

The Technical Advisory Group

A technical advisory group has been organized to ensure that the quality of data and analysis meet the highest possible standard. It is composed of representatives from:

- ↓ Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
- ↓ Central Statistics Office
- ↓ Afghanistan National Development Strategy Office
- ↓ National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Team
- ↓ Ministry of Public Health
- ↓ Ministry of Education
- ↓ Ministry of Interior
- ↓ Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
- ↓ Ministry of Higher Education
- ↓ Centre for Policy and Human Development, University of Kabul
- ↓ The Asia Foundation
- ↓ United Nations Development Programme
- ↓ United Nations Children's Fund
- ↓ GTZ
- ↓ United Nations Population Fund
- ↓ Afghanistan International Bank

The Technical Advisory Group is Chaired by MOWA Statistics Unit with technical backstopping of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). For more details, please contact Golochotai Azimi at 079901432.

Policy Commitments on Gender and Statistics:

▪ Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS)

"Government data development and monitoring efforts will focus on poverty and vulnerability analysis, disaggregated by population groups, economic status and gender, building upon NRVA analysis"

▪ Beijing Platform for Action

"Ensure the regular production of statistical publication on gender that presents and interprets topical data on women and men in a form suitable for a wide range of non-technical users." *Para 207(a)*

"Ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analyzed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society" *Para. 206(a)*

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Gender and Statistics 'bridging the gender divide'

Good development planning depends on statistics that accurately show the life situations of people. Reliable statistics enables decision makers to adopt evidence-based policies and programs that directly address people's difficulties.

To ensure that women's concerns are considered in development planning, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, with the support of UNIFEM, The Norwegian Government and the adhoc Technical Advisory Group on Gender and Statistics is coming up with a publication entitled, "*Women and Men in Afghanistan: A Handbook of Baseline Statistics on Gender*". The handbook presents a gender analysis of sex disaggregated statistics that are available so far in Afghanistan.

Why gender sensitive statistics?

Gender sensitive statistics are those that show the situation of women and men and provide factual representation of the status and roles of women and men in society. They serve as basis for gender sensitive policies and programs which then determine the allocation of resources and focus of action by government.

The absence of gender statistics reinforces the invisibility and marginalization of gender concerns in the development process, and consequently, the continuous disadvantage of women in society.

Women and Men in Afghanistan:

A Handbook of Baseline Statistics on Gender

Background. The development of the handbook is an offshoot of the successful compilation of 56 published reports on women's issues in Afghanistan. This step led to the development of a situation analysis on women, that is now part of the Interim National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (INAPWA).

Objectives. The handbook aims to establish a common baseline on gender sensitive statistics that government and partners can use in the process of promoting women's advancement and monitoring changes in their lives and status.

Target users. The handbook is designed to be used by statisticians, planners, policy and decision makers, budget officers, program developers and implementers, media, teachers, students, NGOs, law makers, researchers, and any one who works for social justice and pro-people development.

Contents. The substantive content of the handbook is organized around 7 chapters, namely: *Population; Security; Legal Protection and Human Rights; Leadership and Political Participation; Economy, Work and Poverty; Health; and Education.*

Each chapter presents the available statistics on women and men in that particular sector based on the data and indicator framework on gender and statistics that was developed by MOWA and UNIFEM with the support of the Economic Commission on Asia and the Pacific and the Central Statistics Office. More importantly, the handbook presents an analysis of the statistics from a gender perspective, calling attention to the issues that must be addressed. The handbook also informs the reader about essential data that are not yet available, in the hope that they would be considered in future data collection.

Do you know that...

- 48 Afghan woman dies everyday due to reproductive complications (I-NAPWA Kabul, 2006)
- Afghanistan has around 1 million widows, the average age of which is 35 years and 94 percent of whom are illiterate. Around 90 percent of them have child dependents. Many have no sources of income (Research finding quoted by D. Zalesne)
- The number of girls in the secondary schools decreased at the rate of 4.7% per annum during 2004 to 2005 (Calculated by UNIFEM using CSO 2006 Statistical Yearbook data)
- Only 16% of females in Afghanistan are literate (NRVA 2005, Kabul)
- About 2% of the households in Afghanistan are headed by women. A considerable number of them do not have able earning member (NRVA 2005, Kabul)
- In 2003, only 14% of births in Afghanistan were attended by skilled health personnel (ADB Key Indicators 2006)
- Gross enrollment ratio in secondary education in Afghanistan is only 5% for girls (compared to 25% for boys) (ADB Key Indicators 2006)
- In higher education, gross enrollment ratio for girls is nearly zero (ADB Key Indicators 2006)
- The affirmative action policy under Articles 83 and 84 has put Afghanistan as the 20th country in the world with the highest representation of women in Parliament (United Nations, 2005, Facts and Figures on Women, Peace and Security)