugarukire, James Muwonge and Rita Aciro.

The Regional Advisory Panel that accompanied the process made invaluable comments and contributions to AGDI's development and pilot implementation. Its members included: Bertha Omari Koda-Tanzania, Kamal Samy Selim-Egypt, Mireille Maténin Coulibaly-Cote d'Ivoire, Sylvia Rosila Tamale-Uganda, Anne Letsebe-South Africa, Leila Ben Ali-Tunisia and Rose Mensah-Kutin-Ghana.

The publication was subject to both internal and external reviews. The internal review benefited from the participation of representatives from other UNECA divisions. They were Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi, Diarra Demba, Joseph Atta-Mensah, Emebet Mesfin, Thierry Amoussougbo, Dimitri Sanga, Boris-Ephrem Tchoumavi and Yinka Adeyemi. Ngone Diop of the UNECA West Africa Sub Regional Office and Chrystelle Tsafack Temah of the Sub Regional Office of Central Africa also provided comments and detailed inputs into both the AGDI and AWR.

The team of independent external reviewers who made significant contributions to the report comprised of Pita Alfandega, Rabezahary Bakolimalala, Matenin Coulibaly, Elizabeth Kyasiimire, Oumarou Songre, Evelyne Agyemfra and Auxillia Ponga.

The role of Hosni Nemsia, the leader of the country team of Tunisia in the provision of technical backstopping in the preparation of statistical tables, computations of indices in addition to his extensive contributions to the entire process is immensely appreciated.

The editorial contributions of Dana Peebles of Kartini International, Canada are also highly valued.

The UNECA further wishes to acknowledge its great debt to Akila Belembaogo, the UNICEF Liaison Officer and Special Representative to the African Union and the UNECA for facilitating the procurement of vital data and other information used in the report. Many thanks also to Holly Newby, Project Officer, Statistics and Monitoring Section Division of Policy and Practice of UNICEF Headquarters for her support in this effort.

The Centre appreciates the professional services and support provided by the Publications and Conference Management Section of UNECA. Of particular mention are Marcel Ngoma-Mouaya, Etienne Kabou, Charles Ndungu, Teshome Yohannes and Getachew Tegegn, all of whom facilitated the report's production and translation.

Of critical mention, the project could not have been accomplished without the financial support of UNECA's development partners, namely, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Department for International Development, the Governments of Denmark and the Netherlands and the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation. Their commitment to seeing this project through gave it the much-needed impetus to be a success. The UNECA is immensely grateful to them for their steadfast support.