ESCWA's work on Social Exclusion is part of the inter-regional Development Account Project "Interregional Cooperation to Strengthen Social Inclusion, Gender Equality and Health Promotion in the Millennium Development Goals." **ESCWA is conducting three studies on social Exclusion in Lebanon, Egypt, and Yemen**, with the aim of identifying groups that are socially excluded and analysing their experiences. The initiative's ultimate goal is influencing policy makers to take into account the needs and rights of those most marginalized in society. Examples of such groups are refugees, the disabled, and street children.

What is Social Exclusion?

Social exclusion names a power relationship places a subject at an unfair disadvantage from others similarly situated; it results in the curtailment of that subject's social, political, and/or economic rights, his or her ability to access services and goods, as well as the ability to be an active member in society.

Social exclusion analysis focuses on the lives and intrinsic human rights of the poor and marginalized, not just their lack of income. It is concerned with the central role of imbalanced social relations and discriminatory structures and processes that cause the exclusion of certain groups.

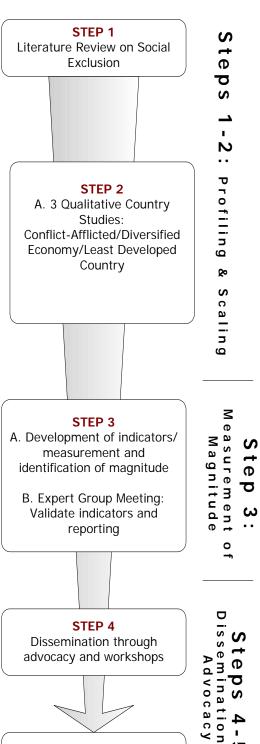


Social Exclusion and Gender

Factors of exclusion can affect women and men differently in all walks of life. Women suffer from specific institutional, legal, structural and attitudinal dis-empowering barriers. The studies undertaken by ESCWA consider the experience of exclusion for both males and females—for example, a male and a female disabled, a male and a female refugee, etc.

Project Sequence

The project is conducting qualitative studies in three countries representing conflict afflicted (Lebanon), diversified economy (Egypt), and least developed (Yemen).



STEP 5

Inter-regional Workshop to

inform policies

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In each country case study, the project:

- -Maps social exclusion in the country to identify groups that may be socially excluded;
- -Develops a monograph guide to inform interviews of individuals responding to different categories of social exclusion;
- -Undertakes content analysis of interviews with respondents. For each profile, determining factors are sorted and prioritised by degree of determination of exclusion:

The project then builds on these findings to:

- -Establish and validate country-level indicators of determining factors;
- -Carry out a comparative analysis and establish regional-level indicators of exclusion, using findings from the three country case studies;

Disseminate the findings of the regional analysis.