

IN BRIEF

# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT PHASE II

## THE ISSUE

Progress on national and international gender equality commitments will depend on the world’s ability to implement effective evidence-based policies that respond to the needs of all women and girls. The latest available [SDG 5 data](#) show that the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030. Significant challenges to collecting and using timely and reliable gender data remain:

- **Weak policy space, legal and financial environments pose barriers to progress.** Gender statistics still suffer from chronic underfunding. The [2021 Partner Report on Support to Statistics](#) found that funding for gender statistics has remained stagnant.
- **Several critical data gaps remain that limit our understanding of key issues.** These include women’s economic empowerment, violence against women and the gender and environment nexus. Latest research from UN Women found it will take [22 years to close SDG gender data gaps](#). Without bold commitments to fill these gaps, our ability to measure progress towards achieving the gender equality commitments of the 2030 Agenda will remain impaired.
- **Lack of access and limited use of gender data pose challenges.** Data need to inform policymaking, advocacy, and accountability for delivering gender equality and women’s empowerment results.

## UN WOMEN’S STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

Responding to these challenges, since 2016 UN Women has implemented the “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” programme (Women Count), which is a multi-stakeholder global strategy that aims to create a radical shift in how gender statistics are used, produced and promoted to inform policy and advocacy on gender equality. Actions needed fall under three broad categories:

- 1. Creating an enabling environment:** Promoting a supportive policy, legal and financial environment to address institutional and financial constraints and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production and use of gender statistics.
- 2. Increasing data production:** Supporting efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics to monitor the SDGs and other national and international policy priorities.
- 3. Improving data accessibility and use:** Expanding access to data to inform policies, programmes, research and advocacy through solutions such as open access, dissemination tools and user-producer dialogues so that data users are better able to use gender statistics to inform research, policies, programmes and advocacy.

**FIGURE 1:**

Some progress has been made, but bold action is needed to fill gender data gaps:



Only **20%** of the data needed to measure gender-environment-related SDGs are available.



Only **45%** of the data needed to measure women’s unpaid care work are currently available.<sup>1</sup>



**80%** of the data needed to measure VAW by an intimate partner (SDG indicator 5.2.1.) are available.<sup>2</sup>

Source: [Women Count Final Annual Report](#). 1 This only pertains to data availability for SDG indicator 5.2.1. 2 Data availability was calculated using new modeled estimates.

# PHASE I: A POSITIVE IMPACT ON GENDER DATA



## ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

**18 COUNTRIES** have included gender data as a strategic priority in national strategies, plans and legal frameworks.

**22 COUNTRIES** have improved coordination within the national statistics system on gender statistics



## INCREASING DATA PRODUCTION

**42% OF DATA** to monitor the SDGs are now available, up from 26% in 2016.

**37 SURVEYS** have been supported to fill critical gender data gaps, including on VAW (8) and time use (12).



## IMPROVING DATA ACCESS AND USE

**GENDER DATA** has been used to inform

**20+**

policies and/or programmes to spur action on ending violence against women, women's economic empowerment and COVID-19 responses.

## IMPACT STORIES:

### Women Count has spurred data-driven policy action for women and girls globally

Women Count has enabled more countries to collect and use timely gender data to inform evidence-based and gender-responsive policies and programmes for women and girls globally. For example, **Uganda's** time-use survey contributed to the adoption of energy-efficient cooking technologies and the extension of clean water to under served communities by the Ministry of Water and Environment. It also sparked discussions with Parliament to revise the Employment Act. In **Bangladesh**, Women Count supported the country's first-ever time use survey which will enable the country to monitor progress on SDG 5.4.1 for the first time. In **Colombia**, rapid gender assessment (RGA) data and time-use data helped shape the country's new National Care Policy and the first Municipal Care System in Bogotá. RGAs have also since been used as effective tools providing timely data to shape gender-responsive humanitarian efforts in post earthquake **Haiti** and in war-torn **Ukraine**. Following **Morocco's** 2019 violence against women (VAW) survey, the Government cited VAW as a critical obstacle in its New Development Model and called for a zero-tolerance policy. Experience has shown in **Viet Nam**, proper data can help drive initiatives to help women forestall the impacts of climate change.



UN Women, Zakaria Wakrim



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Source: [Women Count Final Annual Report](#)

## SCALING UP DATA-DRIVEN ACTION: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

Women Count Phase II is a 4-year, USD-58-million global strategy that aims to improve how gender data are collected, accessed and used. It will sustain the important gains achieved under Phase I and will continue to strengthen investments in gender data that contribute to global efforts to accelerate progress towards the SDGs by 2030.

- **Women’s economic empowerment:** Catalytic partnerships with FAO, ILO, UNDP and the World Bank will be strengthened to support countries to fill critical data gaps on unpaid care and domestic work, asset ownership, poverty and women’s land ownership. UN Women will also continue to conduct rapid gender assessments across countries to collect timely data on the socioeconomic impacts of crises such as COVID-19 and the rising cost-of-living.
- **Violence against women:** Building on the existing partnership with WHO, UN Women will develop new standards for measuring intimate-partner violence, online gender-based violence, femicide (with UNODC), sexual harassment in the workplace (with ILO), etc. Countries will be supported to conduct VAW surveys and explore the use of administrative data to provide the timely evidence needed to inform policy and programmatic response to ending violence against women.
- **Gender and the environment:** This work will initially be spearheaded under the Women Count regional project in Asia and the Pacific to generate good data and evidence on gender and the environment. This work will support other regions to produce such data, including by: strengthening the capacities of data users and producers through training to measure the gender-environment nexus; supporting countries to conduct specialized gender-environment surveys; and improving the use of non-conventional data (e.g. big data, geospatial information) to expand analysis on the impacts of climate change and disasters on women and men.
- **Governance and participation:** UN Women will continue its role as custodian agency for several SDG 5 indicators, to increase data availability on key areas of women’s leadership and gender-responsive governance for SDG monitoring. UN Women will support governments in the data-collection process and also to use these data to improve policy and budgetary decision-making.

Key interventions to improve measuring ‘leave no one behind’ and expand efforts through innovation will cut across all thematic areas to fill data gaps that will enable gender-responsive SDG monitoring.

## HOW WE WORK

Key to the success of Women Count is coordination among international agencies and other actors at all levels, including through active knowledge-sharing. In Phase II, a coordinated approach at country, regional and global levels through partnerships at all levels will be deepened to achieve even greater impact across all areas of work:

- **Country level** – Strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones with National Statistics Offices, Ministries of Women and other key stakeholder is pivotal for implementing Phase II. In all countries, Women Count will create partnerships within the national statistics system and build sustainable institutional capacities on gender data.

### BOX 1: Overview of Phase II

#### STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

Create an enabling environment, improve data production, increase data access and use

#### THEMATIC AREAS

VAW, women’s economic empowerment, gender and the environment, innovation, leave-no-one behind

#### WHERE WE WORK

Up to **74 countries, 6 regions, 1 global policy support project\***

#### DURATION

January 2022 – December 2025

#### BUDGET

USD 58 million

\*Phase II is being presently implemented in 7 countries (Cameroon, Colombia, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Uganda and Tanzania); 4 regions (Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa); and 1 global project. Women Count will expand to more countries subject to funding availability.

- **Regional level** – Fostering coordination and collaboration with regional bodies and institutions, including UN regional commissions, and other relevant subregional institutions will serve to promote advocacy and data use. In Phase II, six regional projects will also provide targeted technical and financial support to countries to implement gender data activities.
- **Global level** – Expanding inter-agency collaboration to improve gender statistics production and SDG monitoring at the global level, Women Count will collaborate with existing and new partners in the global statistical community, such as PARIS21, WHO, FAO and UNDP to fill gender data gaps.

### CURRENT PARTNERS\*

Women Count Phase II currently benefits from the generous support from the Governments of Australia, Ireland, France and Sweden and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As key partners to the programme, each donor is represented on the Executive Donor Committee and Steering Committee, which help guide the implementation of the programme.

*\*As of December 2022*

## VOICES OF OUR PARTNERS

Gogita Todradze

**Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia**

“During the last several years, important projects were implemented with the technical and financial support of UN Women, with a very successful and productive partnership. [...] Significant progress was made regarding filling gender data gaps and ... Geostat had tangible results regarding improving access and use of data.”

Marie-Thérèse Abena Ondo

**Minister of Women’s Empowerment and the Family, Cameroon**

“Thanks to UN Women, the Government has improved the quality of its CSW and CEDAW reports with more data. Also, the structural transformation of the gender statistics environment in the country, driven by the Women Count project, has given us the opportunity to really highlight the work the Government is doing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in Cameroon.”

Johannes Jütting

**Executive Head, PARIS21**

“Our three-year collaboration with UN Women has been catalytic. Our partner countries have a deeper understanding of the importance of mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems. Building on Women Count, we mainstreamed gender in our own organizational strategy, as well as in many of our tools, guidelines and approaches.”

Juan Daniel Oviedo

**Former Director General, National Administrative Department of Statistics, Colombia**

“Through the Women Count project, UN Women has made it possible for DANE to build a strategic alliance with [the Presidential Council for Women’s Equity] to ensure that the gender statistics produced are used to inform the design of inclusive policies. For example, new data and analysis produced on women’s time spent on unpaid care in Colombia are already being used by [the National Planning Department] and [the Council] to inform the design of the Government’s new care policy.”

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

Want to learn more about Women Count visit:

[data.unwomen.org](https://data.unwomen.org)

or contact us at:

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