

Country WID Profile  
(Mexico)

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# Country WID Profile (Mexico)

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Abbreviation  
(Mexico)

ENEC	National Survey of Chronic Diseases
FIFOMAFE	National <i>Ejido</i> Promotion Trust Funds
GDP	Gross National Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
INEA	National Institute of Adult Education
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
SAGAR	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development
SEDESOL	Ministry of Social Development
SEMARANP	Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UAIM	Industrial Agricultural Units for Peasant Women
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WID	Women in Development

## 1. Basic Profile

## 1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-Economic Profile						Ref.
Economic Indicator	GNP/Capita	Growth rate of real GDP		Inflation Rate	Gini coefficient	
	3,700US\$	0.6%('75-95)		17.5%(98)	53.7(99)	1,2,7
Public Sector (1997)	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defence	Others	
Expenditure of sectors	2.2%	3.7%	0.3%	0.4%	NA	1,2
Population (1998)	Total	% of urban population		Population growth rate		
	Total	9660万人	75%	12.2%		1
	Women	4870万人	50%	NA		1
Industry/GDP (1998)	Agriculture	Industry (Manufacture/Industry)		Service		
	5%	26.5%(19.7)		69%		1
Population of workers (1995)	Farming	Manufacture	Commerce	Aid/GNP		
	Total	24.9%	15.3%	18.5%		6
	Women	14.4%	30.0%	49.1%		6
Labor Indicators	Total No. (1995)	Unemployment (1998)	Minimum wage (1998)	Payment by the hour (pesos) (Salaried employees)		
	Total	33.7 million	3.16%	31.910pesos	Men	8.12 (7.43)
	Women	32.1%	4.9%	31.910pesos	Women	7.29 (7.32)
Decision-making	Women/Total		NA	Women/Total		
	Member of parliament	17.2%(the Senate), 18.8(House of Rep.)		Managers	20.0%	3,6
	Ministers (1995)	11.7%		Technicians	40.3%	3,6
	Deputy ministers	4.7%(1995)				
Law for Women	Year		Details			
	Marriage Law		-	Political Constitution of the United Mexican States		4
	Election Law		1953	Political Constitution of the United Mexican States		4
Ratification and signature of international law for women				Ratification	Year	
CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)				Done	1981/May/31	8
Policy of WID	Year		Details			
	Domestic Violence Law		1999	National Anti Intrafamilial Violence Programme 1999-2000		5
	Employment Equality Law		-	Political Constitution of the United Mexican States		4
Government Organization of WID						
National Machinery	Ministry of the Interior (the National Women's Commission)					

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1. Republic President Office Republic President Office . 1999.5th.. State of the Nation Report
2. UNDP. Human Development Report 1999
3. Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women. 1999. the National Women' s Commission
4. Political Constitution of the United Mexican States
5. National Anti Intrafamilial Violence Program 1999-2000
6. INE, National Employment Survey, 1998
7. World Development Indicator, World Bank Home Page, 1999
8. UNIFEM Home Page

## 1-2 Health Profile

Health Profile					Ref.	
Life expectancy (1990)	Male 70.7 Female 77.0		Population growth rate	13.6%(95 - 00)		1,11
Expansion of health service	Doctor/1000 population	107	Nurse and Midwife/1000 population		40	9
Government expenditure to health (% of GDP '90)			3.0%			
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)			% of the vaccinated			3
	Total	25.7 persons (1998)	BCG	NA		10
	Female	NA	DPT	NA		
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)			Polio	NA		3
	Total	35 persons (1997)	Measles	NA		4,5,9
Family planning			Age at first marriage		23	
	Family Planning rate	20.5% (1996)	Total fertility rate		2.4人 (90 - 95)	6,7
	Birth attendant rate	89.5 % (1995)	Contraceptive rate (1997) (reproductive age)		68.5%	9
	Maternal anemia rate	NA				3,10
	Maternal mortality rate	110 persons per 0.2 million (1993)	Average age at first delivery ('99 estimates)		23.6	9,10
Nutrition			Oral rehydration therapy use rate		NA	
	Iodine deficiency -	households consuming iodized salt -	Malnutrition	NA		
Community health service ('90-'97)						
	Access to safe water	Urban NA Rural NA	Access to adequate sanitation Urban NA Rural NA			
HIV/AIDS			HIV infected		AIDS cases	
		NA	NA			

## 1-3 Education Profile

Education Profile					Ref.
Education System		Compulsory education (8 year), Primary education (8 year)			
Public expenditure on education		3.9%('98)			8
	% of GNP (1995)	NA			
Adult literacy rate (1995)					
	Total (above 15 years)	10.6%			11
	Male/Total	38.5%			11
	Female/Total	61.5%			11
Net enrollment ratio of the cohort of 6-14 years old (1995)					
	Male/Total	92.9%			11
	Female/Total	91.4%			11
Primary education (1996/1997)		Completion rate	Dropout rate		
	Male/Total	82.5%	3.4%		11
	Female/Total	83.3%	2.7%		11
	<Educational issues>				
Secondary education (1996/1997)		Completion rate	Dropout rate	Female ratio of higher education	
	Male/Total	73.2%	9.7%	Education	NA 11
	Female/Total	78.2%	7.8%	Humanities	NA 11
	<Educaitional issues>	Dropout due to pregnancy, economic difficulties		Social sciences	NA
Higher education		Enrollment ratio		Natural sciences	
	Total	NA		Medical	
	Female/Total	NA		Engineering	

## References

1. INE, Completed Study for 1997, 1999
2. Minsal, Tarjeta Presentacion, 1999
3. INE, Completed Study for 1997, 1999
4. Minsal, Annual Attentions and Resroures, 1996
5. CELADE, Demographic Biletin No. 63, 1999
6. Minsal, Attention to the Health in Chile, 1997
7. National Commision of the Family, 1994
8. Mineduc, Annual Study, 1998
9. UNDP, Human Development Report,1999
10. National Population Council(CONAPO), The Demografic Situation of Mexico, 1999
11. The National Women' s Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999

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

### 2-1 General Situation of Women

#### General Situation of Women in Mexico

ÅE Although the economy is recovering, marked inequity in the distribution of wealth still persists.

ÅE The average wages of women are inferior to that of men's, which has become a particularly serious issue for female-headed households (20.14% of urban households: INEGI, National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic, 1997).

- The roles of women in Mexico have been culturally and socially regarded as secondary.

Mexico is one of the most politically stable countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, unsolved racial problems still remain among armed indigenous organizations such as the Zapatista National Liberation Army, which has rebelled against the government. There are more than 50 ethnic groups in Mexico, (EIU, 1996) and it appears that socioeconomic status is proportional to skin color. Consequently, many indigenous people belong to the poverty group (Medical cooperation file by country, 1994).

The total population of Mexico is 98.1 million (1999: Projection of National Population Council) and the urban population ratio is high at 75% (1997 UNICEF Annual Report). Since accessibility to health services has improved over the past few decades, the maternal mortality rate declined from 9.4 (per 10,000 live births) in 1980 –1982 to 5.8 (per 10,000 live births) in 1992-1994 (National Population Council, 1996). However, inter-regional disparities do exist. For example, 94.48% of the urban population and only 66.28% of the rural population have access to safe drinking water (INEGI, National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic, 1997). The literacy and school enrollment rates in rural areas are also fairly inferior compared with urban areas. On the other hand, slums have formed in outlying metropolitan areas which has become a major social concern.

At the present time, although the economy is recovering, marked inequity in the

distribution of wealth still persists. Due to export-oriented industrial training strategy by the Government, the number of women wage earners has increased. However, in many cases health treatment, pregnancy, pensions and dismissal of female employees have not improved. The majority of women are employed in the informal sector at a rate twice that of males. The average wages of women are inferior to that of men's, which has become a particularly serious issue for female-headed households (20.14% of urban households: INEGI, National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic, 1997).

[Cultural and social background]

Since long before the Spanish colonial period and up to the present, the roles of women in Mexico have been culturally and socially regarded as secondary. Female negligence was instituted by army men and priests and also became a political tradition in the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. In recent years, female activities and social participation are expanding. However, the female disposition of obedience, admiration, and submissiveness is still anticipated in the home and at work (Y. I. T. ASOCIADO, 1997). Accordingly, women do not have a decision-making role in politics and the economy (UNICEF, 1995).

The Roman Catholic Church strongly opposes divorce, so the divorce rate is relatively low. Cases of unreported marriage (*de facto* marriage) are also common. On the other hand, nearly 10% of single women or single mothers reside in the slum districts around Mexico City. For this reason, the tradition of male precedence or *machismo* (marriage where a man visits a woman's residence) remains strong (Ministry of Public Welfare, 1996).

## 2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender

### Government Policy on WID/Gender

ÅE The 1995-2000 National Program on Women (*Programa Natcional de la Mujere 1995-*

2000) was promulgated 1996.

ÅE The program was formulated in accordance with the 1995-2000 National Development Plan in order to improve decision-making rights, responsibility and ways of benefiting women in development through activities and participation in politics, economy, society and culture.

[WID/gender policy]

The 1995-2000 National Program on Women (*Programa Natcional de la Mujere 1995-2000*) was officially announced on March 8, 1996 and was promulgated on August 21 of the said year. This program is designed for the purpose of integrating activities for women conducted by different organizations and different programs. As part of the priority objectives of social policies, the program was formulated in accordance with the 1995-2000 National Development Plan in order to improve decision-making rights, responsibility and ways of benefiting women in development through activities and participation in politics, economy, society and culture.

After taking into account the current status of Mexican women, this program describes priority issues to be taken in the future, five collateral strategies and a 9-article planning policy. The 9-article planning policy was takes into consideration socially weak groups in both urban and rural areas and diversified activities by sector and region (Y. I. T. ASOCIADO, 1997).



## 2-3 National Machinery

Ministry of the Interior (the National Women's Commission)	
National machinery	Ministry of the Interior(the National Women's Commission)
Number of Staff:	50(the National Women's Commission)
Budget	\$7,057,750,000.00
Function	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To establish policy, guide line and criterion for integration, Execution, follow-up, supervising, evaluation and control of the National Program for Women</li> <li>2. To care the observance of the National Program for Women by the federal public administration departments and organizations.</li> <li>3. To promote the application of policies, strategies and actions contained in the National Program for Women.</li> <li>4. To promote the formation and execution of state programs and municipality programs for women.</li> <li>5. To realize studies, research, publications, meeting and workshop about gender equity and women's condition on national development.</li> <li>6. To bring information, orientation, technical assistance and training about gender matters for policy planners and its executing staffs.</li> <li>7. To strengthen international relations.</li> <li>8. To administrate budget and grant.</li> </ol>

In accordance with a revision of Article 27 of the Federal Public Administrative Organization on December 11, 1994, it is stipulated that the Ministry of the Interior (*Secretaria de Gobernacion*: SG) functions to formulate, adjust, and supervise a program concerning women. In concrete terms, the National Women's Commission is established on August 31, 1998 as a disconcentrated administrative organization under the same ministry. The general coordinator is Ms. Guadalupe Gómez Maganda. In the Commission, the Inquiry Council to inquire activities in the framework of the National Women's Program and to promote its implementation and the Social Auditing Bureau to analyze and evaluate such activities are established (National Woman's Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999).

[Government Ministries Implementing Women-related Activities]

Ministry	Activities/ Programs
INEGI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexican Women, a Estadistic Balance in the end of 20 Century, 1995 165p</li> </ul>
Ministry of Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's Productive Development Program</li> <li>• Ixtlera's Women Program</li> </ul>
Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Another Form to be Teachers, Mothers and Fathers"</li> </ul>
SAGAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Alliance for the Field"</li> </ul>

### 3 Current Situation of Women by Sector

#### 3-1 Education

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#### Education

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ÅE Because of the dissemination of education and improvement in literacy, illiteracy rates for those over 15 years of age improved from 29.6% in the 1970 to 10.6% in 1995.

ÅE Although the net enrollment rate of primary education exceeded 80%, great geographical disparities can be observed in the dropout rate.

ÅE The Ministry of Public Education (*Secretaria de Educacion Publica: SEP*) encourages action without gender discrimination in regular education and non-formal education.

ÅE The enrollment rate among girls in secondary education has gradually improved, while a gender gap in the attendance rate from this stage has become noticeable.

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#### [General Situation]

Since successive governments following the Mexican Revolution have placed an emphasis on the dissemination of education and improvement in literacy, illiteracy rates for those over 15 years of age improved from 29.6% in the 1970 to 15% in 1990 and 12.7% in 1995 (National Woman's Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999). The educational system is comprised of 6-year primary education, 3-year secondary education and 3-year higher education. In the past, compulsory education meant only primary education; however, since September 1993 secondary education has also been compulsory (Medical cooperation file by country, 1994). Although the enrollment rate of primary education exceeded 80%, great geographical disparities can be observed in the dropout rate. The rate of completing primary education in the Federal District and in states with metropolitan areas such as Nuevo Leon is more than 80% (Conteo de Poblacion y Vivienda: INEGI, 1995). Whereas, the rate in southern states such as Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Guerrero where many rural areas exist and where development falls behind are low at approximately 30 to 50% (Federal Executive Branch, 1996). Furthermore, the low secondary education and low enrollment rates in higher education are recognized to be educational problems in Mexico.

In order to rectify an imbalance in schooling opportunities, the Government is endeavoring to train teachers, to improve wages and to expand technical training schools by increasing its educational budget (EIU, 1996). Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Education (*Secretaria de Educacion Publica*: SEP) encourages action without gender discrimination in regular education and non-formal education by reviewing educational content from the viewpoint of abolishing sexual discrimination. The Ministry of Public Education also implements an educational project for adults via remote education and satellite network (EDUSAT). In particular, “education with a gender vision” is emphasized as one in a series (Y. I. T. ASOCIADO, 1997). Incidentally, in 1999 the budgetary allotment for education was 25% of the national expenditure (5<sup>th</sup>. State of the Nation Report, 1999).

[Primary, secondary and higher education]

The Mexican enrollment rate is higher than the average for Latin America and the Caribbean throughout all educational levels, and the gender gap has also improved over the past decade. Both total male and female enrollment rates in primary education exceeded 80%, so the attendance rate of children between 6 and 14 years of age is approximately 90% for both boys and girls. On the other hand, the terminal efficiency of girls for basic education is slightly higher than boys in basic education (83.3% for girls and 82.5% for boys in primary education meanwhile 78.2% for girls and 73.2% for boys in secondary education: National Woman’s Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999). However, the rate of completion of basic education among girls from in the rural communities with high or very high marginality is only 60.4% (the completion rate of boys in the same situation is a little over 70%: National Woman’s Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999). Even among persons who have not yet completed primary education, boys often drop out in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades; whereas, girls often drop out in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. In addition, although the enrollment rate among girls in secondary education has gradually improved, a

gender gap in the attendance rate from this stage has become noticeable. (Federal Executive Branch, 1996).

In recent years, the number of women who take higher education has increased. In 1970, the enrollment rate of women over 20 years of age was only less than 1%; however, it reached 5.5% in 1990 (Federal Executive Branch, 1996). The proportion of students entering courses of higher education in 1997 was 100 for men and 98 for women (National Woman's Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999). Improvement in the enrollment rate of women entering courses of higher education induces a gender gap in the number of persons who engage in professional posts, at the same time, promoting the participation of women in labor. The participation rate of women with higher education in labor is twice that of women with no educational opportunity (National Population Council, 1995).

Recently, access to education for women has improved. The male literacy rates is 38.5%, while the female literacy rates is 61.5% (National Women's Commition, 1999)

[Teachers]

Due to reflection of strong stereotypical ideas concerning women, employment for women is still limited to a few job classifications. The teaching profession is regarded as a female occupation, and many women work at locations of fundamental and university education. The number of female teachers is almost twice as many as that of males. However, in scientific fields, the number of female teachers still remains low (INEGI Employment Statitics with Gender Focus, 1998).

[Adult education]

The Ministry of Public Education established the National Institute of Adult Education (INEA) to address illiteracy measures. The same institute has implemented a program

subject to the population over 15 years of age who could not obtain the abilities of reading, writing and basic arithmetic. The program attended 2.5 million of the adult population between 1998 and 1999 (5<sup>th</sup>. State of the Nation Report, 1999).

[Vocational and technical training schools]

In order to receive vocational education in the technical and commercial fields, the qualification of completing secondary education is required. Thus, the female rate of taking high school education in cycle 1997-1998 was 43.6% and the female rate for vocational education in same cycle was 53.3%. As mentioned above, it is socially acceptable for women to receive vocational education in areas deemed as female occupation such as teachers, which has helped to stimulate female enrollment in vocational education courses (National Woman's Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999).

**Table Adult Illiteracy Rate by Gender and Age (above 15 Years Old)**

Age	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	Above 40
Female	2.95%	3.94%	5.29%	7.83%	10.86%	26.11%
Male	3.05%	3.16%	3.67%	4.39%	5.69%	15.84%

Source: INEGI, National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic, 1997

## 3-2 Health

### Health

- Å National health conditions have improved remarkably over the past 30 years, particularly the infant mortality and under-5 mortality rates.
- Å 39% of women are underweight, which becomes the cause of a rising risk of complications during pregnancy.
- Å The execution rate of family planning by women increased from 30.2% in 1976 to 68.5% in 1997.
- Å The number of females infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is 15% of the total number of HIV-positive and the number has been increasing in recent years.

#### [General Situation]

Health conditions in Mexico have quite improved in recent years, so health and medical-related indicators are relatively favorable over those of Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result of various health and medical services, national health conditions have improved remarkably over the past 30 years, particularly the infant mortality and under-5 mortality rates. On the other hand, the low quality of health and medical services, an preference toward urban areas and a shortage of persons involved in medical services are still recognized to be problems.

Infectious diseases and malnutrition-related diseases continue to have a great influence on the population in poverty groups and are the leading cause of death and disease. Of those, diarrhea and acute respiratory diseases lead throughout all age groups. In particular, the morbidity rate is high in depopulated areas and urban slum districts where living conditions are bad. Since accessibility to safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation facilities in rural areas (66.28% and 38.98% respectively in 1997) is inferior than that of urban areas (94.48% and 89.77% respectively in 1997: INEGI, National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic, 1997), improvement in health and sanitation in rural areas has become a major concern.

#### [Children and maternal health]

Owing to an expansion in immunization, the infant mortality rate in first year (per 1,000 live births) dropped one seventh (1/7) over the past 68 years between 1930 and 1998. The mortality rate dropped from 176 to 25.7 respectively. At the same time, the infant mortality rate varies from region to region, the household economic conditions and educational level of mothers. For example, the infant mortality rate among mothers with no formal schooling is 48; whereas, the rate for mothers with secondary education is 20. Consequently, the higher the educational, the lower the infant mortality rate. Immunization measures have been further strengthened since 1990. Since then, neonatal tetanus vaccines for women of childbearing age began to be administered in regions where neonatal tetanus was reported and vaccination coverage reached 84% in 1993 (National Woman's Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999).

According to data of the National Population Council in 1996, the maternal mortality rate dropped from 9.4 (per 10,000 live births) during 1980 –1982 to 5.8 (per 10,000 live births) during 1992-1994. However, based on the Data of UNICEF, the maternal mortality rate was 110 (per 100,000 live birth) in 1990, seven times higher than the average 15 (per 100,000 live births) of advanced nations. The disparity between both figures could be caused by how estimation of births and deaths is reported (Medical cooperation file by country, 1994). The leading causes for maternal mortality are hemorrhage, toxemia and puerperal abnormality (Medical cooperation file by country, 1994), with 3<sup>rd</sup> artificial abortion ranking (National Population Council, Basic Indicator for the Reproductive Health and Family Planning, 1996).

The leading causes for deaths in women between 15 and 64 years of age are uterine cancer, breast cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and traumas, followed by sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) which have become a health concern. Women need more nutrition during menstruation, pregnancy and breast-feeding. Consequently, malnutrition



from childhood to adolescence leads to underweight women of childbearing age and becomes the cause of a rising risk of complications during pregnancy. The 1993 National Survey of Chronic diseases (ENEC) reported that 39% of women are underweight. Furthermore, according to the National Survey conducted in 1988, 12% of women between 12 and 49 years of age are anemic, the symptoms of which tend to worsen with age. Although 89.5% of childbirth nationwide are performed by physicians, 66% of childbirth in rural and depopulated areas were performed by traditional birth attendants in 1995 (National Woman's Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999).

#### [Family planning]

Since the national family-planning program conducted by public medical institutions commenced in 1974, the execution rate of family planning by women reached 68.5% in 1997 from 30.2% in 1976 (National Population Council, Demographic Situation of Mexico 1999). However, there are marked interregional disparities in the execution rate of family planning. For example, the rural rate (53.6%) is lower at 19.7% than that of urban areas (73.3%). Although oral contraceptives (36% of total contraceptive user), IUD (19%) and traditional methods (23%) were once the main forms of contraception, today the figures are: female sterilization (44.7%), IUD (20.8%), oral contraceptives (10.2%) and traditional methods (12.3%). In Mexico, since artificial abortion is illegal, abortion is carried out through the black market at high risk to health (National Population Council, 1995).

#### [AIDS]

The number of females infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is 15% of the total number of HIV-positive and the number has been increasing in recent years. Thus, the female rate of increase is higher than that of male. In most cases, the main modes of transmission in adult females are sexual transmission (56%), and what has also increased is transfusions of contaminated blood (44%). Accordingly, information is being

provided and counseling is implemented by medical personnel as AIDS countermeasures (National Woman's Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999).

### 3-3 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

#### Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

ÅE The importance of the economic activities of rural women in household livelihoods has increased daily due to decreasing family incomes attributed to the economic slump.

- New Farmland Act will become an issue in order to clarify female rights equal as male

ÅE Budget scarcity threatens the activities of Industrial Agricultural Units for Peasant Women: UAIM, which is a key organization in the improvement of productivity for rural women.

[General situation]

The agricultural sector in Mexico absorbs nearly 40% of the labor population (5<sup>th</sup>. State of the Nation Report, 1999). Despite this, the distribution ratio of GDP has fallen every year amounting to only 5% (1999 Human Development Report). In particular, since trade barriers within the region were abolished with the inauguration of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) 5 years ago, low agricultural productivity in Mexico compared with the United States and Canada has become a subject of discussion. Delay in the agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, inefficiency in subdividing agricultural land due to the *ejido* (communal landholding) system and the outflow of young workers from rural areas due to the influence of industrialization policy can be pointed out as causes for low productivity of Mexican agriculture (Association for Promotion of International Cooperation: APIC, 1996).

As a way out of slump in agriculture, the *ejido* (communal landholding) system which has been the keynote of Mexican agriculture over 77 years was radically reformed in 1992 (revision of Article 27 of the Constitution) and the new Farmland Act was implemented. However, the attempt was ineffectual (APIC, 1996). Since the Program of Direct Rural Support (*Procampo*) was officially announced in 1993, subsidies for cultivation of staple foods (especially corn) that had been granted in the past were abolished. At the same time, cultivation of products such as fruits and vegetables that are relatively high in productivity began to be promoted (EIU, 1996).

[Land-ownership]

Equality between men and women is stipulated in Article 4 of the Constitution. Gender equality in all activities of *ejido* is also recognized by the Agrarian Law (Article 12) concerning Article 27 of the Constitution revised in 1992 (Agrarian Law, February 26ht, 1992).

In the future, the rationalization of the new Farmland Act will become an issue in order to clarify female rights on the following matters: (i) a husband cannot sell farmland without obtaining the consent of his wife (Article 80), (ii) a certificate for cultivating rights of farmland established as an agro-industrial unit (Industrial Agricultural Units for Peasant Women: UAIM) should be submitted (Article 63), and (iii) a portion of the farmland or facilities should be used in the agro-industry of rural women (Agrarian Law, February 26ht, 1992).

[Agriculture]

Due to the migration of men seeking work, women in rural areas shoulder a heavy burden including childcare, gathering of wood for fuel, drawing water and breeding of livestock. In addition, women are involved in agriculture. The importance of the economic activities of rural women in household livelihoods has increased daily due to decreasing family incomes attributed to the economic slump. Consequently, the burden to women in agriculture has also increased. However, the work of rural women is not regarded to be general work, so it does not appear in statistics. Furthermore, partial charge between men and women in the agricultural activities is not clarified.

Even in the manufacturing folk crafts, which is an effective means of improving the incomes of rural families, problems such as a lack of feasible financing, a lack of production and sales organizations, low productivity, a lack of new technologies to

increase productivity, lack of a network to sell products inside and outside the country, low evaluation of handicrafts and a lack of suppliers of raw materials are pointed out. In employment, the high illiteracy rate of rural women also contributed to the limiting of employment. Consequently, breeding of livestock or agriculture is the primary means of income for rural families.

In recent years, women are forming groups in a project to improve productivity by obtaining loans to secure employment and incomes. Although statistics that objectively evaluate such activities have not yet been observed, the project to improve productivity has expanded the opportunities for rural women in fields from which women were once excluded such as beef rearing, the business of butchering and cultivation of various crops. The feasibility of this project to improve productivity is attracting public attention.

[Agricultural Extension Worker]

Agro-industry unit (Industrial Agricultural Units for Peasant Women: UAIM), established in 1972, is a key organization in the improvement of productivity for rural women. Although 6,300 UAIM units existed in the early 1990s, only 35% of such units actually carried out activities. Other important governmental programs include an action plan for promoting participation of rural women in the development of rural communities, a support program for a project to improve the productivity of rural women, and a regional development program associated with female participation. However, the future of these programs is threatened due to financial shortages, absence of appropriate distribution channels and insufficiency of training support.

[Accessibility to Micro Finance]

In accordance with a program formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (*Secretaria de Agricultura, Ganaderia y Desarrollo Rural*: SAGAR), credit for the creation of rural women's organizations for the purpose of becoming

independent on the operational and organizational aspects are being made by the National *Ejido* Promotion Trust Funds (FIFONAFE) under the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (*Secretaria de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca*: SEMARNAP) and the Ministry of Social Development (*Secretaria de Desarrollo Social*: SEDESOL). Furthermore, the National Finance Corporation implements a national program in support of solidarity for companies and a program in support of micro enterprises. The former is designed for the purpose of supporting the establishment of small-scale enterprises in socially disadvantage groups, while the latter supports the establishment for funds for purchasing sewing machines for women and establishments providing sewing machines.

In the first Working Conference Concerning Policy and Program of the Federal Government to Meet Rural Women in Mexico held by related governmental authorities in December 1996 with the objectives of identifying and modifying the condition limits for loans for rural women, an engagement to establish a broad relationship with NGOs was made.

#### [Forestry]

Although the forestry industry accounted for 2.3% of GDP (INEGI, 1998), growth rate in this sector was held in check due to a shortage of investment and over development of forestry resources. In the future, improvement in the forestry growth rate is expected through reform of the land holding system (EIU, 1996). Information concerning female activities in the forestry industry could not be obtained.

#### [Fisheries]

In recent years, fishing output has tended to decrease, so that comparative growth in the fisheries sector cannot be expected (EIU, 1996). Future issues include expansion in the supply of marine products to market, effective utilization of marine resources and

improvements in modern fishing vessels, fishing tools, ports and distribution facilities (APIC, 1996). Information concerning female activities in the fisheries could not be obtained.

### 3-4 Economic Activities

#### Economic Activities

ÅE High proportion of economically active women work only part-time (nearly 38% of the total)

ÅE The female participation rate in labor peaked at approximately 51.71% in the age-group between 35 and 39 year old and declined in the age-group of 40 years of age and older.

ÅE Although the Constitution guarantees equal labor and wages for both men and women, in actuality there are still few opportunities for women to obtain the same job classifications.

ÅE 2.6 million persons who engaged in the informal sector in 1995, 870,000 were males (33%); whereas, 1.7 million (67%) were females

[General situation]

In recent years, the number of persons engaged in the agricultural sector has been decreasing while persons involved in the services sector has been increasing in Mexico. Accordingly, employment figures by industry in 1995 are 52.75% (National Population and Dwelling Count, 1995) in the services sector, 24.37% in the industrial sector and 22.54% in the agricultural sector (Cooperation information file by country, 1996). Furthermore, due to an economic crisis in the 1970s, structural adjustment in the 1980s and a financial crisis in the early 1990s, male unemployment rate has increased. At the same time, real wages have also dropped. In line with this, the number of women who engage in economic activities primarily to subsidize the family income has increased rapidly over the past 25 years.

However, many problems need to be addressed, such as the low wages of female workers, job discrimination, sexual harassment, unfairness in the promotion or training opportunities and violation of the Labor Code (National Population Council, 1995). In addition, since social services such as day care centers are inadequate, work opportunities for women are limited due to childcare responsibilities. Only 34.8% of the female labor force population is employed part-time. High proportion of economically active women work only part-time (nearly 38% of the total: the National Program for Women, 1995).



[Participation in labor]

The female workforce (over 12 years of age) increased from 17% in 1970 to 38.85% in 1997. In addition to the modernization and restructuring of the Mexican economy, a rise in the educational level of women and promotion of activities to generate incomes contributed to this outcome. As a result, under a deteriorating Mexican economy, female labor contributed to the living standards of families and was vital to national economic activities (Federal Executive Branch, 1996).

Participation of married women in the workforce increased from 26% in 1991 to 29% in 1993. In the case of women who married without notification (*de facto* marriage), the rate increased from 23% in 1991 to 26% in 1993. Furthermore, the female participation rate in labor peaked at approximately 51.71% in the age-group between 35 and 39 year old and declined in the age-group of 40 years of age and older. However, the rate was consistently high at over 40% in age-group between 20 and 49 years of age, which demonstrates an upward trend in the number of women integrating their jobs with domestic chores or childcare (Federal executive Branch, 1996). On the other hand, in 1993 and 1994 the female unemployment rate was relatively low compared with that of males.

Since the female labor are typically classified into employed, self-employment (such as stall keepers), and family employed with no wages, of 13.4 million women involved in economic activities, 8.1 million were employed, 3.3 million women were self-employment, 1.8 million women were employed by their families with no wages (INEGI, National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic, 1997).

[Employed labor]

In addition to job classifications generally regarded as female occupations (secretary, typist, salesperson, teacher, nurse, health assistant or maid), in recent years women have

begun to engage in occupations requiring a higher level of specialty and skills. However, according to the data of 1997 (National Woman's Commission, Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999), figures of the employed population rate for female workers by job classification are considerably high than males workers for secretarial and clerical work (12.0% for female workers and 5.5% for male workers), sales (20.2% for female workers and 9.3% for male workers), domestic workers (11.4% for female workers and 0.7% for male workers), and the services industry (8.1% for female workers and 5.9% for male workers).

Although the Constitution guarantees equal labor and wages for both men and women, in actuality there are still few opportunities for women to obtain the same job classifications, so women are appointed to lower positions than males. Furthermore, even if a woman's achievement level is excellent engaging in the same job for the same working hours, in general her wages are set lower than those of males. Treatment in matters other than wages is also restricted in many cases. Perhaps this explains the reason why female working hours are shorter than males and the resultant income disparity.

[Informal sector]

The majority of women who participate in economic activities are involved in the informal sector employed as stall clerks, for example. At the present time, since there are no statistics that reflect the actual population engaged in the informal sector, the estimated number is based on the figures of stall clerks and family employees with no wages, which are major constituent members of this sector. According to such data, of 2.6 million persons who engaged in the informal sector in 1995, 870,000 were males (33%); whereas, 1.7 million (67%) were females (Y. I. T. ASOCIADO, 1997).

#### 4 WID/Gender Project by Other Donors

Title	Implementing Agency	Donor	Duration	Budget (US\$)	Content
<b>General</b>					
1. Strengthening National Program on Women 2. Introduction of Gender Perspective in Population Policy 3. Advice on Cairo and Beijing Conference 4. Assistance for Strengthening the Participation of Federal Government, NGO and Press	CONAPO	UNFPA	1995-1997	745,000	
11 Programs on Social Development		UNIFEM	1993-1996	1,330,000	
<b>Health</b>					
Reproductive Health Project	SSA	JICA	1999-2004		Uterine Cervical Cancer Prevention
Assistance for Family and Regional Health		Pan-American Health and Medical Organization (OPS/WHO)	1996-1997	60,000	
Assistance for the Security of Children in terms of Health and Nutrition	IMSS	UNICEF	1996-2002	677,000	
<b>Economic Activities</b>					
Development Assistance for Indigenous Women (Tandanhuitz)	S IMHAI para una nueva Humanidad, A.C.(NGO)	UNDP	1993-1996	179,000	
Finance and Management Training for Women's Small Scale Entrepreneurs	Asociación de Empresarias Mexicanas, A.C.(NGO)				
Assistance for the Equal Distribution for Poverty Region		UNICEF	1995-2002	3,743,000	

## 5. WID / Gender Information Sources

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

[International Agency]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
Programa de Desarrollo de Naciones Unidas para la Mujer (UNIFEM)		Junguez 208, Talpan, C.P. 14000, México, DF. Tel: 5573-7100, Fax: 5573-2318 mexfam@ippfwhr.infonet.com

[Government Organization]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
Cordinación General de Programa Nacional de la Mujer,		Ixcateopan 337, Col. Santa Cruz Atoyac, Del. Benito Junguez, C.P. 03310, México, DF. Tel: 5604-6883 Fax: 5604-7438 pronam@iwm.com.mx
Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO)		Angel Urraza No.1137, Col. Del Valle, C.P. 03100, México DF. Tel: 5559-6110
Instituto Nacional de Solidaridad (INSOL)		2da. Cerrada de Berisario Dominguez No. 40, Col. Carmer Coyoacan, C.P.04100, México, DF. Tel: 5554-0430 ex122, ex141 Fax: 5554-6319

[NGO]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
Fundación Mexicana para la Planificación Familiar, (MEXFAM)		Junguez 208, Talpan, C.P. 14000, México, DF. Tel: 5573-7100, Fax: 5573-2318 mexfam@ippfwhr.infonet.com

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

Title	Author	Year	Available at
<b>General Situation</b>			
National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic	INEGI	1997	INEGI
1995-2000 National Program on Women	National Women's Commission	1995	National Women's Commission
Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women	National Women's Commission	1999	National Women's Commission
<b>Education</b>			
Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women	National Women's Commission	1999	National Women's Commission
5 <sup>th</sup> . State of the Nation Report	Republic President Office	1999	www.presidencia.gob.mx
National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic	INEGI	1997	INEGI
Employment Statisticts with Gender Focus	INEGI	1998	INEGI
<b>Health</b>			
National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic	INEGI	1997	INEGI
Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women	National Women's Commission	1999	National Women's Commission
Basic Indicator for the Reproductive Health and Family Planning,	National Population Council	1996	National Population Council
Demographic Situation of Mexico	National Population Council	1999	National Population Council
<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery</b>			
Employment Statisticts with Gender Focus	INEGI	1998	INEGI
Agrarian Law	Agrarian Reform Secretariat	1992	Federal Official Gazette, February 26ht, 1992
<b>Economic Activities</b>			
National Population and Dwelling Count	INEGI	1995	INEGI
1995-2000 National Program on Women	National Women's Commission	1995	National Women's Commission
National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic	INEGI	1997	INEGI
Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women	National Women's Commission	1999	National Women's Commission

## 6. References

Advance Report of Execution about National Program for Women, 1999 National Women's Commission

Agrarian Law, 1992 Agrarian Reform Secretariat

Demographic Situation of Mexico, 1999 National Population Council

Employment Statistics with Gender Focus, 1999 INEGI

5<sup>th</sup>. State of the Nation Report, 1999 Republic President Office

Human Development Report, 1999 UNDP

National Inquire of the Demographic Dynamic, 1997 INEGI

1995-2000 National Program on Women, 1995 National Women's Commission

The Demografic Situation of Mexico, 1999 National Popiulation Council

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