

**PILOTING OF THE SURVEY MODULE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**  
**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

**Conclusions and recommendations – July 2011<sup>1</sup>**

1. Overall recommendation

Now that the module has been tested and validated in a number of pilot surveys (conducted in Armenia, Georgia, Mexico and Republic of Moldova) and subsequently adapted, the 2011 UNECE VAW module should be recommended as a standard tool for collecting data on the internationally agreed UN indicators on violence against women.

2. Understanding the use of the module

It should be realized that in the pilot surveys the ‘module’ was **not** tested ‘as a module’ attached to another survey, but it has only been tested as a standalone survey. This should not be considered problematic, because the golden standard for a VAW survey is in any case a dedicated survey.

**It would be prudent from now on to use the word ‘module’ not in the sense as a module to be used in surveys on another topic but rather as a module to be used in a dedicated survey on VAW (with other possible modules addressing for example the respondent’s background, health, coping strategies, FGM, etc). In this context the current ‘module’ refers to that section of the questionnaire intended to calculate the indicators.**

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<sup>1</sup> This document consists of excerpts from the “REPORT FOR CONSULTANCY WITH UNECE 2011 - SURVEY MODULE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. Suitability of the module for calculation of the indicators” by Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) Jansen, 4 April 2011

### 3. Suitability for calculating the indicators

The calculation of the indicators has been tested with pilot data from Armenia and Georgia. With the latest modifications in principle all UN VAW indicators can be calculated. Due to the complex nature of the indicators and consequently their computation, it is important that the codebook and syntaxes are shared together with the module, training facilitator manual, interviewer manual and question by question explanation – e.g. by providing it as a package or toolkit (see below). The codebook and syntaxes will enable results that are as comparable as possible between surveys using the module.

### 4. Measuring frequency of violence

In terms of testing ‘counting of incidents of partner violence’ **more testing may be needed**. The two pilot studies suggest however that best results were achieved by asking about ‘one’, ‘a few (2-5) times’ or ‘many (6+) times’ per act. The feedback from interviewers confirm this, namely that the questions asking about an exact number and those on frequency in terms of “at least once a week”, “at least once a month” did not work well and were distressing for the respondents. Thus far the **test questions asking for an exact number and for periodicity per week/month etc. (V07 a and b, V10 a and b, V29 a and b, V34 a and b) have been kept in the module, but may be removed if future pilot testing or pretesting confirm these findings**. In any case in a “real” survey for the estimation of frequency all the different questions that are currently in the module should not be used together.

### 5. Codebook and analysis syntaxes

The 2011 version of the excel file containing the codebook describing all variables and values also contains the outline of the analysis plan to compute the UN VAW indicators. This outline consists of the description of all the elements needed to obtain the indicators and this should be used in conjunction with the table shells (dummy tables), also included in the same document.

The details in terms of which exact variables are needed for each step in the analysis and the computation of the indicators, as well as any additional explanation, is included in the SPSS syntax files.

Two sets of SPSS syntax files have been prepared to produce the necessary recode variables and to generate the tables that contain results for the indicators. These syntaxes have been tested and debugged to the extent possible with two different data sets with data from pilot studies in Armenia and Georgia.

Syntax file I contains recode and table syntaxes to obtain new variables for age groups and marital status as well as all other recodes needed to generate indicators 5-8. This syntax file further produces estimates for the proportion of women who talked (or have not talked) to persons/agencies on partner violence; this was one of the aspects of partner violence that was explicitly mentioned by the Friends of the Chair as being related to the partner violence indicators.

Syntax file II contains recode and table syntaxes to generate indicators 1-4 and should be used only after syntax file 1 because it needs many of the recode variables created in the first syntax file.

**Notes:**

- The syntax files are mainly meant to compute the indicators. They do not produce results on other aspects of the data collected (e.g. violence by acts, associations between severity and self-reported impact of violence, etc);
- Based on the results of the pilot studies the module had been updated resulting in a number of new variables. The current syntax files are updated to work with the latest variable set.

6. Materials to be included in the toolkit together with the UNECE VAW module

- UNECE VAW survey module
- Question by questions description of the module
- Interviewer manual
- Training workshop facilitator manual and PowerPoint
- Codebook and table shells (dummy tables)
- SPSS syntax file 1 to recode variables and produce tables for the indicators 5-8
- SPSS syntax file 2 (to be used after syntax file 1) to recode variables and produce tables for the indicators 1-4