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EMPOWERING WOMEN ECONOMICALLY

ILLUSTRATIVE CASE STUDIES FROM ASIA

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Executive Summary

This publication is the product of a technical cooperation project implemented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with the financial support of the Government of China. The project was undertaken in collaboration with the Governments of Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines. In supporting efforts to strengthen and broaden the mainstreaming of gender in government institutions and initiatives, ESCAP facilitated South-South exchanges between policy makers and other key stakeholders from the aforementioned countries on the issue of women's economic empowerment.

This publication addresses the economic aspect of gender mainstreaming, with a particular focus on gender budgeting and women's economic participation in the public domain. Concrete examples of initiatives from five countries in Asia—Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines—are presented to illustrate the practical measures that can be undertaken to integrate gender into the economic sector.

Chapter 1 introduces the subject of gender mainstreaming and the more specific focal area of women's economic empowerment. In Chapter 2, gender budgeting is addressed, with case studies from India, Indonesia and the Philippines. The various forms of women's participation in economic life are the focus of Chapter 3, with examples of initiatives from Bangladesh, China, India and the Philippines. Key requirements for effectively empowering women economically are summarized in Chapter 4.

Collectively, the case studies highlight the importance of an holistic and inclusive approach to women's economic empowerment, embracing policy and legislation; targeted and resourced measures designed to both strengthen capacity and address discriminatory practices; and provision of services that create enabling environments for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of women and men, and of their countries. ●

ONE

INTRODUCTION

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