



IN BRIEF: MOROCCO

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

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Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Morocco organized a national multi-stakeholder consultation, which adopted a national roadmap on the SDGs whose fourth pillar explicitly calls for strengthening the capacities of the national statistical information system. The Moroccan Ministry of Governance, in partnership with several UN agencies, is currently working on a programme to align Moroccan public policies with the SDGs and monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

As part of the agreement to implement the Women Count project, with the support of UN Women, the High Commission for Planning (HCP) (Morocco's national statistical office) initiated in July 2018 a detailed national assessment of the production and use of gender statistics at both national and regional levels. The full results of the assessment, expected in the first half of 2019, will inform the set of activities to be implemented in Morocco. The intended results are

to improve Morocco's gender statistical system within its national statistical system (NSS). The initial draft of the assessment identified the following challenges:

1. Creating an enabling environment

Morocco's gender statistical system is highly fragmented with several institutions, including HCP, line ministries, independent observatories and the National Bank, producing gender statistics but with little coordination among them. Even though a Statistics Studies Coordination Committee (COCOES) exists, with the HCP as the secretariat, its role, mission and capacities are outdated, and several statistical producers generate gender-sensitive statistics without involvement from COCOES. At the regional level, while statistics offices have been established as part of decentralization efforts, they suffer from limited capacity and access to regional gender data produced at the national level. Furthermore, in Morocco, the production and dissemination of statistics is governed by

Law No. 370-67 of August 1968, which is outdated and does not mention the production and dissemination of gender statistics. There are also concerns related to the prioritization of gender statistics: Only two of the programme budgets (representing 13% of the budget submitted by the HCP as part of the State Budget of 2018) mentioned the production of gender data.



Women Count response: While the assessment is ongoing and may therefore result in additional priorities, it was proposed that interventions will include: strengthening Morocco's gender statistical system by establishing an inter-Agency mechanism composed of gender statistics focal points of the HCP, the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies as well as representatives of the COCOES; supporting the current reform of the Statistics Act to include gender statistics; contributing to awareness arising initiatives about the importance of adequate gender statistics for policy making; and providing technical support for the localization of the SDGs, particularly for SDG5 and other gender-related SDG targets.

2. Increasing data production

In Morocco, despite significant legislative and policy advances for gender equality in recent years, there are still pervasive data gaps to monitor the SDGs and other national commitments (see Box 1). Irregular production of gender data, including related to violence against women and girls (VAWG) and women's economic empowerment are particular challenges that are partly the result of the lack of financial capacity of the HCP.



Women Count response: The expected interventions include providing financial and technical support for the production and analysis of gender data, particularly in the field of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and women's economic empowerment; supporting capacity-building and facilitating peer-education exchanges for national and regional data producers, and mapping gender statistics produced and used at national and regional levels to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-specific SDG indicators.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

Data users have limited understanding of statistical products in general which limits the use of gender data. Regional and national gender statistics producers and users also face a lack of skilled human resources, and vocational training and capacity-building programmes are limited. As part of the assessment, data producers have expressed the need for training on the requirements for sex-disaggregated statistics.



Women Count response: Expected interventions include strengthening the capacity of all users through training and technical assistance; working with partners, including national and regional research, training and academic institutions to support secondary data analysis and develop training materials on gender statistics that are made available to a broad range of stakeholders. Supporting user-producer dialogues to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics has also been identified as a priority.

BOX 1

Gender data gaps in Morocco

- 21% of the indicators¹ measuring the achievement of SDG 5 are not produced, available or updated.
- 25% of the statistics needed to measure women's economic participation (as defined by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013) are not available in Morocco.²
- 12% of public programmes included in the State Budget in 2018 have as one of their objectives the reduction of gender inequalities, either through facilitating women's access to basic services or through integrating the gender approach into public plans and processes.

Key Achievements in 2018

The national and regional gender statistics assessment, led by HCP, with the support of UN Women are still ongoing and will inform the full set of activities to be implemented through the Women Count project. Therefore, in 2018, in addition to the assessment, activities primarily focused on two key priorities:

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- UN Women supported HCP to conduct the second edition of the National Survey on Violence Against Women. Following the adoption of a national law to prevent VAW in February 2018, the government expressed the need to have up-to-date prevalence to replace the 2009 figures currently being used to establish priorities, to inform the enforcement of the newly adopted law and to monitor progress against reducing VAW. UN Women provided HCP with: i) international benchmarks for conducting prevalence and costing studies; ii) specific trainings on the ethical and technical approaches for interviewing survivors of VAW; iii) and contributed to the review of the survey's methodology and questionnaire. The results of the survey will be available in 2019.
 - Twenty-one Moroccan national and regional statistics users have been trained in the production and use of gender data, strengthening their capacities. Training included skills to identify gaps in the production and use of gender data, gender-responsive SDG monitoring and using gender data to inform the design, monitoring and assessment of public policies and programmes.

Plans for 2019

In 2019, Women Count Morocco project activities will include:

Enabling environment

- Finalizing the national assessment; developing the project document; and recruitment of Women Count staff;

- Organizing national and regional workshops to present the key findings and recommendations of the national and regional assessment;
- Engaging and training Members of Parliament on advocating for a reform of the legal and institutional framework to foster coordination;
- Developing and supporting an institutional framework that allows both intersectoral coordination and national-regional coordination.

Data production

- Providing the NSO with technical support to produce key gender statistics, mainly related to VAW;
- Developing and implementing training sessions to increase the capacities of national and regional statistics producers to generate gender-sensitive statistics that are in line with international norms and standards.

Data accessibility and use

- Supporting HCP to produce infographics and user-friendly gender data related documents;
- Developing and implementing training sessions to increase the capacities of national and regional statistics users to both analyse gender-related statistics and use gender-sensitive statistics when developing, budgeting, monitoring and assessing public programmes.

ENDNOTES

1 Indicators 5.4.1, 5.5.2, 5.a.1.a

2 Cour des Comptes, ONDH, United Nations Statistics Commission