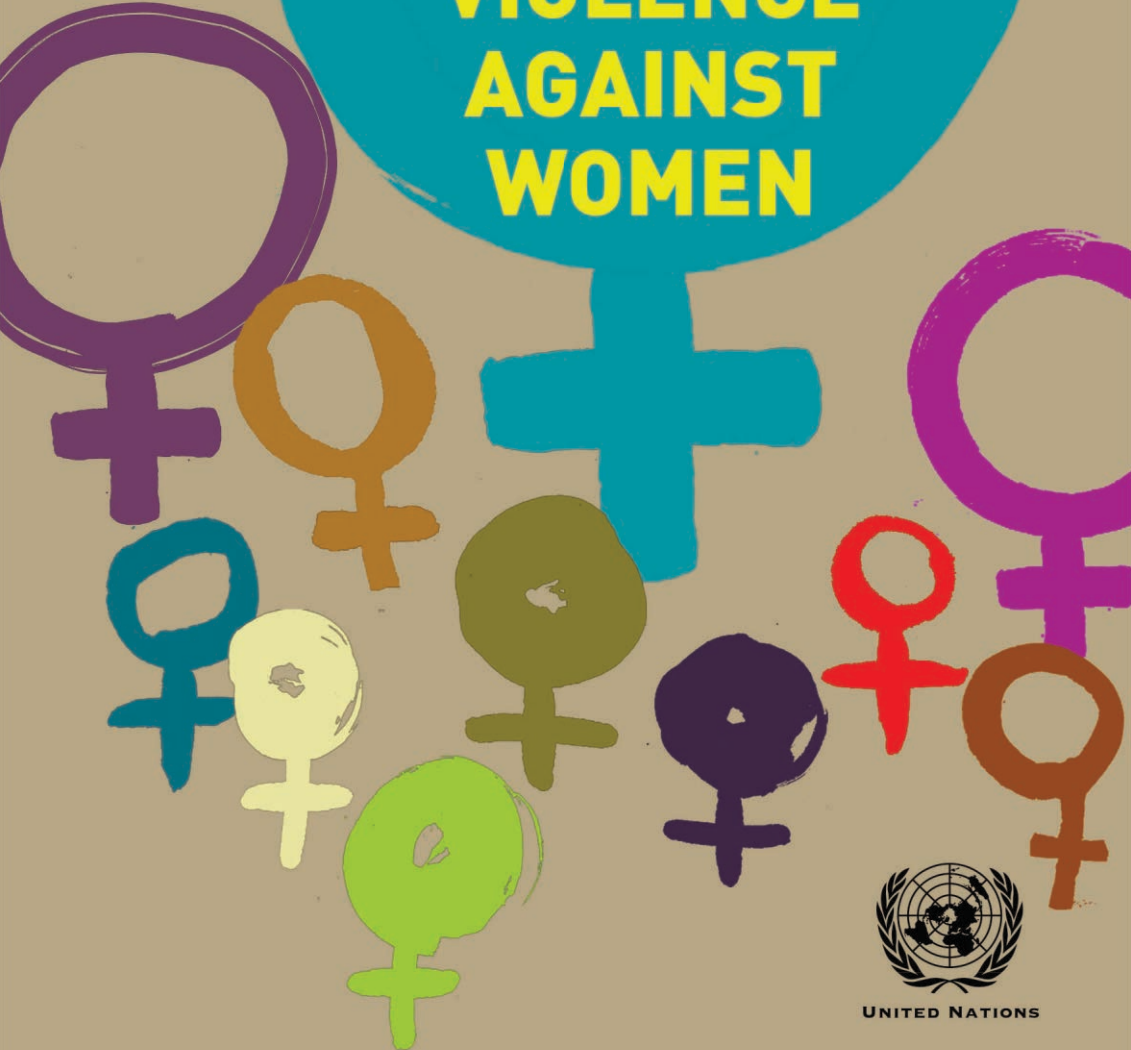


The United Nations Regional Commissions

ENHANCING
CAPACITIES
TO **ERADICATE**
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN



UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Regional Commissions

**Enhancing Capacities
To Eradicate Violence
Against Women**



UNITED NATIONS

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This document has been prepared by Lezak Shallat, consultant with the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC. The document has been prepared in the framework of the United Nations Development Account project (sixth tranche) "Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities" coordinated by ECLAC and implemented jointly with ECA, ECE, ESCAP and ESCWA.

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The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Organizations.

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Foreword

While the phenomenon of violence against women is certainly not of recent origin, a strategic and systematic approach to measuring and combating it is.

United Nations Statistical Commission, 40th session (2009)

Violence against women takes a variety of forms and affects millions of women in every country in the world, cutting across cultural, religious and socioeconomic divides. A violation of the most fundamental human right, gender-based violence limits women's physical and economic autonomy and remains a major impediment to achieving gender equality.

Yet information on the true extent of violence against women remains limited, and its lack is an obstacle for the development of an effective response. Many countries do not have basic data to measure the extent of the violence, and there is rarely a baseline from which to monitor and evaluate the effect of policies, legislation and services. Where data does exist, it is often from administrative records—based on cases reported to officials and registered in statistics from health, police, social welfare and court cases, for example—and is neither coordinated nor compiled into a national picture. Given the sensitivity of the subject and the predominance of a culture in which domestic violence is not always considered a crime, incidents of domestic violence in particular tend to be underreported.

Over recent years, considerable efforts have been made at both the national and international levels to improve knowledge on the incidence and magnitude of violence against women through official statistics. This process received major impetus from the establishment in 2008 of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, with a mandate from the United Nations General Assembly to develop a set of basic indicators and guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women.

This study captures the significant regional and national knowledge that has been accumulated on measuring violence against women through the interregional project “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities”. Supported by the United Nations Development Account, this two-year project was coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), through its Division for Gender Affairs, and implemented by the five regional commissions of the United Nations, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division and UN-Women.

Through the project, more than 30 countries worldwide have been engaged in the development, dissemination and testing of core indicators endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission. This process has made a decisive contribution to designing and building consensus around a common methodology to measure and document violence against women. Furthermore, the inclusion of all five regions in piloting the newly-developed tools to measure violence has also ensured that these tools capture a more comprehensive and complex vision of violence as experienced by women across cultures and regions.

This report presents an overview of the activities that have taken place in the five regions, and outlines the key outcomes and lessons learned. Through its activities, the interregional project has made the cumulative body of existing knowledge in terms of policies, findings, innovative practices, processes and statistical data available to policymakers, activists and women’s organizations. New knowledge was also produced through national studies that examined underexplored sources of data on violence against women. National capacities to collect information on violence against women through official statistics were strengthened through targeted training activities as well as through participation in expert meetings which provided the space for an effective exchange of best practices.

The richness of the information captured in this study testifies to the dynamic global community of knowledge and practice created through the project activities. This study identified as one of the project’s major achievements the strong and lasting collaboration established

between producers of statistics on violence against women, in particular national statistical offices, and those who depend on these data to design and implement a response such as the national mechanisms for the advancement of women.

In order to be effective, policies and programmes to eradicate violence against women need to be planned on the basis of extensive and precise knowledge. Sound statistical data are critical for the development of appropriate policies, legislation and services for women affected by violence. The aim of ECLAC in preparing and publishing this study is to make the knowledge, materials and tools produced through the interregional project widely accessible. We hope that this study will serve as an additional resource for professionals and practitioners dedicated to ending violence against women.

Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for
Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Executive Summary

The interregional project “Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities” represents a major international effort to eliminate gender-based violence by understanding its magnitude, forms and consequences.

The interregional project was supported by the United Nations Development Account, coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (through its Division for Gender Affairs) and implemented by the five UN regional commissions, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

Spanning two years (from 2009 to 2011), the project accomplished several tasks:

- Developed a survey module to collect data on core indicators of physical, sexual and intimate partner violence against women, as identified by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Commission on the indicators on violence against women;
- Involved more than 30 countries from all regions in consultation and training for implementation of its violence against women survey module, with nine countries conducting pilot studies;
- Examined administrative and other underutilized sources of data on violence against women, fostering new connections between producers and users of gender statistics, and promoted advances in inter-institutional coordination and data harmonization;

- Reaffirmed local ownership of international directives and mandates on violence against women data collection by training national statistical offices in data collection, statistical surveys and related methodological tools; and
- Created a dynamic community of knowledge-sharing and exchange across regions and interests, employing innovative web-based technologies for capacity-building and dissemination.

Chapter I

Violence against Women

A. Introduction

“There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable.”

BanKi-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

Violence against women reflects a preconception of women’s inferiority that underpins the culture of inequality and discrimination present in most societies. It is this notion that underlies impunity and prevents women from deploying all their abilities and fully exercising their rights. Victims of violence often experience mistrust. They tend to be blamed when they report offences, and the perpetrators go unpunished, often because of the high level of social tolerance toward what is frequently viewed — despite the law — as a private problem.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life” (General Assembly resolution 48/104, December 1993).

Violence against women takes many forms—physical, sexual, psychological and economic. Women are subjected to violence in many settings: at home, in the family, at school, at work, in the streets, in the

community, in state custody and in armed conflict and its aftermath. Violence occurs in both the private and public spheres across the continuum of women's lives. In every part of the world, the most common form of violence experienced by women is intimate partner violence, which has far-reaching consequences for women, their children and society as a whole. Independent of national, regional and sociocultural differences, violence against women is a problem of universal dimensions.

B. International Efforts to end Violence Against Women

The long history of women's individual and collective efforts to claim freedom from violence and discrimination includes many champions. Among them, the United Nations has been a driving force in establishing that violence against women is an urgent, international challenge to health, development and human rights.

Since 2000, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions and reports on violence against women. (See complete listing in Work of the UN General Assembly on Violence against Women). A milestone in this process was the launch, in 2006, of the Secretary-General's in-depth study *Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action*, which called upon the United Nations to take a "stronger, better coordinated and more visible leadership role to address violence against women." This goal has been reiterated with urgency by subsequent Secretary-General reports on the Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the most recent of which (A/65/208) was released in August 2010.

Another turning point was the December 2008 General Assembly resolution 63/155 *Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women*, which called upon its member States to end impunity for violence against women and urged them to develop national strategies and more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approaches to legislation, prevention, law enforcement, victim assistance and rehabilitation.

The Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, launched in 2008, supports these efforts. By 2015, UNiTE aims to achieve the following five goals in all countries: to adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls; to adopt and implement multisectoral national action plans; to increase public awareness and social mobilization; to address sexual

violence in conflict; and to strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls.

The creation in 2009 of the Secretary-General's coordinated database on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women advances the last of these five goals by bolstering international efforts to source, systematize and exchange data. This initiative promotes two key aspects of violence against women data collection and harmonization: it encourages countries to incorporate the collection of data on violence against women as an official, mainstream activity of national statistical offices and national mechanisms for the advancement of women or gender equality; and it promotes the use of universally accepted and understood indicators, collected through standardized methodologies compiled at regular intervals and comparable within and between the countries and over time.

C. Measuring Violence Against Women

The invisibility of violence against women is a fundamental obstacle to its eradication. The lack of any comprehensive, up-to-date assessment of its nature, prevalence, causes and consequences makes its impact on society difficult to address. More and better quality data are needed to guide national policies and monitor their progress.

Despite many advances, progress toward this goal is unequal at the international level, and its impact varies among countries. In countries where surveys on violence against women have been carried out and data are available, indicators are not standardized or comparable within or between countries. Other countries lack violence data entirely and cannot measure the extent of the problem. No baseline exists from which to monitor and evaluate the impacts of policies, laws and services, and many types of violence have yet to be legally defined.

National legal frameworks can support or complicate efforts to measure violence against women. For example, a legal definition of intimate partner violence that is limited to violence inflicted by a conjugal partner would exclude the experiences of women living with common-law partners. Yet these data are important if measurement initiatives are to accurately reflect the violence that occurs in women's lives.

Box 1.1**No Surveys, No Statistics**

“The disturbing fact is that the State does not collect data on violence against women. No official statistics exist at the State level, nor any appropriate professional research or analysis. The government agencies (e.g. police, social work centres, courts) that usually have first contact with victims of violence neither collect data nor report on this issue. Unofficial data exist only as evidence from NGOs about women who request assistance, and these lack data because more extensive research has never been required.”

Source: presentation by the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the subregional workshop on measuring violence against women, 27 - 29 April 2011.

D. Data Sources: Administrative Statistics And Population-Based Statistical Surveys

Quantifying violence against women requires the use of both administrative records and statistical surveys, depending on the form of violence experienced.

The information routinely collected by the public and private agencies that come into contact with women who have suffered from violence can be found in the registries of medical, criminal and civil justice systems, social services, legal aid, shelters, and so forth. This administrative data can provide useful information about responses to violence against women, but cannot be used as a basis of measurement for a fundamental reason: most acts of violence against women are never reported to authorities. In addition, these statistics are difficult to harmonize across administrative systems since they are embedded in local laws and procedures. They nevertheless represent an important but underutilized source of information on violence against women that needs greater systematization.

Population-based surveys or household surveys use representative, randomly selected samples whose results will reflect the general population. As this method of data collection does not rely on individual women reporting to police or seeking support, surveys that ask women about their experiences of violence are considered the most reliable method for obtaining this information for the general population.

The instrument of choice for collecting population-based data on violence against women is a separate, dedicated (specially designed) statistical sample survey. In specific cases, a well-designed module

on violence against women within an existing survey may offer an appropriate alternative. The module on violence should be attached to certain types of surveys only, such as demographic or health surveys. General surveys on income or employment are not appropriate vehicles for a module on violence against women.

As a means of measuring violence against women, statistical sample surveys are more effective than general census surveys, a factor that can facilitate their implementation in resource-poor settings. While national circumstances will determine the interval between surveys, the interval recommended by the Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Survey (see below) is between five and eight years.

E. Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the Indicators on Violence Against Women

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 62/133 of December 2007, requested the United Nations Statistical Commission to undertake work to identify statistical indicators on violence against women. The following year, the Statistical Commission established the Friends of the Chair on the indicators on violence against women, with representatives from 15 countries, as well as from the former Division for the Advancement of Women (now UN-Women), the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and the five regional commissions. Mexico chairs the group, and the United Nations Statistics Division serves as its secretariat.

The Friends of the Chair received a two-fold mandate. The first was to “create a set of basic indicators with universal validity to conduct regular, precise and pertinent statistical measurements of violence against women” within the framework of national statistical systems. The second was to develop a set of guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women to provide methodological guidance on topic selection, data sources, statistical classifications, outputs, wording and other aspects of conducting statistical surveys.

Parallel to this, the Expert Group Meeting on Measuring Violence Against Women (Geneva, 28-30 September 2009) developed a proposal for a survey module and methodology to measure violence against women based on the interim set of indicators approved at the fortieth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission; and agreed on a strategy for

testing the module in a number of countries across the world. This draft module was presented to the Friends of the Chair for evaluation, marking the start of collaboration between the Friends of the Chair and the interregional project in a mutually reinforcing process that strengthened project outcomes and sustainability.

In December 2009, in a meeting organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, the Friends of the Chair established a set of nine core indicators of physical, sexual, intimate partner, psychological and economic violence (see appendix I).

The Friends of the Chair made recommendations for the statistical strategy and methodology of the draft violence survey module under development for the interregional project by the Statistical Division of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Concerns were raised about ensuring the safety of respondents, the training requirements for interviewers and the advisability of providing a comprehensive implementation manual to national statistical offices interested in conducting the survey. Experts at the meeting also recommended pilot testing of a stand-alone module to assess its effectiveness.

Also at this meeting, the Friends of the Chair recognized the need to further explore administrative sources of statistics on violence against women and identified this as a second stage of its mandate, beginning in 2012 and extending through 2015.

The five regional commissions also agreed that the testing of a survey module on violence against women would be part of their common agenda and should include inputs from all regions. One or two countries from each region would be recruited to test and evaluate the module, thus contributing to its methodological design and strengthening its application in official statistics worldwide.

Chapter II

Interregional Project Activities

A. Introduction

The interregional project “Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities” was launched in 2009.

Over two years, the project engaged national stakeholders and international counterparts around the world to act on the prevention, sanction and eradication of violence against women through two processes:

- (i) Enhanced statistical data and indicators of violence against women; and
- (ii) Increased knowledge-sharing at the regional and interregional levels.

Highlights of project activities include the following:

- Assessment of existing data on violence against women and initiatives at the national and regional levels, including the implementation status of international agreements and obligations;
- Development and testing of a survey module on violence against women using core indicators endorsed by the United Nations Statistics Division;

- Regional and subregional workshops on data on violence against women in surveys and administrative registries, conducted with users and producers of national statistics;
- Technical workshops and seminars on measuring physical and sexual violence, conducted with users and producers of data on violence against women;
- A survey module and questionnaire on violence against women produced in eight languages;
- A training and methodological toolkit produced to accompany the survey module; and
- Development of web-based interactive tools for knowledge-sharing and training.

The interregional project was coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (through its Division for Gender Affairs) in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division. It was implemented through the five United Nations regional commissions: Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

B. Violence against Women Survey Module: an International Instrument

The central activity of the interregional project was to develop and test a module on violence against women based on core indicators approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The initial proposal for a short questionnaire based on core indicators was discussed at the Expert Group Meeting on Measuring Violence against Women, held in Geneva, from 28 to 30 September 2009. The survey design drew upon many inputs, including preliminary work conducted by the first Expert Group Meeting on Indicators to Measure Violence against Women (Geneva, 2007). The WHO Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, initiated in the late 1990s and incorporating interviews with 24,000 women in 10 countries, was a key precedent, as were several outstanding national experiences with demographic, health and violence against women surveys, including those conducted by Mexico and Italy.

1. Questionnaire content

The interview session begins by asking the woman for her informed consent. A place to talk in private is sought, the interviewer assures the respondent of confidentiality and the session proceeds with this introduction: "When two people marry or live together, they usually share both good and bad moments. I would now like to ask you some questions about how your current (or most recent) husband/partner treats (treated) you. If anyone interrupts us, I will change the topic of conversation."

The respondent is then asked about any episodes of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence she may have experienced at the hands of a current or past partner or a non-partner.

The concept of "partner" is interpreted broadly to include "married, cohabitating and dating with (sexual) relationship". Occasional or sporadic dating is excluded from this category and classified under the category of "other". According to the questionnaire, "including dating relationships may not be appropriate in all cultures... because it may not be appropriate to ask questions on sex to unmarried women or because the nature of engagements may be such that the woman never spends time alone with her future husband until she is married. Partnership questions may need to be adapted to the country's specific situation. In general, same-sex relationships are not included here. Some countries may decide to adapt the questionnaire for same-sex partner violence and include a question on the sex of the partner."

For each category, the respondent is asked to identify the frequency and type of violence; the respondent's response to these acts of violence (that is, was the violence reported and to whom); and the identity of the perpetrator and his relationship to the respondent.

All questions ask the respondent to specify two different reference periods: the past 12 months and more than 12 months ago. In the sections on physical and sexual violence, questions on the nature of the violent acts are included to measure the severity of violence.

The survey module questionnaire exists in Arabic, Armenian, English, French, Georgian, Spanish, Romanian and Russian. The Arabic, English and Spanish language versions are available online, as noted in appendix II.

2. Methodological tools

Asking women about violence against them is different from enlisting their participation in other types of surveys, as it involves ethical and safety concerns. As Henrica A.F.M. Jansen, the consultant at the Economic

Commission for Europe who led the development of the survey module for the interregional project notes, the violence against women survey is itself a form of intervention as a participatory activity, a transformational experience for interviewers and researchers and an opportunity for awareness-building among respondents.”

The challenges of ensuring data quality and respondent safety are greater when a module on violence against women is incorporated into other surveys than when it stands alone. Strict protocols for confidentiality and the safety of respondents and interviewers must be enforced, requiring special training and the provision of psychological support, crisis intervention and referral to specialized services when needed.

To address this, the Friends of the Chair recommended the development of a comprehensive manual addressed to national statistical offices. The set of ready-to-use methodological and training tools created for the project by the Economic Commission for Europe include the following:

- Question-by-question description of the questionnaire content;
- Violence against women module facilitator’s manual;
- Exercises and training schedules;
- Interviewer training slides;
- Interviewer’s manual, with an emphasis on ethical issues and safety measures;
- Outline for feedback reports;
- Questions for debriefing interviewers; and
- Codebook with table shells and recode syntaxes for computation of violence against women indicators.

The toolkit is available in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian. Online versions are posted in Arabic, English and Spanish (see links in appendix II).

3. Testing the survey module on violence against women

A total of 33 countries were involved in the preparation, testing or training of interviewers for the questionnaire. National contributions to survey design, content and methodology provided significant inputs that strengthened the module’s adaptability and implementation in all regions.

The first pilot was carried out by Mexico in April 2010. By the close of the project in 2011, nine countries and territories (namely, Armenia, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Georgia, Iraq, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova,

Palestine and South Africa) had completed or were in the process of testing the module as a stand-alone survey.

Experiences from the first group of countries to conduct pilot studies brought to light the need to adapt formats, language and interviewing protocols to local circumstances. The countries reported a range of the outcomes and lessons learned:

Mexico: The National Institute of Statistics and Geography conducted the inaugural pilot study of the survey module on violence and made various changes to the UNECE questionnaire. For example, the section on partner violence was expanded from two to three parts: (a) current partner; (b) last or most recent partner; and (c) previous partner, when more than two. The survey was tested on a sample of 600 households in Oaxaca and Jalisco, areas selected for the high rates of physical violence observed in a 2006 survey. Results indicated even greater violence prevalence rates than reported in previous surveys.

Armenia: The questionnaire and training materials were translated into Armenian as provided, with no additional adaptations or changes. The National Statistical Service tested the survey module on 200 households (140 in Yerevan and other urban areas; 60 in rural areas), which were sampled randomly from the 2001 Population Census database. To ensure more reliable data compilation, the module was called the Module on Women's Issues. Nearly one quarter of the women approached refused to respond, with most refusals occurring in urban areas. Women who were reluctant to answer questions on sexual violence had no difficulties discussing economic violence.

Georgia: The National Statistical Office translated the questionnaire into Georgian without changes to the content. A sample of 200 urban and rural households was selected from those already participating in the quarterly Integrated Household Survey. In addition to testing methodological and training materials, the pilot aimed to test the openness of respondents to talk about their experiences with violence. Survey-takers reported that the topic, although unexpected, was welcomed.

The Republic of Moldova: The questionnaire was translated into Romanian, and the survey module was tested by the National Statistical Office on a sample of 1,575 women. Based on feedback, several adjustments were incorporated; for example, for partner violence, only two partners (current and most recent) were considered. Questions were added to incorporate information about the perpetrator (for example, level of education, employment status, problems with alcohol and stress from family problems); about violent episodes in the woman's and/or her current partner's family; about the woman's reasons for ending the last

relationship; and the woman's employment status. A revised version was tested with a sample of 70 women. Respondents were provided with a toll-free telephone number and list of centres for victims of violence.

South Africa: The Statistics South Africa national agency conducted two variants of the survey: a module attached to its Victims of Crime Survey in the province of Free State, and a stand-alone survey in the province of Western Cape. No changes were made to the questionnaire. Both paper questionnaires and PDAs (hand-held computers) were used.

Box II.1
Sensitivity Issues

Violence against women is such a sensitive topic in South Africa that the national statistical office referred to the violence against women module by the relatively safe name of a Survey on Women's Issues and provided an alternative survey on fertility should it be impossible to administer the questionnaire.

Respondents were assured that their information would not be shared. The national statistical office requires its employees to sign a confidentiality agreement or risk a fine, jail or both.

The physical safety of respondents and survey-takers was of paramount concern. In places where survey-takers felt uneasy, they were encouraged to bring an escort (including a police officer). Escorts were not, however, allowed to be present when interviews were in progress.

Some disturbing incidents were reported during data collection. One respondent reacted to the questions by threatening to kill herself, expressing her desperation over years of abuse. The survey-taker, herself a victim of past violence, requested immediate intervention from a counsellor for both the respondent and herself.

This experience dramatically underscored how the survey itself can constitute a form of intervention, as well as the need for psychological support to prepare for this.

Source: Draft Report: Testing of Violence Against Women Module, South Africa, 2011.

4. Evaluating the pilot studies

The results of the pilot studies were discussed at the Second Expert Group Meeting on Measuring Violence against Women (Geneva, 18-19 November 2010) by representatives of participating national statistical offices, the five regional commissions and other international partners. Highlights of the issues raised are summarized in the box below.

The evaluation also suggested the need to develop specific orientation materials for implementing the module in conjunction with a full-scale survey on another topic. These tools could include guidelines for recruiting interviewers and special training on violence and ways to deal with emotional or stressful situations.

Box II.2**Feedback From Testing**

The analysis of pilot survey implementation covered the following issues:

Recruitment of interviewers

- Basic interviewing skills like those required in demographic or health surveys are not sufficient – additional abilities are needed.
- Selection, training and supervision of interviewers are crucial.

Training

- Training sessions need to include a question-by-question description of survey content.
- Role-playing and practice interviews are important training tools.
- A two-day training session is too short for the full-scale survey.
- Additional training is needed on the sensitivity of the topic, violence issues and how to deal with emotional and stressful situations.

Field operations

- It is important to establish direct and prompt contact between the interviewer and the supervisor.
- Interviews should last 30 minutes on average and up to 60 minutes for victims of severe violence.
- Difficulties in obtaining privacy, the presence of other household members during the interview and problems with interruptions underscore the need to find a private place in which to conduct interviews.

Initial contact

- A “safe” survey name is useful to build trust.
- Discussing the need for informed consent helps prepare for the interview.

Disclosure issues

- There may be a denial of violence, even when physical marks of violence are evident.
- Respondents find it easier to report past violence than current violence.
- Respondents find it easier to talk about economic violence than sexual violence.

Partner violence

- The definition of a partner relationship needs to be adapted to the national/cultural context.
- Some respondents have difficulty remembering experiences with previous partners.
- Repetition of the same set of questions for every partner is often a source of irritation for respondents.

Problems with questions

- Some questions were too long and had to be shortened by the interviewers.
- Some questions had to be repeated, explained or illustrated with examples.
- Some questions were too general (for example, “insists on knowing where you are” or “insulted you or made you feel bad about yourself”).
- Questions about sexual violence were the most problematic.

Source: Anne-Christine Wanders, Presentation to the Second Expert Group Meeting on Measuring Violence against Women, Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, 18-19 November 2010.

C. Capacity-Building for the Collection of data on Violence Against Women

Through assessments of national violence against women data and collection systems in countries and territories around the world, the interregional project produced a snapshot of current trends and available information. Capacity-building workshops and technical support implemented by the five United Nations regional commissions made it possible for national institutions to share experiences and methodologies and advance in the reliability, centralization, standardization and comparability of data.

1. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

ECA convened its Regional Workshop on Enhancing the Capacity of African Countries to Eradicate Violence Against Women (Addis Ababa, October 2011), attended by representatives of national statistical offices, women's agencies and civil society groups from 17 countries, as well as UN-Women. Its aim was to share global initiatives on statistical data and indicators on violence against women; introduce the module; share national information; discuss the capacity of African countries to collect, analyse and use violence against women data; and encourage joint strategies and collaboration among government agencies. The creation of a regional mechanism to facilitate exchange of good practices in data collection and dissemination of statistics on violence against women was discussed, and potential partners in the project were considered. Recommendations included the establishment, through the UNiTE campaign, of a platform for national working groups and the identification of national focal points to link national initiatives with the regional commission.

The ECA Meetings on Gender Statistics (Ghana, November 2011) that followed the workshop included a session on the role of statistical data and indicators in the eradication of violence against women. Participants called upon national statistical offices to implement the institutional arrangements required to integrate gender statistics into national statistical systems, with an emphasis on violence against women.

The African Centre for Gender and Social Development of ECA produced a Regional Synthesis Report that focuses on the prevalence, types, causes and consequences of violence against women. The report identifies limits in knowledge and data collection and highlights good practices in addressing violence against women.

The regional overview draws on country studies from Cameroon, Nigeria Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. The reports summarise the prevalence and types of violence against women in each country and identify gaps in data collection. South Africa conducted two pilot tests of the survey module.

2. Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

The principal input of the UNECE Statistical Division was to develop and test the violence against women survey module. The questionnaire and support materials were discussed at the Expert Group Meeting on Measuring Violence against Women in Geneva (September 2009). The Second Expert Group Meeting (Geneva, November 2010) reviewed initial results of violence against women survey pilot tests and oversaw adjustments and applications. The violence against women survey module and accompanying materials can be accessed on the UNECE website.

Two subregional capacity-building workshops were conducted in 2010 and 2011 to train national statistical offices in applying the survey tools:

- Members of national statistical offices and agencies for the advancement of women from 19 European countries met in Geneva in April 2010, following the biannual session of the Commission on gender statistics, to review progress on the violence against women questionnaire and testing strategy.
- Representatives of national statistical offices from East and Southeastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian countries received training on conducting the violence against women survey and using the toolkit.

Data analysis and methodological inputs from these meetings were revised, systematized and incorporated into e-learning courses conducted at the end of 2011. In addition, feedback from countries conducting the pilot studies was channelled into the consultation process for guidelines development, coordinated by the Statistics Division of the United Nations.

Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova conducted pilot studies..

Box II.3**Crime Reports in the Unece Gender Statistics Database: Uses and Limitations**

While good administrative records can provide updated information on the levels of violence against women, they are of limited value for other types of measurement of violence against women. This was borne out by analysis of crime reports contained in the UNECE Gender Statistics Database. These records provide only a rough estimate of a few indicators and cannot be used to derive lifetime indicators. They also pose methodological challenges: for example, the definition of a partner -- a relationship between victim and perpetrator crucial to understanding violence against women -- cannot be based solely on its legal definition.

Further examination of administrative sources as underexploited sources of violence against women data will be conducted by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women as part of its extended mandate, starting in 2012.

Source: Draft Report: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

3. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, coordinated both the activities of the interregional project and specific activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Three subregional meetings increased technical capacity and encouraged new inter-institutional alliances on data in the region:

- Enhancing Capacity of Caribbean Countries to Eradicate Violence against Women (Saint Lucia, June 2010), attended by representatives from 20 countries and territories, plus delegates from the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and UN-Women. Participants from national statistical offices and women's ministries reviewed the types and sources of violence against women data collected, the agencies best suited for data collection, where and in what format data are published, and the needs of the end users of this data. The absence of a central registry and protocol for violence against women data collection poses the most significant gaps, and recommendations were made to address this.
- Enhancing Capacity of South American Countries to Eradicate Violence against Women (Chile, November 2010). Representatives from national statistical offices and offices responsible for the advancement of women attended from nine countries. Participants

identified the harmonization of administrative registries across institutions as a fundamental challenge and cited the need for new inter-institutional mechanisms to address this.

- Enhancing Capacity of Central American Countries to Eradicate Violence against Women and Develop Gender Statistics (Guatemala City, April 2011). This workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Ministers for Women's Affairs of Central America (COMMCA) on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Commission of the Central American Integration System (CENTROESTAD). The two subregional networks agreed to a new inter-agency alliance to advance the incorporation of gender perspectives into SICA statistical information systems and improve information on violence against women data in administrative registries. The participants encouraged stronger ties between the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Two subregional meetings examined the unification of administrative records containing violence against women data.

- The Caribbean Seminar to Strengthen the Use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence against Women (Port of Spain, December 2010) reviewed administrative sources of data and institutional arrangements between producers and users of statistical information. To advance more comprehensive and uniform mapping of denunciations of violence, independent of their point of entry into the institutional circuit, participants recommended greater clarification of institutional roles and increased efforts to promote central data registries in their home countries.

- The Latin America Seminar on the Measurement of Femicide (Lima, May 2011) convened public prosecutors (fiscales) and gender policy authorities from the region to learn of the advances made by Public Prosecutor's Office of Peru in collecting data on the perpetrators of femicide. The Peruvian initiative was presented for dissemination through the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors' Offices.

Box II.4
Public Prosecutors, Public Policy

Peru is leading the way in using administrative data to forge public policy on the measurement and criminalization of femicide. Information from public prosecutors on the identity of perpetrators and their relationships to victims (that is, current partner, former partner) is often available from the media and NGOs but not incorporated into violence against women measurement. Through its Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC provides technical assistance to facilitate this process. Argentina and Ecuador have launched similar initiatives.

Source: Draft Report: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The interregional project generated numerous ECLAC publications. A major review of the data on physical and sexual violence (including femicide) contained in demographic and health surveys across the region was released on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2009, and 10,000 copies were distributed to women's ministries in every country in the region, along with regional information from the United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women.

In 2010, ECLAC published a study of sources of information on violence against women available in the region and in the Secretary-General's database on violence against women ("Estudio de la información sobre la violencia contra la mujer en América Latina y el Caribe", *Mujer y Desarrollo* series, No. 99 (LC/L.3174-P), Santiago, Chile).

Country reports were produced by Argentina, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. These studies examine the dimensions and types of violence against women and describe the national systems in place to measure and address it.

The regional study of national capacities to address violence against women, which draws, in part, on the country reports noted above, was published in 2012 as part of the Cuadernos de la CEPAL series, No.99 under the title "Si no se cuenta, no cuenta. Información sobre la violencia contra las mujeres" (LC/G.2510-P).

Mexico was the first country to pilot the violence against women survey module, while Ecuador was in the process of testing the module at the time of writing.

4. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

The ESCAP Social Development Division collaborated with its Statistics Division to implement the interregional project in Asia and the Pacific. Its most important activity was the Workshop on Strengthening National Capacities to Collect Violence against Women Statistics in the Asia-Pacific Region (Bangkok, September 2010), attended by delegates from national women's ministries, statistical offices and civil society from nine countries. The workshop provided an overview of global initiatives on statistical data and indicators on violence against women; an introduction to the violence against women survey module; a review of experiences among Asia-Pacific countries; and the interchange of strategies and collaboration between national statistical organizations and agencies for the advancement of women. The priorities that were identified include the need for national coordination on technical issues and the need for sustainable financing through national budgets.

The ESCAP Consultative Meeting to Develop a Regional Programme on Gender Statistics in Asia-Pacific followed the workshop and featured a session on production and measurement of statistics on violence against women in the region. Inputs from the interregional project helped the ESCAP Statistics Division advance on two objectives: the creation of a regional programme for gender statistics, with an emphasis on violence against women; and the promotion of the Division's proposal before the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for a multi-year programme to develop gender statistics.

Bangladesh conducted a pilot test of the survey module

Box II.5**Data Inform! Data Justify! Data Motivate Positive Change!**

Part of the contribution of the Solomon Islands to the ESCAP regional workshop was its enthusiastic report on how initiatives like the interregional project bolster local ownership of international mandates and methodologies.

Positive outcomes include the following:

- Better understanding of the prevalence of violence against women in the Solomon Islands, its causes and consequences and how it can be addressed;
- Appreciation of the importance of data collection;
- Insight into the complexity of violence against women and the need for multisectoral approaches to address it;
- Increased awareness of the need to mainstream violence against women data into a broader national development framework;
- Use of violence against women research to support a review of the Penal Code; and
- Recognition of the need for partnerships and networking to build a cohesive approach.

The Solomon Islanders summarized their approach this way: Reliable Statistics is Power: Stop the Violence!

Source: Making the Research Count! Solomon Islands Interventions.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

At the start of the interregional project, a number of countries in the ESCWA region reported that they were already conducting violence against women surveys or including a module on violence against women in household surveys. As is the case elsewhere, however, the degree of sensitivity to violence against women varies significantly from country to country within the region.

The five-day Training of Trainers on Violence against Women and Adaptation Workshop (Beirut, May 2010) was organized by the ESCWA Statistics Division and the Centre for Women for countries interested in conducting pilot studies on violence against women and future national surveys. The meeting concluded with the creation of a task force to plan for comparative analysis of violence against women statistics; develop regional guidelines; adapt collection and evaluation materials on violence against women; organise capacity-building activities; organize a regional expert group meeting on violence against women indicators; and act as a link between national statistical offices and policymakers.

The third Regional Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics in the Arab Countries (Beirut, November 2011) featured a discussion of United Nations efforts to harmonize violence against women indicators, highlighted by a review of the Arabic-language draft of the violence against women survey module and toolkit. Representatives from Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Palestine participated in the special session on violence against women.

The 2011 version of the ESCWA Gender in Figures yearbook includes a chapter on the extent of violence against women in the region with tables on early marriage; emotional, physical and sexual violence; female genital mutilation; women's attitudes towards wife beating; and women's attitudes towards refusing sex with husband. ESCWA also compiled an online library of gender resources, including a glossary of gender terminology and the region's first violence against women database.

The Regional Study on Violence against Women produced by the Centre for Women and the Statistics Division of ESCWA reviews the prevalence of violence against women; its impacts on women and society; legislation and policies to eliminate violence against women; and advocacy and capacity-building programmes. Key findings include the inconsistency in data collection across the region and the gap between the statistics-collection and policymaking processes.

Iraq and Palestine piloted the violence against women survey module.

Box II.6 **Adapting Questions To Cultures**

The adaptation workshop for Arab countries and territories proposed several changes for implementing the violence against women survey questionnaire in the region:

- In most countries, only married women over 15 years of age would be considered for the section on partner violence. (In Morocco, eligible women must be over the age of 18 and married; in Lebanon and Palestine, the term partnership is more broadly defined.)
- For countries planning to administer questions on partner violence to married women only, the terms fiancé and/or boyfriend were recommended to differentiate these relationships from the definition of cohabiting partner.
- Additional questions could include age of first marriage (to calculate early marriage) and, where appropriate, polygamy and dowry/bride price.
- Questions on so-called honour killings were deemed inappropriate for inclusion in the survey, given the secrecy and silence around this topic.

Source: Report of the Training of Trainers on Violence against Women and Adaptation Workshop for Arab Countries, Beirut, 3-7 May 2010.

D. Online Training and Knowledge Sharing across Regions

The use of information and communications technologies (ICT) represents a key project strategy for building a global community of knowledge and practice for violence against women data collection and measurement.

1. E-Learning workshops

Training of technical experts from all five United Nations regional commissions was delivered over the Internet using e-learning tools. The e-learning course “Measurement of VAW through Statistical Surveys” was launched in October 2011 and conducted online over eight weeks. The 91 participants enrolled in the course came from national statistical offices and governmental agencies for the advancement of women in 41 countries.

The course consisted of eight modules with weekly activities (exercises, workshops and assignments), followed by a final exam and a written assignment. Topics covered understanding violence against women; United Nations indicators on violence against women; tools and methods to measure violence against women; ethical and safety issues; planning and implementing a survey on violence against women; and analysis, interpretation and use of data. Inputs were drawn from the pilot studies, and the Government of Georgia facilitated access to micro-data from its pilot study to compute indicators on violence against women.

Special efforts were made to adapt course contents to take regional characteristics into account. Training of tutors took place online in June and July 2011, with 31 participants from nine countries. The e-tutors worked with participants from their own regions whenever possible, highlighting specific concerns through group assignments and discussion.

With the completion of the interregional project, the e-learning course has been made available to all the regional commissions for future use, translation and adaptation to regional contexts.

2. Interregional project portal and wiki

The interregional project website portal and wiki are the main channels for dissemination and knowledge-sharing across regions.

- The portal is the central gateway to all public content about activities and tools produced by the five regional commissions and the United Nations Statistical Commission. It contains information on regional activities, background documents and related country reports.

- The wiki (a collection of web pages accessible to registered users) is a collaborative space to share resources and facilitate networking among project partners and national counterparts. Coordinated by ECLAC with input from all regions, the wiki houses hundreds of documents in multiple languages, grouped as follows:
 - General information on violence against women: surveys, meetings, United Nations resources, regional observatories, agencies and institutes;
 - Overview of the interregional project: description of the project, progress reports and meeting reports;
 - Measures of violence against women: survey module, meetings and studies;
 - Toolkit for the collection and use of information on violence against women; and
 - Regional and national activities, studies and resources.

Chapter III

Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Over 24 months, the “Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities” interregional project increased local stakeholders’ engagement in the process of measuring violence against women, led by the United Nations Statistics Division. Through training, provision of methodological tools and the creation of a community of knowledge and practice, the project has given a significant and sustainable impetus to national efforts to generate evidence-based public policies to eradicate violence against women.

A. Interregional Project: Major Outcomes

1. National awareness and ownership of international initiatives to measure violence against women were enhanced

The project has been instrumental in fostering national ownership of international initiatives to measure violence against women using a standard set of indicators, such as those endorsed by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women. At the core of this process has been the collaboration between the United Nations Statistics Division and the five regional commissions to generate a common methodological framework, survey instrument and tools. In particular, the project has contributed to national ownership through extensive training of national partners and

through regional and subregional expert meetings with the participation of representatives from relevant governmental agencies.

2. National capacity to measure violence against women was strengthened

Ongoing data collection efforts were assessed in more than 20 countries. Workshops (including e-learning modalities) and technical support from national stakeholders improved the reliability, centralization, standardization and comparability of data. This process was facilitated by the creation of channels and mechanisms for information exchange between users and producers of statistics on violence against women at the national and subregional levels. Sources of administrative data have been identified, and mechanisms (both national and subregional) have been strengthened to increase the inter-institutional coordination and harmonization of these registers.

3. Perspectives from all regions were incorporated into the development and testing for the violence against women survey module

While the original proposal was to develop and pilot the violence against women survey module in one region only, the decision by the five regional commissions to incorporate this as part of their common agenda expanded the process. As a result, the dissemination and testing of core indicators endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission occurred through a collaborative process involving national stakeholders in 33 countries in all regions. This expansion ensured inclusion of a more complex vision of violence as experienced by women across cultures and regions around the world. By the close of the project, a total of nine countries had conducted pilot tests and many more had participated in training session for future implementation.

4. Methodologies for producing comparable statistical information on violence against women were identified, applied and systematized

Training and methodological aids for violence against women survey implementation were agreed upon and developed in consultation with national stakeholders in 33 countries. The instruments created in this process provide guidelines and ready-to-use tools for the selection, training and supervision of interviewers, interaction with respondents, field operations and data processing and analysis.

5. A global community of knowledge and practice was created through the production of common tools

An extensive community of knowledge and practice for measuring violence against women and generating evidence to develop public policies for its eradication has been created. A global network of experts using shared methodological instruments and new collaborative tools has been set up to engage both producers (national statistical offices, administrative sources) and primary users (policymakers, researchers, service providers) of violence against women data at the national and regional levels.

B. Lessons learned

The challenges faced by the interregional project provide insight into how to improve the impact and effectiveness of future initiatives. Some key lessons learned in the process are summarized as follows:

1. National and regional differences must be addressed in measuring violence against women

The global impacts of violence against women require a global response. The work of the interregional project confirms that while violence against women occurs in every country, national mechanisms to address it reflect specific political, institutional and local cultures. The articulating role of the regional commissions of the United Nations in advancing national implementation of United Nations Statistical Commission recommendations has been fundamental. Through ongoing involvement in diverse data collection initiatives in every region and permanent collaboration with national statistical offices, the regional commissions are uniquely placed to help countries in their efforts to measure violence against women.

2. A stand-alone survey is the best methodological approach to collecting statistical data about violence against women

Dedicated statistical surveys at the national and subnational levels are the preferred instrument. However, given that not all countries have the statistical capacity and/or resources to implement a stand-alone survey, a module attached to a health or demographic survey presents a feasible alternative. The choice of survey and interview modes has implications for planning and budgeting. A modular approach enables countries to adapt

the violence against women survey to specific contexts. Countries should also be given the flexibility to adapt the questionnaire to their own needs.

3. The measurement of violence against women must be embedded in national statistical systems, with a defined periodicity that permits monitoring and analysis over time

National statistical offices are responsible for establishing standards, ensuring consistency of concepts and recommending methodologies for data collection. Other actors can and should participate, but the main responsibility for helping governments meet their international obligations to strengthen violence against women data collection lies with the national statistical offices. Their collaboration with government ministries, researchers, activists and civil society is vital for the success of violence against women measurement efforts.

4. Producers and users of violence against women data need to work closely together

National stakeholders that produce violence against women data (such as national statistical offices, agencies for the advancement of women and gender equity, and sources of administrative data) must work in alliance with the agencies that use this data (including public policymakers, public and private service providers and researchers) to forge a producer-user approach to data collection.

5. Despite the paucity of reliable information on violence against women, more information exists than is being collected, systematized or incorporated into national statistical accounts

Administrative sources (such as police and court statistics, hospital statistics and safe house records) that have the capacity to provide statistics on violence against women are not being utilized to their full potential. In most instances, no overview exists of the administrative data that could be used to monitor violence against women. Further work is needed to map and systemize these sources..

Box III.1**Constructing The Guidelines For Producing Statistics On Violence Against Women: Statistical Survey**

As previously noted, the United Nations Statistical Commission asked the Friends of the Chair on the indicators on violence against women to provide comprehensive methodological guidance on all aspects of conducting statistical surveys to measure violence against women. Many countries working with the interregional project to develop and test the violence against women survey module were able to draw on these experiences to contribute to this process. In November 2011, the United Nations Statistics Division presented its draft Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Survey to a consultative meeting of national statistical office representatives and interregional project counterparts. In six chapters, the document examines the role of statistical surveys, concepts and definitions, survey planning, questionnaire design, survey implementation and data processing.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

C. Conclusions

Over the course of two years, the interregional project on “Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities” made significant and durable contributions to efforts to strengthen the national and regional capacity for actions to advance its mission to eradicate violence against women.

In conjunction with the regional commissions and the Statistics Division of the United Nations, the project successfully promoted a set of core indicators, a standardized survey module and methodological tools for the comparable assessment of violence against women. The module developed in this process has demonstrated the flexibility necessary to accommodate diverse national and cultural needs.

Data collected by this survey method advances the design of evidence-based policies and effective public actions to end violence against women. Measurement of shifts in the prevalence and scope of violence against women facilitates the monitoring of progress by States in fulfilling their international obligations and meeting the priorities identified by the United Nation Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, among other initiatives.

The country reports and regional overviews produced within the scope of the project identified important gaps in knowledge, technical capacities and coordination mechanisms. These assessments examined administrative data sources for their potential to contribute to measurement of violence against women and explored ways to increase interchange between producers and users of the data.

The creation of this vigorous community of knowledge ensures the continuity of project objectives to encourage and facilitate effective public action to eradicate violence against women.

Box III.2**Contact Data for Further Information**

United Nations Statistics Division
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>

Regional commissions of the United Nations:

- Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Subscribe to Words to Action, UN-Women's quarterly newsletter on violence against women at [online] <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-newsletter-register.asp>

Appendix I:

Core Indicators of Violence Against Women

The Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women adopted the following core indicators for surveys on violence against women.

Physical Violence.

- (a) Total and age-specific rates of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.
- (b) Total and age-specific rates of women subjected to physical violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.

Sexual violence

- (c) Total and age-specific rates of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.
- (d) Total and age-specific rates of women subjected to sexual violence during lifetime by relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.

Intimate partner violence

(e) Total and age-specific rates of ever-partnered women (those who had ever been married or lived with a male partner) subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months by frequency.

(f) Total and age-specific rates of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner during lifetime by frequency.

Combining physical and sexual violence reflects the fact that in the case of intimate partnership, the two are often inflicted simultaneously over a period of time.

Psychological violence

(g) Total and age-specific rates of women subjected to psychological violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner.

This form of violence often accompanies physical violence and is a precursor of it. The modalities identified are humiliation, emotional violence and controlling behaviour.

Economic violence

(h) Total and age-specific rates of women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by the intimate partner.

The modalities identified are denying access to financial resources; denying access to property or durable goods; deliberate non-compliance of the intimate partner regarding economic responsibilities such as alimony; denying access to the labour market, health care and education; denying participation in decision-making relevant to economic status.

Female genital mutilation

- (i) Total and age specific rates of women subjected to female genital mutilation.

Female genital mutilation is a peculiar form of violence against women and has been incorporated into the core set of indicators due to its extreme and life-lasting consequences.

Criteria for indicators

Indicators were evaluated for ease of measurement and interpretation; relevancy and accuracy; and universal applicability.

Definitions and considerations

- Physical violence: An act that inflicts physical harm to the body of the woman.
- Sexual violence: An act aimed to force the woman to engage in sexual acts against her will or without her consent. Sexual violence consists of a number of different acts, such as forcing her to perform undesired sexual acts or performing any sexual activity that the female finds degrading and humiliating: attempted rape, rape and aggravated rape; being forced into sexual activity with someone else or for money or goods.
- Relationship to perpetrator: Refers to an intimate partner (current, immediate former or former), a relative, acquaintance, co-worker, government authority or stranger. Special emphasis is placed on physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner, a person with whom a woman maintains a sexual relationship either formally (marriage) or by an agreed cohabiting relationship, excluding occasional or sporadic dating.

Appendix II:

Internet Resources and Publications

The following is a list of websites created by or connected to the interregional project and a selection of documents produced by project activities and posted on these sites.

Interregional websites

The interregional project portal, Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women, provides public access to reports and documents : <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/cepal/default.asp?idioma=IN>

The interregional project wiki houses information on all project activities and products, including participant listings and meeting evaluations : <http://wiki.cepal.org/display/ecevaatnlkc/Project+Collaborative+Networking+Space> (registration required)

Regional commissions' websites

The Economic Commission for Africa website includes a section on enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women, as do the websites for the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean website provides this section in both English (Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women) and Spanish (Fortaleciendo las capacidades de erradicar la violencia contra las mujeres).

Violence against women survey module and toolkits

The English-language version of the violence against women survey questionnaire and the complete toolkit are posted on the Measuring Violence against Women section of the UNECE statistics wiki.

The Arabic version of the violence against women survey questionnaire and sections of the toolkit are posted at : <http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/mujer/noticias/paginas/8/41518/P41518.xml&xsl=/mujer/tpl/p18f-st.xsl&base=/mujer/escwa/tpl-i/top-bottom.xslt>.

The French version of the violence against women survey questionnaire and the toolkit are available on request.

The Spanish version of the violence against women survey questionnaire and toolkit are posted at : <http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/mujer/noticias/paginas/3/41333/P41333.xml&xsl=/mujer/tpl/p18f-st.xsl&base=/mujer/cepal/tpl/top-bottom.xslt>.

The Russian version of the violence against women survey questionnaire and the toolkit are available on request.

Draft Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Survey

The draft guidelines are available at : [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/consultativemeeting_Beirut2011/Guidelines on VAW Final Draft_RB.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/consultativemeeting_Beirut2011/Guidelines_on_VAW_Final_Draft_RB.pdf).

Regional meetings

Economic Commission for Africa

* Regional Workshop on Enhancing the Capacity of African Countries to Eradicate Violence against Women (October 2011)

Economic Commission for Europe

* Expert Meeting (2009) : <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.09.gender.html>

* Second Expert meeting (2010) : <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.11.vaw.html>

* Subregional Workshop (2011) for of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia : <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2011.04.gender.html>

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

* Fortaleciendo las capacidades de los países de América del Sur para erradicar la violencia contra la mujer (Santiago, 4–5 November 2010)

* Enhancing Capacity of Caribbean Countries to Eradicate Violence against Women (Saint Lucia, 15 June 2010)

* Regional Seminar to Strengthen the Use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence against Women in the Caribbean (Port of Spain, 30 November to 1 December 2010)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

* Report on the Workshop on Strengthening National Capacities to Collect Violence against Women Statistics in the Asia-Pacific Region (Bangkok, 20–21 September 2010)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

* Report of the Training of Trainers on Violence against Women and Adaptation Workshop for Arab Countries (Beirut, 3–7 May 2010) : http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/paginas/8/41538/VAW_ESCWA_Final_Report23Sept2010.pdf

Regional commission reports.

Economic Commission for Africa

* Regional Synthesis Report on VAW in Africa

* Country Reports: Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

* ¡Ni una más!: Del dicho al hecho ¿Cuánto falta por recorrer? :

<http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/noticias/2/37892/Niunamas2009.pdf>

* Estudio de la información sobre la violencia contra la mujer en América Latina y el Caribe (Lorena Fries and Victoria Hurtado), *Mujer y Desarrollo* series No. 99 (LC/L.3174-P), Santiago, March 2010 : *<http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/8/38978/Serie99.pdf>*

* Si no se cuenta, no cuenta — Información sobre la violencia contra las mujeres (Diane Alméras, Coral Calderón Magaña, Coordinators) *Cuadernos de la CEPAL*, No. 99 (LC/G.2510-P), Santiago, April 2012,. : *http://www.cepal.org/publicaciones/xml/2/46612/cuaderno99_WEB.pdf*

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

* Gender in Figures : *<http://web.escwa.un.org/divisions/scu/genderinfigures/index.asp>*

* ESCWA Regional Study on Violence against Women

Other selected reports

- * Report of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women, Statistical Commission, 40th session (February 2009)

- * Report of the Launching Meeting of the “Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities” Interregional Project (Geneva, 27 May 2009)

- * Report on the Meeting of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women (Aguascalientes, December 2009)

- * Conclusions and Recommendations of the Friends of the Chair (Aguascalientes, December 2009)

- * Report of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the Indicators on Violence against Women, Statistical Commission, 42nd session (February 2011)