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## WORKSHOP ON ANALYSIS OF DHS DATA FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

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### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

MEASURE DHS+ is conducting a workshop designed to build capacity in gender analysis of Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. The workshop is targeted to mid-level health and population officers, program managers and other professionals involved with the implementation of population, health, and nutrition programs in developing countries that have implemented a DHS. The goal of the workshop is to enable participants to analyze and interpret core DHS data and other demographic and health data within a framework that explicitly accounts for gender roles, needs, and relations. The workshop will take place at the offices of ORC Macro, Calverton, Maryland, USA from October 8 through October 26.

#### **Rationale**

For most of the 1990s—especially since the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994—population, health and development organizations have been challenged to integrate gender concerns into their activities, sometimes with the aim of ensuring gender equity but more often to better meet reproductive goals. Requirements to 'mainstream gender' have become common. In some cases, implementing organizations are being required to provide evidence that they are integrating 'gender concerns' into their products. Even funding organizations are asked to ensure 'gender sensitivity' in projects that they fund. However, there is little guidance available on either what *mainstreaming gender* is, or what it means to integrate *gender concerns* into population and health-related activities. The term 'gender' is more often than not equated to women, women's issues, or women's concerns alone. This gives rise to a common confusion: if a project is concerned with women, as population or maternal health projects tend to be, gender concerns are, by definition, in-built. Another common misconception is that 'gender' is something that needs to be added on to a project. Few understand that integrating gender is *an approach*: an approach based on gender analysis, which defines, among other things, what considerations should be brought to bear when a project or an analysis is being designed, the information needed, and the questions asked. Further, even if there is no confusion about definitions, there are questions about data. To be able to integrate a gender perspective, are 'new' data always needed? How can we use available data to tell us what we need to know? If 'new' data are required, what types of data need to be collected? What types of monitoring and evaluation indicators reflect gender concerns?

#### **Goal of the workshop**

To enable participants to conduct gender analysis using DHS data relevant to their population, health, and nutrition (PHN) research or program portfolios. Gender analysis refers to methodologies that identify and interpret the consequences of gender relations and inequities for

achieving development objectives and provide an understanding of the environment in which development policies, programs, and projects operate. It examines the disparities in roles, activities, needs, constraints, opportunities, and power associated with being male or female in a given context and looks at how these attributes affect and are affected by interventions and policies.<sup>1</sup> Using this approach the workshop will focus, for the main part, on data usually obtained from the core DHS Women's Questionnaire, to identify, construct, and learn to talk about gender-relevant indicators. Qualitative approaches that can complement these indicators will also be discussed. A framework linking gender and PHN outcomes will help guide the identification of relevant indicators. While some of these indicators will take the form of sex differentials, others will be based on gender analysis of PHN outcomes of interest. The workshop will then explore how these and other indicators can be used to better understand and overcome hurdles in the achievement of fertility, family planning, reproductive health, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS related outcomes.

### **Objectives of the workshop**

- Participants will learn what gender really means, why it is important, and what gender analysis entails within a population, nutrition, and health framework.
- Participants will learn what types of gender indicators can be developed from existing DHS data and how these indicators can best be used to provide an understanding of gender roles, activities, needs, and constraints relevant to population, health, and nutrition (PHN) concerns. While the core DHS data have been widely used to examine PHN outcomes, it is not well recognized that these data are also a rich source of gender-related indicators.
- Participants will learn about the role of qualitative, gender-related data in improving the understanding of demographic and health phenomena.
- Participants will be exposed to gender-related programs in other organizations in the Washington, D.C., area.
- Using their training in gender analysis and knowledge of available gender indicators in the DHS, participants will learn how to apply a gender lens to existing indicators of fertility, family planning, mortality, health, and nutrition. Specifically, participants will analyze the DHS data from their own countries and learn to answer such questions as: How does a gender perspective change the way I conduct analyses or interpret these data? What do these data reveal about gender roles? How do indicators of gender add to my understanding of these demographic and health indicators from a program perspective? What additional data would be useful for program purposes?
- Participants will develop a gender profile for their own countries and use it to prepare and make a presentation that discusses the relevance of this profile to their specific PHN-related areas of expertise.

### **Methods**

Participatory, hands-on training including reading, discussions, data analysis, development of a gender profile for each country, and participant presentations. Specifically, the methods used will include:

- reading on gender and the analysis of demographic and health data from a gender perspective;

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<sup>1</sup> This definition of gender analysis is adapted from a manual for integrating gender into PHN programs being prepared under the aegis of the USAID Interagency Gender Working Group.

- conducting simple data analyses using DHS data;
- one or more visits to local organizations conducting gender-sensitive PHN relevant research and dissemination activities;
- preparing and making presentations based on their gender-related analyses of DHS data for their own countries.

**Language of the workshop**

English

**Who will be teaching the workshop?**

The workshop will be taught by a team of experts from ORC Macro led by the gender specialist, Dr. Sunita Kishor, with speakers from other population and health-related organizations.

**Minimum requirements for participation**

The workshop is targeted to mid-level health and population officers, program managers and other professionals involved with the implementation of population, health, and nutrition programs in developing countries that have implemented a DHS. Since the workshop will involve hands-on data analysis, familiarity with DHS data is desirable but not required. Participants need not have had any prior training in gender issues.

**Costs**

The fee for the course is \$4,000 and living expenses are estimated at \$3,200. These costs do not include airfare, visa fees, ground transportation, short-term health insurance, or other expenses. Fellowships from MEASURE *DHS+* are not available and participants will need to obtain funding from USAID or another sponsor.

Those interested in attending the workshop should fill in the attached application form—printing clearly in block letters—and either fax it to Annie Cross at 301-572-0999 or e-mail it to [cross@macroint.com](mailto:cross@macroint.com) and to [kishor@macroint.com](mailto:kishor@macroint.com).

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### APPLICATION FORM

Family name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (office) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Country of citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ Passport number \_\_\_\_\_

Employment: Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe in a few sentences what your present duties and responsibilities are:

Write a few sentences on why you would like to attend this workshop and what you hope to gain from it:

Funding. All participants must secure funding to attend the course.

Funding will be provided by: \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently seeking funding from: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax this form to Annie Cross at 301.572.0999 or e-mail to [cross@macroint.com](mailto:cross@macroint.com) and to [kishor@macroint.com](mailto:kishor@macroint.com).