

Training and advisory assistance will be given in entrepreneurial development and planning. Technical assistance will also be given to train women in the use of credit and revolving funds and to help them form groups to pool savings and tap existing banking facilities.

The organizations primarily responsible for implementing this subprogramme are UNIFEM, the United Nations (DIESA, ECA, DTCD).

Subprogramme 2.6 Informal sector

Intergovernmental objectives

(i) To take measures to improve working conditions and facilities in the informal sector of the economy;

(ii) To provide incentives to women working in the informal economy to participate in co-operatives and small-scale enterprises by helping them acquire skills and by making available licensing opportunities, child-care facilities and credit.

United Nations system objectives

(i) To complete a study of the conditions of women in the informal sector and of their contributions to the economy;

(ii) To propose measures to provide women in the informal sector with access to co-operative arrangements, licences, social support services and credit;

(iii) To provide assistance to women's organizations in the informal sector in all developing countries.

Strategy

The working conditions in the informal sector in most countries are not well documented, nor is the significant contribution of the sector to economic development. It appears that a large number of workers in this sector are women and that their numbers are increasing. A major effort will be made to document and study the conditions and contributions of the sector and to develop indicators of women's participation in informal economic activities. (The work will draw on subprogramme 5.1 for indicators of the informal sector in the national economy.)

It is already known that women working in the informal sector generally lack access to training, licensing schemes, co-operatives, health care, child-care facilities and financial services such as credit. Owing to the fragmentation in economic activities in the informal sector, as well as its tenuous position, providing services to the sector is a complex matter of law and public policy. Based on a study of national experience, an effort will be made to identify measures that show promise for bringing women in the informal sector into co-operatives and entrepreneurial activities and making support facilities, credit and licences more readily available to them.