



National Capacity Building Workshop on Using Demographic and CRVS-Related Data and Evidence to Inform Gender-Sensitive Policies in Bangladesh

14-15 February 2024, Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh

1. Background

While numerous data may be collected, and even analyzed and disseminated in technical vital statistical reports, the key points of the data, their interpretations, and resulting recommendations for policy purposes are often lost. Reports often present hard numbers, with little analysis or explanation, leaving it up to the reader to interpret. Policy makers are not necessarily statistical experts and may not have the time or inclination for in-depth analysis themselves. Thus, to have a real, tangible impact on policy, data producers need to disseminate findings in a way that is conducive to policy use. However, data producers often lack the skills and capacity to do so. Many lack confidence to accurately interpret their findings and to provide relevant policy implications and recommendations.

Further, many existing country-level data sets offer limited insights on gender-related issues. Demographic data on sex (i.e. the biological categorization of male and female) may be available but other indicators that describe gender issues (i.e. women and girl's disproportionate access to resources and decision-making) are limited. Conducting gender analysis on existing data can help strengthen policy recommendations that positively affect gender power relations, and also serve as an advocacy tool for strengthening routine data collection on gender issues.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region have indicated they need support to ensure that data and evidence can be presented to and used by policy makers, thus taking evidence to action. This initiative aims to ensure data are used adequately and effectively for policy purposes, thereby increasing demand for high quality data and leading to improvements in data production, analysis and dissemination, creating a positive feedback mechanism.

On July 11-12th 2023, the first consultative meeting on Supporting Evidence to Inform Policy Outcomes in Bangladesh (or Evidence to Action (E2A)) engaged a core group of relevant knowledge producers and users to determine the following:

1. Types of synthesized knowledge useful for decision making around CRVS.
2. Preferred delivery mechanisms of synthesized knowledge.

3. Existing gaps and challenges for access and sharing knowledge.
4. Skills and capacity gaps for E2A.
5. Training needs for data users and producers to improve utilization of data for policy.
6. Priority topic areas for the country related to existing CRVS data using a gender lens.

Following this meeting, consultations were held with key stakeholders, namely Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health, and the Office of Registrar General, to determine a priority topic area/s, which aligned with the objectives of the Bangladesh E2A initiative. From these meetings, the priority topic selected to be the focus of the Bangladesh E2A was *Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy*.

Going forward, as part of this work, relevant national stakeholders with support from ESCAP, will generate relevant gender-sensitive knowledge product/s and dissemination material/s based on the priority topic selected. These processes and draft product/s will be discussed, reviewed and shared at the national capacity building workshop to support data users and producers navigate the E2A cycle.

2. Approach:

The National Capacity Building Workshop on Using Demographic and CRVS-Related Data and Evidence to Inform Gender-Sensitive Policies in Bangladesh will engage relevant data producers and users and strengthen capacity on bridging the gap between evidence and policy / practice in the E2A cycle.

3. Participants of the National Workshop:

The workshop will engage a core group of CRVS data producers, data users, decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders in Bangladesh. This will include representatives from the national statistics office, national focal points for CRVS, Local Government Division and/or ministries of health, justice, women's affairs, representatives from implementing partner organizations and academia and other key users of CRVS data.

4. Intended outcomes of the Workshop:

Intended outcomes:

- Improved understanding of E2A processes including:
 - Collaborating to identify gender-relevant priority topic area/s.
 - Identifying and analysing relevant existing data on selected priority topic area/s.

- Synthesizing knowledge, identifying policy implications and articulating policy-driven messages.
- Generating knowledge products for decision-making such as policy briefs, infographics, etc.
- Targeting and disseminating knowledge product/s for decision-making.
- Generating and leveraging collaboration mechanisms for iterative and sustainable improvement and engagement through strengthened networks between data producers and users.
- Increased skills in critical E2A areas based on capacity needs identified in the consultations.

This will be accomplished through a combination of activities including:

- Presentations on the generic E2A cycle including ways to integrate a gender perspective.
- Presentations on E2A processes undertaken in Bangladesh and final knowledge products on 'Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy' being developed, including lessons learned through the process.
- Networking opportunities for data users and producers to share insights on their roles, responsibilities, and concerns with E2A.

5. Workshop participants should prepare in advance:

All participants are asked to reflect on the points below prior to the workshop.

Data producers

- What gender-relevant CRVS data does your ministry / organisation collect and how is it collected?
- What are some gender-relevant CRVS-related variables of interest.
- How does your ministry / organisation most commonly make the CRVS-related data it collects available to other internal or external organisations? (e.g., reports, websites).
- Are there examples of how the CRVS-related data your ministry / organisation collects have been used to inform policy formulation?

Data users

- How do you currently use CRVS data for decision-making, if at all?
- How could sex and gender data support your policy formulation and decision-making?
- What might make it easier for you to use CRVS data for policy formulation and decision-making?
- How do you prefer to receive synthesized knowledge generated from CRVS-related data?
- How can data producers and users better work together to increase CRVS-related data for decision making?

Tentative Two-Day Program

Program Sessions

- 1: Welcome, overview, and workshop objectives
- 2: Evidence to Action topics and progress in Bangladesh and gender integration
- 3: Data analysis and synthesis
- 4: Identifying key policy implications and relevant stakeholders
- 5: Generating policy recommendations
- 6: Strategies for presentation and dissemination
- 7: Developing gender-sensitive knowledge products
- 8: The way forward

Contact:

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