



IN BRIEF: KENYA

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

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In Kenya, the 2030 Agenda coincided with the drafting of the Vision 2030 Third Medium-Term Plan (MTP III). The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has indicated that out of the 128 SDG indicators, 34 gender-related localized SDG indicators in MTP III can be measured with available data or data that can be produced with minimal effort by 2019 (see Box 1). However, it is important to note that tracking SDG progress requires collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating an unprecedented amount of statistics at both national and county level.

To kickstart the project, an assessment was conducted between January and April 2018, using desk review and conducting key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders. The assessment was guided by core principles for nurturing the data revolution in Africa anchored on two strategic axes. First, building the enabling environment for the functioning of the statistical system and second, production of statistics

BOX 1

Gender data gaps in Kenya

Data availability of 34 gender-specific indicators in the Mid-term Plan III in Kenya:

- 24% are Tier I, indicating that established methodology exists, and data are already widely available.
- half are Tier II, indicating that methodology has been established, but data are not easily available.
- 26% are Tier III, for which an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed and data are not available.

to meet user needs, which are many and varied. The assessment found different types of challenges: general challenges related to the Kenya statistical system that affect the production of gender statistics and challenges that are specific to gender statistics.

The findings informed the development of the Kenya Women Count project.

1. Creating an enabling environment

The assessment found that there is a lack of alignment between the current policy and legislative arrangement and constitutional requirements regarding the use of data and information. A key challenge includes significant political and structural disablers of an enabling environment. At political level, current legislative arrangements, as specified in the Statistics Act of 2006, fail to encourage statistical participation by recognizing the roles of various groups of subnational entities in collecting and producing data. At devolved levels of government for example, county governments do not have a policy or legal framework to guide statistical activities, nor do they have the systems necessary to generate and use sub-national data. Yet there are constitutional requirements for these entities to generate data for their own planning.

In terms of structural challenges, concerns raised by the assessment include inadequate coordination and collaboration between data producers at national and county levels, lack of trust, siloed data communities and limited popular constituencies pushing for data-driven decision-making, all of which have hampered the production and use of gender statistics in Kenya.



Women Count response: In collaboration with the Kenya Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), interventions include the following: providing technical assistance to integrate gender statistics in the

Statistics Act; Establishing a coordination mechanism to improve collaboration among data producers; supporting Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs) and selected counties to systematically integrate gender statistics into national and county planning documents; providing technical assistance to integrate gender statistics in the monitoring and evaluation framework of the agriculture sector strategic plan and the Statistics Act; supporting policy dialogue forums to enhance budgetary allocations for statistical production and use at all levels and providing technical assistance to integrate gender-related SDG indicators in the Handbook of National and County Reporting Indicators for the MTP III.

2. Increasing data production

In terms of production of gender data, Kenya primarily relies on surveys to generate data. Most of the indicators selected for SDG monitoring are based on survey such as the Kenya Demographic and Health Surveys (KDHS) conducted every four years, which means that expectations of periodic monitoring of key SDGs indicators cannot be met. A critical finding is the lack of up-to-date data on economic empowerment of women and men. These include lack of gender statistics on informal employment - the key domains where women are overrepresented. Other dimensions in which there is complete lack of data include: access to land and land ownership, agriculture - especially small-scale farming activities, environment, homelessness, migration - especially trafficking and smuggling of persons, in some cases due to the lack of international standards for measurement. While labour market and agriculture data exist to a certain extent, it is largely outdated, meaning that there is an urgent need for new data to provide better and more current measures. Finally, the assessment also found that a number of recent surveys have relevant gender data to address some of these gaps, but the richness of data has not yet been exploited sufficiently for gender analysis, resulting in a lot of unused data.



Women Count response: UN Women will provide technical assistance to the KNBS and support skills development on the production of gender statistics. Several surveys will be supported, including on time use. In collaboration with FAO, technical assistance will be provided to the Agriculture Finance Corporation to carry out a baseline survey on the current status of agribusiness financing for women. Other priorities include supporting the re-processing of existing data to produce gender-related SDG indicators, supporting the review and improvement of routine data collection tools in the Agricultural sector and supporting the development of knowledge products such as county gender data sheets, metadata for the 34 SDG indicators, and gender dimensions census monograph (based on the 2019 Kenya population and housing census, in partnership with UNFPA).

3. Improving data accessibility and use

To improve access, data should be translated into information that is simple, understandable and relevant. Currently, among data producers, only KNBS have effective systems for communication, even though some of these need improvements, particularly to support visualization and to ensure that stakeholders are aware of data releases in advance. Most of the data dissemination still relies on use of traditional non-digital and centralized mode of distribution of printed material and therefore fall short of key principles on open data systems. Critically, the assessment found that in Kenya, statistical reports typically lack analytical depth and gender data is often not used or regularly requested by policy makers as basis for decision making. Low data literacy and capacity to access, analyse and use, which are partly the result of the lack of training and awareness-raising and collaboration between users and producers, were identified as some of the main factors behind inadequate demand and use of gender statistics by policymakers and other stakeholders.



Women Count response: UN Women will support the development and dissemination of a Women and Men booklet, a women's empowerment index and other gender statistics at

national-level and in selected counties. The project will convene high-level biannual fora to discuss gender statistics-related issues with policymakers and other stakeholders; support annual research grants to academic institutions and CSOs to conduct analysis relevant to gender and the SDGs and support civil society organizations to engage in gender statistics dialogues.

Key Achievements in 2018

- The national gender statistics assessment was undertaken through the leadership of the KNBS and the State Department of Gender Affairs (SDGA). Subsequently, the project document articulating the priority areas was developed and approved and a partnership agreement was signed between UN Women and KNBS to deliver on three outcome areas for 2018-2020. A gender statistics advisor was

seconded to KNBS to provide technical assistance to strengthen the integration of gender statistics in the national statistical system.

- The Inter-Agency Committee for Gender Statistics (IAC-GS) Technical Committee was established, chaired by KNBS and co-chaired by SDGA. The committee is composed of Government of Kenya ministries, departments and agencies that are primary actors in implementing Women Count, two civil society organizations (GROOTS Kenya and the SDGs Kenya Forum – a consortium of more than 30 NGOs) and UN agencies. Part of its role is to provide oversight for the Women Count project's implementation.
- UN Women provided technical assistance to the National Treasury to update the Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA) to include specific coding on gender equality and women's empowerment, nutrition, sanitation and child protection, as well as to train respective government officers on a system to track and make public allocations for gender equality and produce data for SDG indicator 5.c.1. In November 2018, a stakeholder consultation workshop shared the preliminary findings and recommendations of the Gap Analysis conducted by PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PWC). The gap analysis found that SDG-tracking was a major gap in the system, which has consequently weakened linkages between the MTP III and the Medium-Term Expenditures framework. Support will continue into 2019 and the updated SCOA codes and manual will be followed by a review of the systems, infrastructure, capacity-development and dissemination.
- The capacities of 60 data producers to produce and use gender statistics was strengthened through a high-level training workshop for data producers that was organized in partnership with KNBS to address capacity gaps and the increasing demand for gender statistics to monitor SDG progress. The training provided technical skills and advice to: develop new approaches in producing gender statistics, define the key issues, determine the statistics/indicators needed, analyse how to package gender information and data to suit different users and identify and bring on board key stakeholders to enhance the demand for gender statistics. As a result, a workshop/technical

working group for time use surveys will be held and KNBS will focus on producing more gender data to highlight key dimensions in agriculture statistics.

- UN Women in collaboration with the Council of Governors began developing County-Specific Gender Data Sheets for 10 select counties (Bomet, Kitui, Kirinyaga, Turkana, Kakamega, Baringo, Kilifi, Meru, Kisumu and Marsabit) in partnership with the KNBS, with the latter providing technical assistance for conceptualization and implementation. It is expected these data sheets will inform the mid-term review of the County-Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs 2018-2022).

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress in 2018



Progress in Kenya is due to the high-level political buy-in from the government stakeholders. Some planned activities such as training of data users did not take place as planned and will be implemented in 2019 instead.

Plans for 2019

In 2019, Women Count Kenya plans include:

Enabling environment

- Continue to support gender statistics coordination through the institutionalization of the IAC-GS;
- Providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture's Statistics Unit to review its routine data-collection tools;

- Providing technical assistance to integrate gender-related SDG indicators in the MTP III (2018-2022) and the monitoring and evaluation framework (National and County Reporting Indicators handbook);
- Supporting the development of the Kenya national strategy for statistics, including the integration of a gender perspective.

Data production

- Developing metadata/indicator information sheets for the 34 SDG indicators and other measures set out in CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action;
- Providing technical assistance to KNBS to undertake a time use survey;
- Producing gender data sheets in selected counties;
- Providing technical assistance to the National Treasury to update the SCOA on a system to track and make public allocations for gender equality and produce data for SDG indicator 5.c.1;
- Providing technical assistance to KNBS to undertake further analysis of existing data sets, including the Kenya Integrated Budget Household Survey (KIHBS 2015-16) and developing a comprehensive poverty analysis for children and women at the national level and each of the 47 county governments;
- Partnering with UNICEF to analyse the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS 2014) to derive the first ever Women Empowerment Index.

Data accessibility and use

- Updating and disseminating the National Gender Data Sheet 2019 nationally and in select counties for gender statistics;
- Supporting annual research grants to academic institutions to conduct research and analysis relevant to gender and the SDGs;
- Disseminating the women poverty analysis and women empowerment index in partnership with UNICEF.