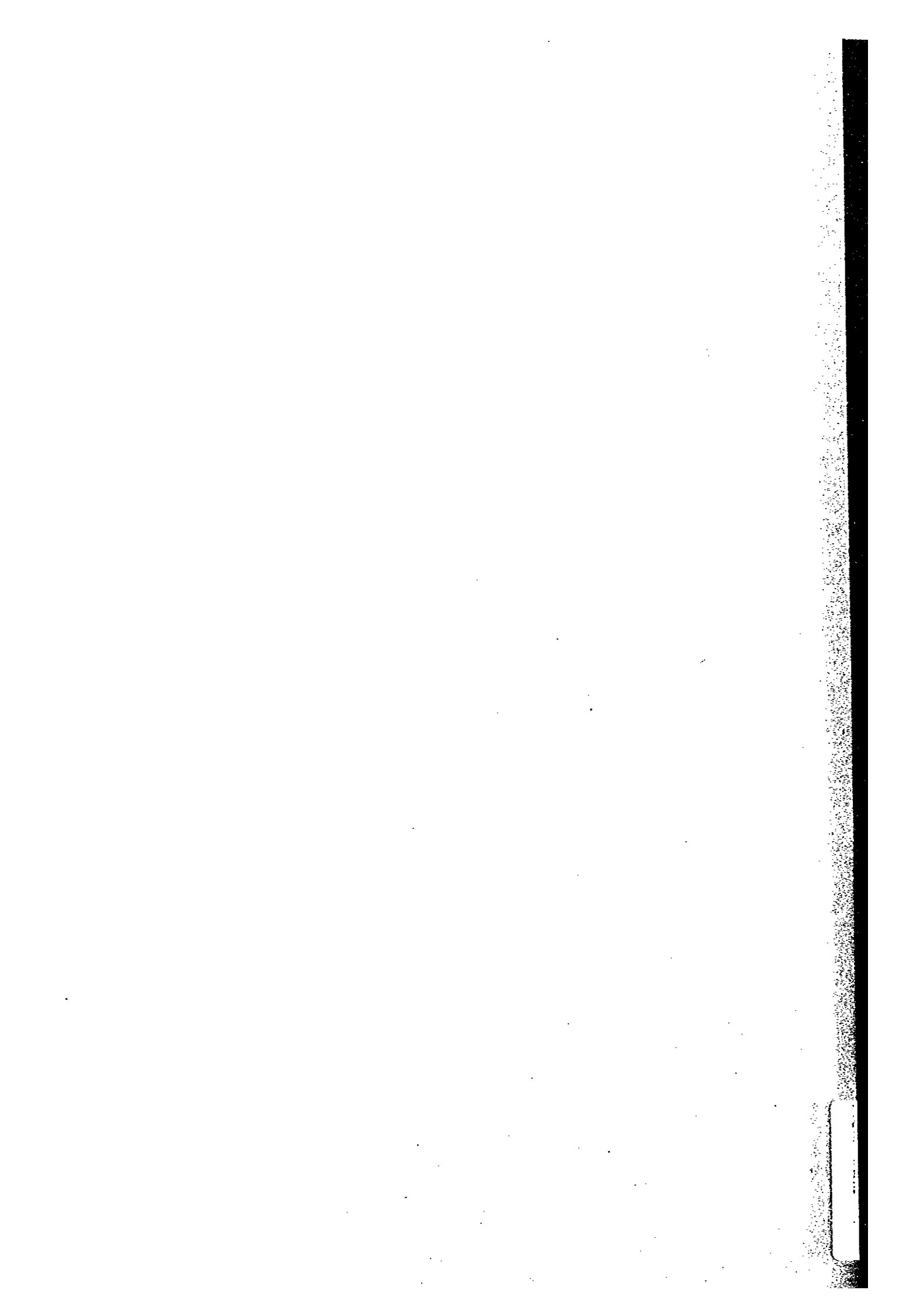


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Tunisia: Country WID Profile

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Country WID Profile (Tunisia)

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**Abbreviation
(Tunisia)**

CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DPT	Diftheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
HIV/AIDS	Human-Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MWFA	Ministry of Women and Family Affairs
(MAFF)	(Ministere des Affaires de la Femme et de la Famille)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WID	Women in Development

1. Basic Profile 2)1)

1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-Economic Profile					Ref.	
Economic indicators (1995)	GNP per capita	Growth rate of real GDP ('96-'97)		Inflation rate*	Gini coefficient*	
	US\$2,090	9.7% (1997)		4.8%	0.402	1)2)
Public sector ('91-'95)	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defense	Others	
Expenditure to each sector	0.7%	17.50%	14.1%	5.5%	56.4%	3)
Population (Mid of 1996)	Total	% of urban population		Population growth rate('90-'96)		
	8.78 million	38.97%		1.6%		1)4)
	Women	39.15%				4)
Industry/GDP (1997)	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Manufacture/Industries		
	14%	28%	58%	18%		1)
Proportion of workers	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Aid/GNP('94)		
	Total	21.4%	29.2%	41.3%	0.7%	1)
	Women	20.4%	41.2%	38.2%		1)
Labor Indicators	Total No.	Unemployment Rate	Minimum wage	Women's income/Total income*		
	2.32 million	15.6%	NA	25%		2)4)
	Women's workers/women	23%	17.2%	NA		2)4)
Participation in decision-making	Women/Total		Women/Total(1991)			
	Member of parliament	6.7%		Managers	13.0%	2)
	Ministries (1995)	6.0%		Technical experts	36.0%	2)
	Deputy ministries (1995)	16.0%				2)
Law for women			Details			
	Law on Social Status of Individuals	1956	To abolish polygamy, to ensure legal divorce			4)5)
	Employment Law	NA	To ensure equal employment opportunity and promotion			4)
	Public Service Law	NA	To ensure equal access to public service by gender			4)
	Education Law	1958	To ensure provision of education to all children			4)
Ratification and signature of international law for women				Ratification	Year	
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women				Yes	1985	5)
Policy of WID						
National Action Plan		To promote women's participation, improve poor women, and carry out			4)	
		advocacy activity				
Governmental organization of WID						
National machinery		Ministry of Women and Family Affairs			4)	
Position		Under the Prime Ministry			4)	

References

- 1) World Bank, World Development Report 1998, 1998a
- 2) UNDP, Human Development Report 1998, 1998
- 3) World Bank, World Development Report 1997, 1997
- 4) Bedoui, Mongi, women Integration in Tunisia: WID, 1998
- 5) MWFA, National Report on Women, 1995

*Refer to 7. Definitions (P.24)

1-2 Health Profile

Health Profile					Ref.
Life expectancy (1996)	Total 71.2	Male 69.3	Female 73.0	Population growth rate ('90-'97) 1.6%	1)2)
Expansion of health services	Population per Doctor (1996)	1.500	Population per Nurse and Midwife	350 persons	1)
Government expenditure to health (% of GDP '91-'93)	14.10%				2)
Infant mortality rate* (per 1,000)		low birth weight*	% of the vaccinated	('90-'95) 1-year-old children	
Total	28 persons (1996)	7% ('90-'94)	BCG	100%	3)
Female	NA		DPT	91%	3)
Under-5 mortality rate* (per 1,000)			Polio	91%	3)
Total	35 persons (1996)		Measles	86%	3)
Family planning	Contraceptive prevalence rate ('90-'97) 60%	Total fertility rate* (1996)	2.8		1)3)
trained health personnel*	82%	Age at first marriage	24.7		2)
Maternal anemia rate*	38% (1996)				4)
Maternal mortality rate	50 persons per 100,000				4)
Nutrition		Oral rehydration therapy use rate*	41%		3)
Iodine deficiency	% of households consuming iodized salt 98%	Malnutrition	Under-five 9%		3)
Community health service (1990-96)					
Access to safe water	98%	Access to adequate sanitation	80%		4)
HIV/AIDS	HIV infected	AIDS cases	Cause	NA	
Statistics (1995)	0.6 per 100,000	NA			3)

1-3 Education Profile

Education Profile					Ref.
Education system	Compulsory education 9 years.	Primary education 6 years			5)
Public expenditure on education	20.9% (1995)				6)
/GDP (1995)	17.5% (1997)				6)
Adult literacy rate (1995)	Total 68.9%	Female 57.7%, Male 79.8%			1)
by region	NA				
Primary education ('93-'97)	Net enrolment ratio*	% of completion	% of drop out (Day time class)	(Evening class)	
Male	89%	52.9%	NA	NA	1)
Female	83.2%	47.1%	NA	NA	1)
Secondary education (1993)	Net enrolment ratio*	% of completion	% of drop out (Day time class)	(Evening class)	
Male	51%	NA	NA	NA	1)
Female	49%	NA	NA	NA	1)
Higher education (1993)	Enrolment ratio	Technical and professional higher education			1)
Total	NA	% of female		43.2%	1)
Female	NA				

References

- 1) Bedoui, Mongi, women Integration in Tunisia; WID. 1998
- 2) World Bank, World Development Report 1998. 1998a
- 3) UNICEF, the State of the World's Children. 1998
- 4) UNDP, Human Development Report 1998. 1998
- 5) UNESCO, World Education Report 1998. 1998
- 6) World Bank, World Development Report 1997. 1997

*Refer to 7. Definitions (P. 24)

2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender

2-1 General Situation of Women in Tunisia

General Situation of Women in Tunisia

- The rate of the poor, 14.1% in the country as a whole, is relatively small.
- In the 1970s, export-oriented industries, in particular, textile industry, were promoted, which led to increasing women's participation in the labor market.
- The percentage of budget allocated to public health service in total government expenditure is 14.1 of GDP. As shown in the indicators such as life expectancy and infant mortality rates, although there is a urban-rural gap, health service is well-provided.
- The level of education is relatively high as a whole. Female illiteracy rate of 42.3%, is higher than male's rate. The government has focused on increasing female literacy rate, particularly, in rural areas.

Tunisia became independent from France in 1956. Since then, Tunisia has emphasized on establishing a cordial relations with neighboring countries such as Algeria and Morocco, strengthened a linkage among 5 countries adding Libya and Mauritania, and aggressively attempted to promote the "Great Magrev Plan" for the purpose of political and economic stabilization in this region (Embassy of Japan in Tunisia, 1995). The population is 8.78 millions (Bedoui, 1998). The agricultural land is barren and semi-barren, and the irrigated land is only 3% (Kokusai Kyouryoku Suisin Kyokai, 1996). The main industries in the 1960-70s were from oil and phosphate rock. Since the 1980s, manufacturing industry (especially textile) and tourism have rapidly developed (EIU, 1998).

GNP per capita is US\$2090, which is the highest in African countries, and Tunisia is classified as lower-middle income country (World Bank, 1998a). The economic performance in the early 1980s was not satisfactory due to the decrease of oil-income, and the failure of policy. The government promoted the policy based on expanding a role of the private company and introducing foreign investors, by adopting the economic reform in 1986. As a result, it led to 1) the expansion of capital market, 2) the privatization of state-owned companies, 3) the recovery of international credit. This result also was derived from loaning from IMF and the World Bank (Kokusai Kyoryoku Suisin Kyokkai, 1996).

As a result of promoting a strategy for development based on human resource development, the level of education is relatively high, the rate of the poor is smaller. On average in 1990-1995, the poor constitute 14.1% of the total population, 8.9% for urban areas; 21.9% for rural areas (World Bank, 1998a). Since the independence, Tunisia has been successful in alleviating poverty. In the 1970s, export-oriented

industries, in particular, textile industry, were promoted, which led to increasing women's participation in the labor market. This contributed to increasing income for the poor households (World Bank, 1995). Women workers constitute 23% of the total working population, 20.4% for agricultural sector; 41.2% for industrial sector; 38.2% for service sector. Women workers have increased, in particular, in textile, food-processing, and electronic-assembly (World Bank, 1995) industries.

According to the regional and international standards, Tunisia is relatively developed in the indicators related to human resource such as life expectancy, infant mortality rate, enrolment rate. Considering the income per capita, Tunisia is at the higher standards in social indicators (World Bank, 1995). The percentage of budget allocated to public health service in total government expenditure is 14.1 of GDP (World Bank, 1997). Life expectancy is 69.3 years old for male; 73 years old for female (Bedoui, 1998). Infant mortality rate under one year old is 2.8 (per 1000) persons, which is lower than that of the regional average (4.0). The population growth is 1.6%, which is also lower than neighboring countries (2.6%) (World Bank, 1998b). The reasons are that 1) the government has promoted family planning since the 1960s, and 2) the rate of implementing family planning is 60% on average in 1990-97 UNICEF, 1998).

The education reform, with emphasis on Arabian language and technical education, has been taken place since 1991. The net enrolment rate of primary school is 89% for men; 83.2% for women. In the same way, the net enrolment rate of secondary school is 51% for men; 49% for women. Likewise, the gender gap is relatively small at both levels. On the other hand, female illiteracy rate is 42.3%, which is higher than male's rate. The government has focused on increasing female literacy rate, in particular, in rural areas (Bedoui, 1998). The government and women's organizations implement literacy education, by opening literacy centers towards female illiterates.

Most population believe in Islam, Sunni, while about 20,000 Jewish are estimated. Tunisia is taking a generous position on religion, compared with other Islamic countries. Although the Constitution determines that Islam is national religion, the Civil Code adopted in 1956 prohibits polygamy and ensured gender equality under the law. Based on the separation of religion and government, the Islam Law does not strictly enact. However, there are fundamentalists in the Muslim group (Embassy of Japan, Tunisia, 1995)

2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender

Government Policy on WID/Gender

Since the independence in 1956, Tunisia reformed a law to ensure gender equality, taking the lead in other Arabic and Islamic countries.

"The National Action Plan" was elaborated by the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs in cooperation with NGOs, and endorsed by the Council of Women and Family.

[Laws]

Since the independence in 1956, Tunisia reformed a law to ensure gender equality, taking the lead in other Arabic and Islamic countries. This reform ensures: 1) the abolishment of polygamy, 2) the equal right between a married couple regarding a divorce, 3) the necessity of wife's agreement regarding a marriage, 4) the minimum age for the first marriage (male 20 years, female 17 years), and 5) the right of rearing children after the death of husband. The right to gender equality in the Personal Status Code, Employment Code, and Public Service Code. The Education Code enacted in 1958 ensures provision of the opportunity of education for all children, regardless of sex, race, and religion (Bedoui, 1998).

[Governmental Policy on WID/Gender]

Tunisia ratified CEDAW in 1985. "The National Action Plan" was elaborated by the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs in cooperation with NGOs, and endorsed by the Council of Women and Family. Basing on this plan, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Justice have also reflected gender issues. The priority issues to be taken concrete actions in this plan, are as follows (Bedoui, 1998).

1. To improve policies for women, provide gender equality on the access to skill and funds, and promote socio-economic status for women for the purpose of reinforcing economic participation for women
2. To fight poverty, and improve living conditions for the poor (in particular, female-headed households) through self-reliance]
3. To disseminate information, enhance the awareness on human rights and democracy, by strengthening women's roles in the society
4. To provide an equal opportunity for education so that women can participate in all the levels of economic activities
5. To improve the social status of migrant women, and elaborate socio-cultural programs for next-generation children

6. To strengthen women's roles in society, and raise consciousness to human rights and democracy
7. To improve social status of immigrants, and set up social and cultural programs to children in the next generation.

[The Activities for the National Action Plan]

There are the following projects and programs in order to achieve the objectives in the National Action Plan (Bedoui, 1998).

Projects	Contents
National Solidarity Fund	To provide the access to credit for people in remote areas, in particular, rural women
Income Generation	To provide income-producing activities by the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, targeting the promotion of women's enterprisers, in cooperation with Canada, the Netherlands, Switzerland
Support for Rural Women	To support rural women by the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture
Reform of the National Union of Tunisian Women	To promote women's participation in economic activities and support women's enterprisers
Development of Socio-economic Information	To set up information system by sector, region, sex implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs in cooperation with UNDP
Agricultural Extension	To supervise the agricultural extension by the World Bank and UNDP
Against Poverty	To promote income-generating activities, with regard to the requirements of environment protection

(Source: Bedoui Mongi, Women Integration in Tunisia; WID, 1998)

2-3 National Machinery

Ministry of Women and Family Affairs

- In 1993, the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs was established as National Machinery on WID/Gender.
- The objectives are to: 1) improve the living conditions for women and family, 2) increase women's participation in the process of development, 3) promote women's participation in decision-making process, and 4) encourage formation women's organizations

{Background}

In 1992, the State Secretariat for Women's and Family Affairs was established, and in 1993, it was promoted to the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (MWFA, 1995).

{Structure}

The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs belongs to the Prime Ministry. The objectives are to: 1) improve the living conditions for women and family, 2) increase women's participation in the process of development, 3) promote women's participation in decision-making process, and 4) encourage formation of women's organizations (MWFA, 1995). There are 4 agencies under the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, which are the National Commission for Women, Institute for Women, the Office for Gender Equality, and the Interdepartmental Agency on Women. These 4 agencies were set up in order to co-operate the projects implemented by the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs.

In 1992, the National Council on Women and Family was established as an advisory agency for the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs and is composed of the representatives from the governmental agencies and NGOs. It takes a role to understand gender issues, research, and assess, by coordinating among agencies involved in gender issues. In addition, these governmental agencies are supported by NGO such as National Council for Women (WEDO, 1998).

{Activities}

The roles of the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs are to: 1) eradicate gender-discrimination, and 2) promote the access to media, education, and credit for women. The priority issues are :

1. abolishment of restriction on women's entrepreneurial opportunity
2. women's participation in decision making process
3. women's exposure to media

With respect to credit, the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs formulates and implements a development strategy and micro-economic policy reflecting women's needs. Regarding education, the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs is focusing on 1) ensuring equal access to education, 2) eliminating illiteracy of women, and 3) putting in place education systems that are non-discriminatory (WEDO, 1998).

The Contents of Projects on WID/Gender by the Governmental Agencies

Implementing Agencies	Contents of the Projects
Ministry of Women and Family Affairs	Credit programs and training supported by Sweden, Norway
Ministry of Women and Family Affairs & Ministry of Agriculture	Projects for literacy education and agricultural extension, job promotion, health in order that rural women improve living conditions
Ministry of Employment and Professional Training	Projects for 12 employment and professional training centers
Ministry of the Environment and Town and Country Planning	Project for poverty alleviation in the Free-zone areas

(Source: Bedoui Mongi, Women Integration in Tunisia; WID, 1998)

3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

3-1 Education

Education

- Female illiteracy rate, 42.3%, is relatively high, compared with male's rate (20.2%). The National Action Plan prioritizes on increasing female literacy rate.
- At the level of primary education, the net enrolment rate is 89% for men; 83.2% for women. At the level of secondary education, the net enrolment rate is 51% for men; 49% for women. The gender gap is relatively small, but in the future, the gap tends to decrease.

[Government policy and budget of WID]

The percentage of budget the government allocated for education expenditure is 17.4% of the national budget (World Bank, 1997). Since 1989, the government has implemented education reform, strengthening the fields of mathematics, technology, economics, management at the secondary education. In addition, primary education (at the age of 6-16) became compulsory in 1992. There are 125,000 students at 90 higher educational institutes including 6 Universities and the number of the students at the higher level has increased from 7.5% in 1983 to 14% in 1997. The government estimates to increase the number of students to 205,000 at this level by 2001 (EIU, 1998). Most expenditure on education is allocated to construct schools and facilities, not to improve the quality of curriculum and teacher (EIU, 1998).

[Adult Literacy Education]

The main problem on education is high illiteracy rate of women. The National Plan states to eliminate the female illiterates at the age of 15-45 by 2006. The medium-term objective is to decrease female illiteracy rate to 17% by 1997, focusing on rural women. At present, 66,900 young women at the age of 15-29 go to literacy centers (UN, 1998). In 1995, overall illiteracy rate is 31.1% (Bedoui, 1998). This rate is lower than the average in the Middle-Eastern and Northern African countries; 39%, while the average in lower-middle income countries; 20% (World Bank, 1998b). As seen in other Arabic countries, the gender gap in illiteracy rate is remarkable, male illiteracy rate is 20.2%, while that of females is 42.3%. There is also a geographical gap, female illiteracy rate in rural areas is 60.1% (Bedoui, 1998).

[Primary and Lower Secondary Education]

The net enrolment rate at primary education is 86.2% as a whole, 89.0% for men; 83.2% for

women (Bedoui, 1998). The drop-out rate for men decreased from 6.5% in 1979-80 to 4.9% in 1992-93, while that of women did from 4.4% to 7.5% in the same period.

The net enrolment for women at secondary education increased from 44% in 1988-99 to 49% in 1995-96, and female students who major in science and technology increased from 14.5% in 1990-91 to 17% in 1994-95 (UN, 1998). In order to anchor the principle of gender equality, school curricula and manuals have been recast to improve the image of women, and have emphasized on the necessity that family relations be based on mutual respect and shared responsibilities and the importance of women's presence as a responsible, active partner in public life and society.

{Teacher Training, Higher Education}

The ratio of female bachelor-holders to male increased from 27.7% in 1981 to 43.2 in 1994 (Bedoui, 1998). However, as indicated below, the fields of study differ by sex. While female students tend to major in humanities, education and medical science, males are likely to major in natural science, engineering, and agriculture. The fields of vocational training also differ by sex; women tend to take courses for secretary, confectionery, and sewing.

The Percentage of Students by Field of Study and Female Students in Each Field of Study (%)

Field of Study	Total(%)	Female(%)
Education	3	46
Humanities	25	58
Law/Social Science	39	42
Natural Science/Engineering/Agriculture	24	28
Medical Science	9	54

(Source: UNESCO, World Education Report 1998, 1998)

3-2 Health

Health

- Maternal mortality per 100,000 decreased from 1000 persons on average in 1980-85 to 50 persons in 1995. Since 1990, the national project on reproductive health has been implemented.
- The government has implemented family planning since the 1960s. Total fertility rate decreased from 6.4 % per 1,000 in 1970 to 2.8 % per 1,000 in 1996. The rate of implementing family planning is 60%, and there is a geographical gap between rural and urban areas.
- Women's organization has implemented the project to diagnose women, using mammography, and the advocacy campaign on early detection through mass media.

[General Situation]

The government emphasizes the provision of public health service leading to positive effects. The ratio of expenditure allocated for public health 14.1% of GNP, which is not influenced by the budget cut by Structural Adjustment. The number of population per doctor is 1,500 persons; 8,000 persons per dentist; 350 persons per nurse.

[Reproductive Health]

The national program on reproductive health was enacted in 1990, which has led to the positive impacts on improving health indicators for women. This program focuses on maternal and child health such as post-birth medical check-up, and pre-natal care (MWFA, 1995). In 1995, the rate of maternal medical examination was 78% as a whole, 88% in urban; 69% in rural. The rate of birth attended by trained health personnel was 82% as a whole, 70% in rural; 93% in urban (UN, 1998). The improvement of these indicators contributes to decreasing maternal mortality rate.

[Family Planning]

The government has legally and institutionally attempted to implement family planning since the 1960s, by restricting the number of children from 4 in 1960 to 3 in 1989. In 1961, the law, permitting the dissemination the information on birth control and contraception, was enacted. Established in 1973, The National Office of Family and Population has implemented family planning programs through regional centers (MWFA, 1995). As indicated in Table 1, the contraceptive prevalence rates in 1978 were 42.1% in urban and 20.3% in rural areas, while those in 1994 were 64.4% in urban, and 51.4% in rural areas. Although there is a geographical gap between rural and urban areas, these figures tend to decrease since the

1970s. As indicated in Table 2, total fertility rate has considerably decreased during the last 30 years (6.4 in 1970; 2.8 in 1996), according to the increase of the contraceptive prevalence rates (World Bank, 1998b). Based on the research indicated on 1994, the fertility rates are related to the educational level for women. The rates were 4.96 for illiterates; 3.31 for the graduates of primary school; 2.40 for the graduates of secondary school (MWFA, 1995).

Table 1 The Percentage of Contraceptive Prevalence by Region (%)

Year	Urban	Rural
1978	42.1	20.3
1983	49.6	28.9
1988	60.5	34.6
1994	64.4	51.4

(Source: MWFA, Comparative Urban & Rural Contraceptive Prevalence Rates, 1995)

Table 2 The Transition of Total Fertility Rate (Person)

Year	1970	1980	1990	1996
Total Fertility Rate	6.4	5.2	3.5	2.8

(Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators 1998, 1998b)

{Sickness Trends}

Women have no sufficient knowledge of prevention and early detection on women sickness such as cancer. However, 14.1% of the malignant-tumor women get, is breast cancer. The percentage of early detection has increased within the last 10 years (MWFA, 1995). Women's organization has implemented the project to diagnose women, using mammography, and the advocacy campaign on early detection through mass media. The project for detecting breast cancer has also been implemented at primary health centers (MWFA, 1995).

3-3 Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

- The female population in rural areas is about 1.7 millions, constituting 49.7% of the total population in rural areas. Rural women take a role in domestic works considered as non-economic activity.
- The level of education for women is relatively low and 73.8% of women are illiterate.
- The government implements the projects to improve women's situation in agricultural sector.

[General Situation]

The percentage of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries contribution to GDP, which was 14% in 1997, has lowered. However, the labor force in this sector constitutes 21.4% of the total labor force, and this sector is still an important industry in the Tunisian economy (World Bank, 1998a). The main agricultural products are wheat, jujube tree, barleycorn, olive, and citrus fruits. Particularly, olive oil and jujube tree are main export products. From the views of redressing the geographical gap by increasing farmer's income, the government focuses on promoting agriculture, expanding irrigated land, and introducing mechanization (Embassy of Japan, Tunisia, 1995).

[The Situation of Women in Rural Areas]

The rural population constitutes about 60% in the total population in 1996, and the working population in agricultural sector tends to decrease, as indicated below. In 1994, the female population in rural areas is about 1.7 millions, which constitutes 49.7% of the rural population (Bedoui, 1998). There are more women in rural areas, compared with urban: while the percentage of women in urban areas is 32.7, that of women in rural areas is 36.8 (Bedoui, 1998). Women engaged in agriculture constitute one-fourth of the total women workers. Rural women take a role in domestic works considered as non-economic activity (Bedoui, 1998).

The Working Population in Agricultural Sector

Year	1975	1984	1994
Working Population	509,000	475,400	501,000
The Percentage of the Total Working Population	37.3%	26.6%	21.6%

(Source: Bedoui Mongi, Women Integration in Tunisia; WID, 1998)

{The Levels of Education for Rural Women}

The levels of education for women engaged in agriculture are lower than those in urban areas. 73.8% of female are illiterate while 23.2%, 2.6% and 0.2% have completed primary schooling, secondary schooling and university education respectively (Bedoui, 1998).

{Support for Rural Women}

The government has promoted training for women engaged in agricultural management, and has provided agricultural land and loans for female graduates. However, in fact, there are few women who utilize this system. In 1993, only 30 women took advantage of this system. According to the research in 1990, the number of female agricultural managers is estimated to be 15,000, which is only 3.8% of the total agricultural managers (MWFA, 1995).

In order to improve women's status in rural areas, the Institute of Economic Development and the World Bank have implemented projects on agricultural training. The projects related to forest conservation and water supply are viewed as important, since those projects are related to women's roles in reproductive activities. In particular, the project on rural integrated development involves women's participation (MWFA, 1995). In order to promote women's participation in rural areas, "Integrated Rural Development Programme", has been implemented, providing loans and vocational training in 1991 (MWFA, 1995).

{Activities of Women's Organizations}

Since Federation of Women Farmers was established in the Tunisian Union for Agriculture and Fisheries, it has disseminated information on loans and markets, supporting productive activities (MWFA, 1995).

3-4 Economic Activities

Economic Activities

- The number of women workers in industrial sector has increased, particularly, in textile, food-processing, and electronic-assembly industries.
- The projects have been implemented to support micro enterprises by the government and NGOs
- The working population in service sector constitutes 41.3% of the total working population and the percentage of women workers in this sector is 38.2%. This number of women workers considerably increased from 92,600 in 1984 to 201,000 in 1994.
- In 1992, the government adopted a policy to strengthen female vocational training, which has increased employment opportunities for women

[General Situation]

Tunisia has had a chronic trade deficit for 20 years, which is derived from decreasing agricultural products, and increasing food imports due to unseasonable oil industry. It occupies 30% of the total sum of import in 1970s. This trend has grown up slowly due to a decline in the price of crude oil, and has hovered around the percentage of oil in a sum of export. The Structural Adjustment program was implemented in 1986-90. The government focuses on export-oriented industry as a means of economic reform (EIU, 1998).

At present, Tunisian economy depends on mining and manufacturing industries. The products in these two sectors are worth 86% of GNP (World Bank, 1998a). Despite the fact that the agricultural land is barren and semi-barren, and the irrigated land is only 3%, the real growth rate of GNP is 9.7% in 1996-97. GNP per capita is US\$ 2090, which is the highest among Africa countries (World Bank, 1998a). However, the unemployment rate is high (15.6% as a whole; 17.2% for women).

The rate of the workers in industrial sector constitutes 28.6% of the total working population in 1974 and 29.2% in 1997 (World Bank, 1998). Women workers in this sector are engaged in textile, food-processing, and electronic-assembly industries (Bedoui, 1998). There are more women workers in this sector, particularly, in Zaghouan (35.5%), Siliana (41.8%), Kairouan (51%), Kasserine (38%), Sidi Bouzid (32.4%) (Bedoui, 1998). The increasing number of women workers results from 1) improvement of the levels of education for women, 2) realization of gender equality and activation of women's movement, 3) the needs to support family budget, and 4) focus on the export-oriented industry which is supported by more women workers (Bedoui, 1998).

{Support for Micro Enterprises}

The support for micro enterprises by women are implemented as follows(Bedoui, 1998),

1. National Fund Promoting Traditional Industries

In 1981, this was established by the government in order to support micro enterprises. There are 17,000 projects implemented. Women's participants constitute 15%.

2. National Office of Traditional Industries

The project for credit has been implemented through the National Fund Promoting Traditional Industries, supported by this office. There are 5000 women.

3. Regional Development Plan

The project has been implemented since 1973. 30% of the borrowers are women.

4. Financial support by NGO

The project has been done by the Union of Social Solidarity

The objective of the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs is to generate income for women through supporting activities. The National Solidarity Fund established in 1993 has trained through programs on micro- enterprises with cooperation to CIDA, the World Bank (Bedoui, 1998).

{Women Workers in Service Sector}

The working women population in service sector constitutes 41.3% of the total working population and the percentage of women workers in this sector is 38.2% (World Bank, 1998a). This number of women workers considerably increased from 92,600 in 1984 to 201,000 in 1994 (Bedoui, 1998). As seen below, while the number of women workers has decreased in other sectors in the last 10 years, that of service sector has increased. These women are engaged in tourism, computer, communication industries.

The Percentage of Women's Workers by Sector (%)

Sector	1984	1994
Agriculture	24.7	20.1
Industry	45.7	39.4
Service/Administration	23.9	37.6
Others	5.7	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0

(Source: Bedoui Mongi, Women Integration in Tunisia; WID, 1998)

{Informal Sector}

Informal sector creates main employment opportunities in urban areas. Self-employed, non-paid-

family workers, part-time workers, and domestic workers are not protected by the Labor Code. However, the number of workers in this sector decreased from 47% of the total working population to 35% in 1989. Women in informal sector in rural areas are engaged in productive activities such as handicrafts-making, food-processing (Moghadam, 1998).

{Support for Women Manager}

In 1990, the National Chamber of Women Heads of Businesses was set up in the Tunisian Union for Industry and Handicrafts. This Chamber, composed of 400 representatives out of 15000 employers in various economic sector, supervises investment by women, and provides information on the legal framework (MWFA, 1995).

{Vocational Training}

The policy to strengthen vocational training for women has been adopted since 1992, which increases employment opportunities for women. In 1986-92, there were 86,585 women participated in training courses in public and private sectors (MWFA, 1995). The results of the research done by the Center in 1994 are as follows,

1. 22.5% of women (compared with men) participated in training in the vocational centers managed by the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment. In 1993, the ratio increased to 25.7%.
2. The ratio of women participants in private vocational center is 67.3% of men participants 35% of women participants are professional.
3. Professional women are 31.5%.

Since the early 1990s, the content of vocational training has been improved, as follows,

1. To provide information to young women related to training
2. To increase the number of women participated in vocational training programs
3. To promote technical advice on agriculture, trading, industry, and service.
4. To improve the quality of vocational training for young women in rural areas.

In order to achieve these goals, the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment has reformed facilities and programs at vocational centers, and has set up new courses regarding financial management of small-enterprises, and bank's regulation for credit.

4. WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors

Title	Implementing Agency	Donor	Duration	Content
<General>				
Social communication strategy in favor of women	Ministry of Women and Family Affairs	GTZ (Germany)	1995-1999	To teach tolerance, equality and respect of women's rights. To sensitize populations through I.E.C actions To produce audio-visual materials
Women promotion funds	MAFF	Sweden	1995-1999	To recycle the debts to Sweden in order to finance projects aiming at improving women living conditions and creating sources of income
Statistics according to sex/genre	MAFF	ESCWA (UN)	1998-2001	To elaborate genre statistics at a national scale in order to facilitate taking decisions in favor of women
Officering in terms of sex/genre	MAFF	British Council (Great Britain)	1998-2001	To take into consideration the factor of genre during the planning process. To develop the institutional capacity as to give that factor better regard To turn out specialized people in helping trainees acquire planning training
International training terms of population, women and development	CREDIF	UNFPA	1996-1999	To introduce the concepts of gender and development according to the international recommendations of the CIPD in 1994 and the 4thC.M on women 1995 To inform about the achievements related to improving women's conditions especially the juridical and institutional as well as programs and projects concerning women.
International network related to women conditions	CREDIF	UNESCO	1997-1998	To held series of conferences on the successful political and research experiences aiming at women promotion and training to do with the genre concept Those conferences are given by internationally well-known experts coming from different continents and countries To publish the acts of those conferences

Institutional support to the CREDIF	CREDIF	CIDA	1998-2001	To consolidate women's role in the economic development To support and consolidate the CREDIF'S capacities for research, popularization and management
Forming women officers	CREDIF	F.Friedrichbert (Germany)	1997-1999	To hold a series of monthly conferences to form women officers in order to facilitate women's access to decision-making positions
Women's conditions observatory	CREDIF	UNDP	1998	To provide the planners with accurate indexes about the evaluation of women's conditions To develop efficient procedures and methods for research in the field of women promotion
Reinforcing activities related procreation	ONFP	UNFPA	1997-2001	To improve the status of procreation among the concerned populations in order to limit morbidity and deaths among women and children and to reduce the I.S.F
Youth and procreation	ONFP	UNFPA	1997-2001	To fully inform youth both boys and girls about procreation
Support to south Tunisia cooperation in terms of officering in SR/PF and women-development	ONFP	EU	1996-1999	To provide beneficiaries with the judicial economic and social knowledge necessary for the analysis of women's conditions and their role in the population -development program
<Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, and Economic Activities>				
Supporting women activities in economy	MAFF	CIDA	1999-2001	To encourage and to support women contractors To support micro-enterprise and income-producing activities through the training and officering of women beneficiaries To consolidate the role of N.G.O in supporting and providing assistance to any women initiative in the field of economy
To intensify income-producing activities	MAFF	World Bank	1998	To elaborate training textbooks for the promotion of the F.G.B To hold training workshops for the F.G.B

WID/Gender Information Sources

5-1 List of International Organizations and NGOs related to WID/Gender

There is no available information on International Organization and NGOs. Refer to 2. for Governmental Organizations

5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/Gender

[Socio/Gender Analysis]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
The Development of Women Officering / Socio-economic Insertion in the UNFT	(CDCGE)	August 1998	Consulting in Community Development

[Women in General]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
Professional Officering in Tunisia: Case of Women's officering	Bedoui Mongi	October 1993	National Union of Tunisian Women
A study on possibilities of varying specialties to be involved in the UNFT centers in Tabarka	HAYDAR Adnenc	1994	BIT, UNFT, projet RAF / 94 / MO / ITA
Post Beijing National Action Plan	MAFF	1997 - 2001	Ministry of Women and Family Affairs
Diagnosis and Analysis of Development projects in favor of Women in Tunisia	ZRELLI Sadok	July 1997	Ministry of Women and Family Affairs
International Women's Day	CREDIF	March 8th 1998	A Bulletin written by the CREDIF
Women Officering of the UNFT (Gabes)	(CDCGE)	August 1998	Consulting in Community Development
Women Officering of the UNFT (Zaghouan)	(CDCGE)	August 1998	Consulting in Community Development
Bureau: Consulting in Community Development	(CDCDE)	August 1998	Consulting in Community Development
Women Officering of the UNFT (Ariana)	(CDCGE)	August 1998	Consulting in Community Development

Bureau: Consulting in community Development	(CDCGE)	August 1998	Consulting in Community Development
Synthesis study on women officering of the UNFT	(CDCGE)	August 1998	Consulting in Community Development
Tunisian Women, A Battle and Achievements	UNFT - ATCE	March 1993	UNFT, Tunisian Agency of external Communication
National Report on Tunisian Women	Consultants	1995	Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, Pekin
Countrywomen in Tunisia, Productive Activities and Action Plans	CREDIF	1996	
Women of North Africa	UNDP	January 1985	Quarterly News Bulletin, United Nations
African action Platform, Common African Position For Women Promotion	AFRICAIN ECONOMIC COMMISSION	November 1994	United Nations, African Unity Organisation, Senegal.
Directions for the Function of the African Action Platform, Common Position, for women Promotion	Women African Center : Ouadraogo Jesephine	June 1995	United Nations, Women African Center
Population and lodging census 1994, Main Characteristics of informed population	INS Tunisia	April 1994	Ministry of Economic Development- National Statistic Institute
National Inquiry on Budget, Consumption and Family Life Standard 1995	INS Tunisia	December 1997	Ministry of Economic Development- National Statistic Institute
Population and Housing Census 1994 - Educational Characteristics	INS Tunisia	December 1997	Ministry of Economic Development- National Statistic Institute
Bibliography on Exclusion in Maghreb and Machrek Arab Countries	BEDOUI Mongi	1995	International Institute of social studies
Anti-poverty Program and Economic Insertion Policy in Tunisia	BEDOUI Mongi	December 1996	UNDP

Anti-social Exclusion Policy in Tunisia	BEDOUI Mongi, GOUIAA Ridha,	88 / 1996	International Institute of Social Studies
Fighting Poverty through Socio-economic Insertion Policies in Tunisia	BEDOUI Mongi	October 1996	PNUD
Tunisian Traditional Industries in Numbers	ONA Tunisia		Ministry of Tourism and Traditional Industry
A Study on the Feasibility of Women Support Mechanisms	Consultants Group	October 1997	Ministry of Economic Development- National statistic Institute

{Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries}

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
National Strategies of Agricultural Popularization	AVFA	December 1995	Ministry of Agriculture AVFA
Popularization Strategies: A Basic-studies Synthesis	AVFA	January 1996	Ministry of Agriculture AVFA
Maghrebien Workshop on Participation Approach in Water and Soil Conservation	Consultants Group	April 1996	Ministry of Agriculture. CES
Maghrebien Women- Reality and Future Prospects	CREDIF	1994	Ministry of Agriculture

{Economic Activities}

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
Informal Sector and Micro-enterprise, Case of Tunisia	BEDOUI Mongi	October 1995	BIT-MFPE
Women, Employment and Micro-enterprise in Tunisia	URBA-CONSULT	January 1994	URBACONSULT
Report on African Women, Women Participation in the Economic Sector	Women African Center	May 1996	UNECA / African Women Center

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Refer to 5-2

7. Definition

<Technical Terms>

Gender

Analytical concept to clarify the social and cultural role of men and women and interrelation between them. Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender varies from place to place, time to time, according to social norm and sense of values.

Informal sector

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individuals or family firms that are not listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition by ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping. Workers of the Informal Sector often have no jobs but unstable and less-paid jobs.

WID (Women in Development)

Concept of development incorporating women's participation into every development process, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

Reproductive health/rights

Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction. To be able to have safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom of choice on whether, when and how many children to deliver.

National machinery

Administrative organization to promote equality of men and women. It also promotes gender equal policies among other ministries. It plans and implements the national policies for gender equality.

Empowerment

To develop political, economic and social abilities of an individual or a group of individuals.

Affirmative action/Positive action

Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the gap between the discriminated group(s) and other group(s), when the discriminated have been placed in extremely unequal conditions to other group(s).

Access and control

"Access" means to be able to use resources(land, labor, fund, etc.) and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. "Control" means a right to manage resources and services or to own them.

Reproductive activity

Activity to reproduce next generation including bearing and rearing children, and to reproduce labor force by sustaining daily life, such as, washing and cooking for the family

<Indicators>

Inflation rate

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

Gini coefficient

Aggregate numerical measure of unequal income distribution ranging from 0 to 1. 0 means perfect equality, and 1 means perfect inequality. Larger than 0.4 are supposed to be high inequality.

Percentage of Women's Income

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

Total fertility rate

The average number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime, if she were to bear children at each age in accord with prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

Under-one mortality rate

The annual number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand live births. More specifically, the probability of dying between birth and exactly one year of age times, 1,000.

Under-five mortality rate

The annual number of deaths of infants under five years of age per thousand live births. More specifically, the probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age times, 1,000.

Maternal mortality rate

The annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births.

Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel

The percentage of births attended by physicians, nurses, midwives, trained primary health care workers or trained traditional birth attendants.

Percentage of infants with low birth weight

The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams.

Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate

The percentage of all cases of diarrhoea in children under age five treated with oral rehydration salts or an appropriate household solution.

Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school

The gross enrolment ratio is the number of students enrolled in a level of education-whether or not they belong in the relevant age group for that level-as a percentage of the population in the relevant age group for that level. The net enrolment ratio is the number of students enrolled in a level of education who belong in the relevant age group, as a percentage of the population in that age group.

