Gender, Women and Health (GWH): e-Update September, 2006
http://www.who.int/gender/en

News

GWH is accelerating action on capacity building tools to support the strengthening of gender mainstreaming in WHO. In line with this, one-week capacity-building seminar is being held to introduce the following tools:

1) A training manual on Gender Mainstreaming in health for Health Managers
2) A self-instructional e-course on gender mainstreaming in health
3) Technical Briefing Kit (job aid) for mainstreaming gender in health for WHO country offices.

GWH participated in this work session. The aim of the meeting was to exchange experience among statisticians and other experts in the field of gender statistics. The specific objectives of the meeting were to present the work of the three UNECE Task Forces (TF) in the area of Gender Statistics (TF on Gender-sensitization training for statisticians, TF on Violence against Women, and TF on the Promotion and development of time-use surveys), take stock of Gender Statistics achievements in the National Statistical Offices, both in production and dissemination of gender related data, and address emerging issues in the area of gender and minorities. A presentation on the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence was given by GWH.

Plenary panel Gender, Governance and Global Sustainability at the International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC), Davos, Switzerland, 30-31 August 2006
The IDRC conference is a multidisciplinary conference looking at a broad range of risks including those relating to pandemics and endemics; terrorism; climate change; and natural hazards. This year, the organizers dedicated one of the morning plenary sessions to gender issues.

GWH represented WHO in the session on gender and health in disasters. Other speakers focused on gender more generally, on gender and disaster reduction and response or spoke about specific projects. Following the panel presentations there
was an opportunity for audience members to ask questions as well as to share their own perspectives on the issues and experiences.

Several key messages relevant to WHO's work in emergencies came out of the panel and discussion.
1. There is a need for sex disaggregated data in disasters. These are rarely available but must be collected and a gender analysis applied to improve prevention and response.
2. Issues related to women in disasters including gender-based violence must be addressed more systematically by all sectors.
3. Women are under-represented in decision- and policy-making around disaster prevention and response as well as in the international and local response.

There was specific interest by the conference organizers in WHO being more involved in the planning of the 2008 conference which will also be held in Davos. They will contact the Representative of Director-General for Health Action in Crises directly to see whether there is interest from WHO.

**Workshop on Gender Analysis, Health Care Access and Utilization, Pakistan, 28-30 August, 2006**
GWH, in collaboration with Women, Health and Development (EMRO), WHO-Pakistan and CIDA, co-sponsored and co-facilitated the above-mentioned workshop in Pakistan that deliberated on the results of a recent assessment carried out in Kasur District, Punjab on gender differences in health seeking behavior, access and use of health care services. Participants included various stakeholders in health. Working groups identified priority gender and health issues, recommended actions, responsible actors and indicators of success. Consensus emerged on the seven Strategic Issue Areas towards the progressive and effective mainstreaming of gender issues in health sector activities in Pakistan. The resulting Plan of Action sets out a five-year road map for scaling up health-related actions that will promote women’s empowerment, gender equality and health equity. Immediately following the workshop, the WHO Representative to Pakistan, Dr Khalif Bile, moderated a roundtable discussion with other development partners (CIDA, UNICEF, UNFPA) and MoH officials where a gender and health focal point in the Ministry of Health was recommended by Chief Health, a Gender and Health Technical Task Force was detailed with specific terms of reference towards the implementation of the Plan of Action. For further information, please contact Dr. A. Olukoya (olukoyaa@who.int) or Ms. S. Abdool (abdools@who.int).

**Meeting of EURO focal points for Family and Community Health, Malaga 25 to 28 September**
The meeting brought together around 130 people from the region to review and discuss the challenges, achievements and developments with national counterparts and other partners in Child and Adolescent Health and Development, Making Pregnancy Safer, Reproductive Health and Research and Gender and Women’s Health. GWH participated alongside colleagues from other departments in FCH. The draft strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO (to be presented to the EB in 2007) was presented and discussed, with a focus on how to take this forward at country level. Specific initiatives on gender in the region include: the development of a tool for mainstreaming gender into the EURO strategy on child health, work on gender-based violence in selected countries, a review of the evidence on gender and NCDs and integrating relevant issues into the EURO NCD
prevention strategy, and development of case studies on integrating gender into health policies.

Technical assistance to countries

Maldives (13-30 Aug). GWH provided technical assistance in the implementation of a national survey on Women's health and life experiences that is being implemented by the Ministry of Gender and Family (MGF) with the financial support of UNFPA and UNICEF and technical support by WHO. The survey is replicating the methods developed for the WHO Multi-country study on women’s health and domestic violence. GWH assisted with the questionnaire adaptation and finalization, interviewers’, supervisors’ and editors’ training, and the pilot test. GWH further customized the generic data entry system to include the Maldives’ adaptations in the questionnaire and trained staff involved in data entry and processing.

New publications:

The summary of the ‘So What?’ report --A look at whether Integrating a Gender Focus into Programmes makes a Difference to Outcomes is now available in French and Spanish as:

- Résumé du rapport 'So What?' L’intégration du facteur genre dans les programmes : a-t-elle une incidence sur les résultats ?
- Resumen del informe ‘So What?’: Un análisis para determinar si la integración de un enfoque de género en los programas produce una diferencia en los resultados

This document is a summary of the ‘So What?’ Report: A look at Whether Integrating a Gender Focus into Programmes Makes a Difference to Outcomes. The report produced by The Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is intended to present policy-makers and programme managers with a clear and accessible picture of what happens when gender concerns are integrated into reproductive health programmes.

Violence against Women and HIV/AIDS: Critical Intersections Information Bulletins Number 1 and 2

These bulletins are now available in French as:

- Violence exercée par le partenaire et VIH/SIDA
- La violence sexuelle dans les situations de conflit et le risque d'infection à VIH

Gender Equality, Work and Health: A Review of the Evidence

This document which brings more attention to gendered aspects of women’s working conditions and health was produced for WHO by Dr Karen Messing from CINBIOSE, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada and Dr Piroska Östlin from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. This book summarizes key gender issues in work and health and makes recommendations for research, policy and programmes. Copies will be available in mid-October.