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# Gender Data Outlook 2024: At a Glance

A global assessment of gender  
data capacity and use

Gender data are increasingly recognized as important tools for advancing gender equality, but they have yet to achieve their maximum impact. Efforts to strengthen gender data systems have largely focused on increasing gender statistics production, but analysis suggests that other areas, including institutional capacity and data sharing and use also need attention. The Gender Data Outlook (GDO), produced by PARIS21 and UN Women under the Women Count Programme, provides a comprehensive framework to better understand gender data capacity across four dimensions: the enabling environment, gender data production, access and use. Through a novel index, evaluation of cross-country performance and analysis of factors that contribute to gender data use, the GDO aims to support countries, development partners and researchers to better understand where investments in gender data capacity are most needed and have the potential to be most effective.

This statistical brief offers an overview of key findings from the full GDO report, scheduled for release in November 2024, which will provide more detailed analysis.



## Introduction

Progress on national and international gender equality commitments depends on the world's ability to implement effective evidence-based policies to realize the rights of women and girls. Adequate gender data are necessary to inform these policies and to track their impact. Despite progress in recent years, countries still lack **44 per cent** of the data required to monitor the 51 gender-related indicators<sup>1</sup> for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment. With only six years left until the deadline of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, increased efforts are needed to ensure that gender statistics are produced, promoted and used to inform policy, advocacy and monitoring of gender equality.

The Gender Data Outlook (GDO) introduces a novel approach to measuring gender data capacity across countries. It aims to quantify where countries stand in terms of gender data capacity across the entire gender data value chain to identify areas of strength and where additional efforts are necessary. The GDO assesses four dimensions: 1) an enabling environment; 2) production; 3) accessibility; and 4) use. One of its unique features is the emphasis on data use as the primary purpose of data production, underlining the need to shift the focus from the collection or processing to usage and impact.

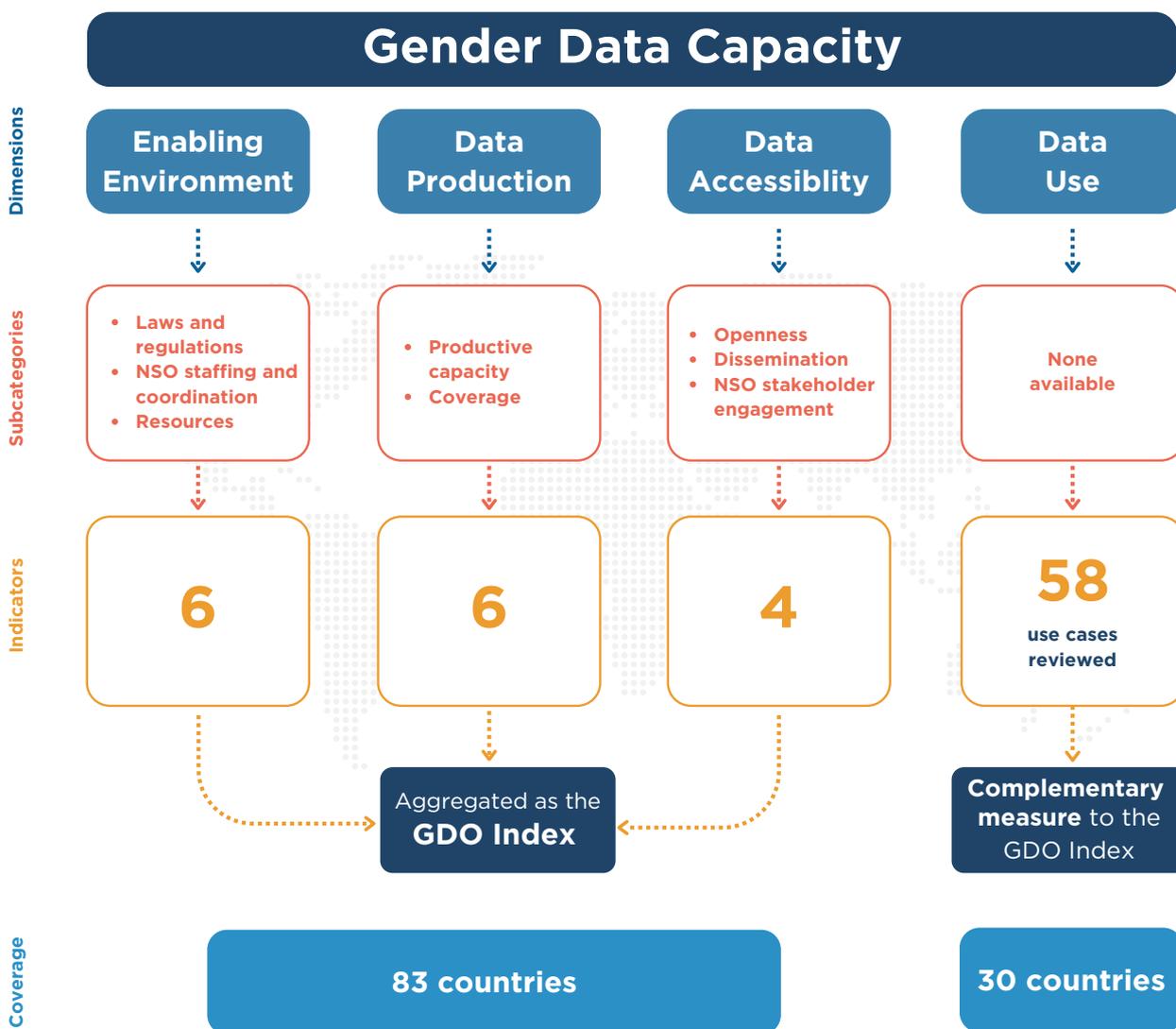
- The enabling environment dimension captures legislative, institutional and budgetary support mechanisms within national statistics offices (NSOs) and wider national statistical systems (NSSs) that facilitate the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics.
- The production dimension reflects countries' ability to collect and process gender data to monitor progress, inform national policies, and meet SDG reporting requirements.
- The accessibility dimension encompasses open gender data, user-friendly dissemination and partnerships with stakeholders outside of the NSO to ensure uptake.

<sup>1</sup> As of March 2024, there are 52 unique gender-specific SDG indicators. The data availability analysis was based on 51 indicators identified in 2022.

- Finally, the use dimension relates to the various ways that gender data are ultimately applied by different users to inform or influence decisions, actions or strategies.

The inaugural GDO proposes an Index that covers 83 countries. The Index measures gender data capacity across the first three dimensions, analysing how countries vary in their capacity to plan for and produce gender data and share it with the public, while identifying factors that underpin and drive these capacities.

**FIGURE 1.**  
GDO Framework on assessing countries' gender data capacity, 2024



Source: PARIS21 and UN Women. 2024. [Methodological Note on the Gender Data Outlook 2024](#).

Due to limited quantitative measures of the fourth dimension on data use, it is not included in the Index (see Figure 1).<sup>2</sup> However, to address this critical gap, the GDO also introduces a novel typology of gender data use. The typology was developed through a qualitative analysis of 58 cases of documented gender data use across 30 countries. This complementary analysis offers key insights into how gender data are and could be further utilized and lays the groundwork for incorporating quantitative measures of use in future iterations of the GDO Index.

The GDO's holistic approach to analysing gender data capacity across four dimensions sheds valuable new light on where capacity gaps lie and where investments are most needed to strategically improve data systems to benefit women, girls, men and boys, and to accurately target the most vulnerable populations.

#### **BOX 1: GIVING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS A VOICE IN GAUGING CAPACITY**

Most of the data used to calculate the GDO Index were provided directly by NSOs, through the decennial [global survey](#) on gender statistics programmes conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). To reflect broader NSS gender data capacities, NSO gender data focal points who responded to the survey were encouraged to consult with other NSS actors such as the women's machinery, line ministries and other relevant offices or agencies involved in the production, analysis and use of gender statistics at the national level. Therefore, the GDO Index represents for the most part an introspective view of gender data capacity by the NSS.

Another index, the [Gender Data Compass](#) produced by Open Data Watch, assesses the gender data capacity of 185 countries, using third-party assessment of information on gender data capacity, such as those derived from documents and data sets available online. While the GDO and Compass frameworks share some common indicators, they largely represent two complementary perspectives of gender data capacity.

For more information on data sources used, see the statistical note at the end of this brief and the [Methodological Note on the Gender Data Outlook 2024](#).

<sup>2</sup> The Methodological Note on the Gender Data Outlook 2024 provides details on the computation of the GDO Index



## Glass half empty or glass half full?

### Sharpening the outlook on gender data capacity

#### **COUNTRIES ARE ON AVERAGE AT THE HALFWAY POINT.**

The GDO Index shows that countries' capacities to plan, coordinate, produce and make gender data available remain largely limited. On average, based on a scale from 0 to 1, the 83 countries analysed have attained just over half of their full potential (0.533). This means that the deficit in countries' gender data capacity stands at 46.7 per cent. On average, countries' performance on gender data production was the highest (0.591), followed by enabling environment (0.547) and data accessibility (0.520). These results reflect the traditional priorities of NSSs on data-collection activities, while data accessibility is often neglected or an afterthought. Given the important link between gender data accessibility and data use, this analysis suggests that this is a strategic area to develop and support.

#### **GENDER DATA CAPACITY VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY ACROSS COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.**

No country has achieved its full potential but some perform well. For example, the Philippines and Mexico at 0.832 and 0.818, respectively – have the highest scores, even if they still exhibit a deficit of nearly 20 per cent in gender data capacity. At the other end, Liechtenstein (0.028), Nauru (0.060) and Antigua and Barbuda (0.161). have achieved 16 per cent or less of their potential.

Countries at either end of the spectrum (high and low scorers) are from different regions and income groups, indicating that improvements in gender data capacity can be achieved under very different conditions. Notably, some low-income countries perform particularly well on gender data capacity. For example, Uganda is among the top performers on the GDO Index, with a score of 0.728. Uganda is also notable for examples where data have been used to inform gender-responsive actions.

**COUNTRIES VARY AS TO WHERE THEY NEED TO FOCUS GENDER DATA CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS.**

Looking at the country-level results provides further insights. While some countries such as Azerbaijan and Chile show relatively balanced performance across the three dimensions of the Index, others show wide variations. In Mauritania, for example, performance on enabling environment (0.556) outstrips production (0.341) and accessibility (0.127) by a substantial margin, while Viet Nam’s performance on production (0.678) is more than triple its score on accessibility (0.213). Suriname, on the other hand, performs better on data accessibility (0.531) than production (0.409) and institutional and system-wide support mechanisms (0.307) (see Figure 2).

**FIGURE 2.**  
**GDO scores by dimension for select countries, 2024**

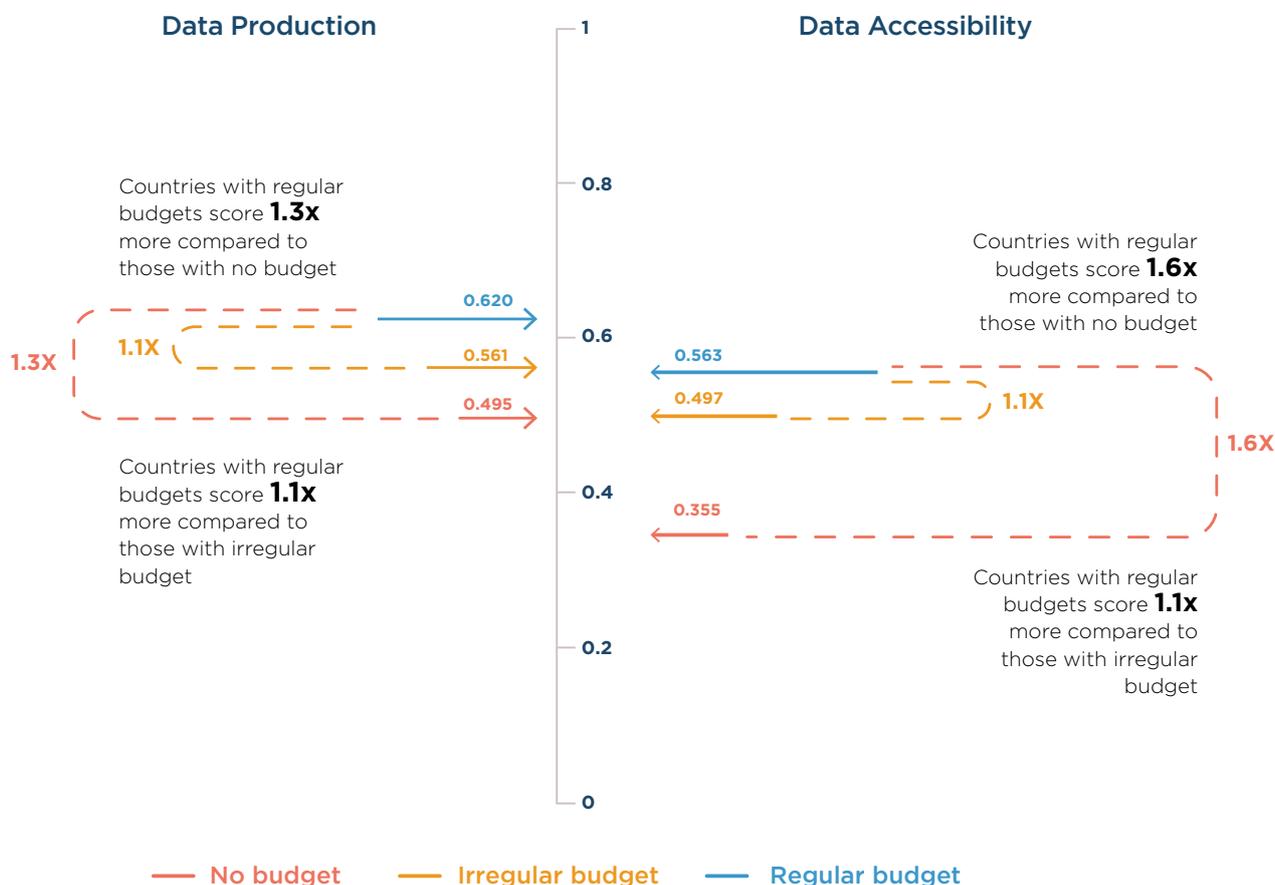


Source: Based on PARIS21 and UN Women. Forthcoming. Gender Data Outlook 2024.

### INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CAN BOLSTER CAPACITY.

Strategies for improving gender data capacity differ depending on each country’s situation and existing conditions. However, the GDO identifies three key drivers that are likely to contribute significantly to countries’ efforts to achieve strong gender data systems, which mostly relate to improving their enabling environment by providing institutional and system-wide support mechanisms to facilitate the production, dissemination and use of gender data. Countries scoring relatively well on the Gender Data Outlook Index could still benefit from measures to strengthen engagement, both within the NSS and with external stakeholders, such as better collaboration with national women’s machineries, gender statistics working groups and user-producer dialogues. Meanwhile, for countries with lower scores, key measures to increase capacity relate to the staffing of national statistical offices and securing regular funding for gender statistics. These drivers represent critical levers of change, pointing towards strategies and solutions to build gender data capacity across different contexts.

**FIGURE 3.**  
**Average GDO scores in data production and accessibility by countries with no, irregular or regular gender data budgets, 2024**



Source: Based on PARIS21 and UN Women. Forthcoming. Gender Data Outlook 2024.

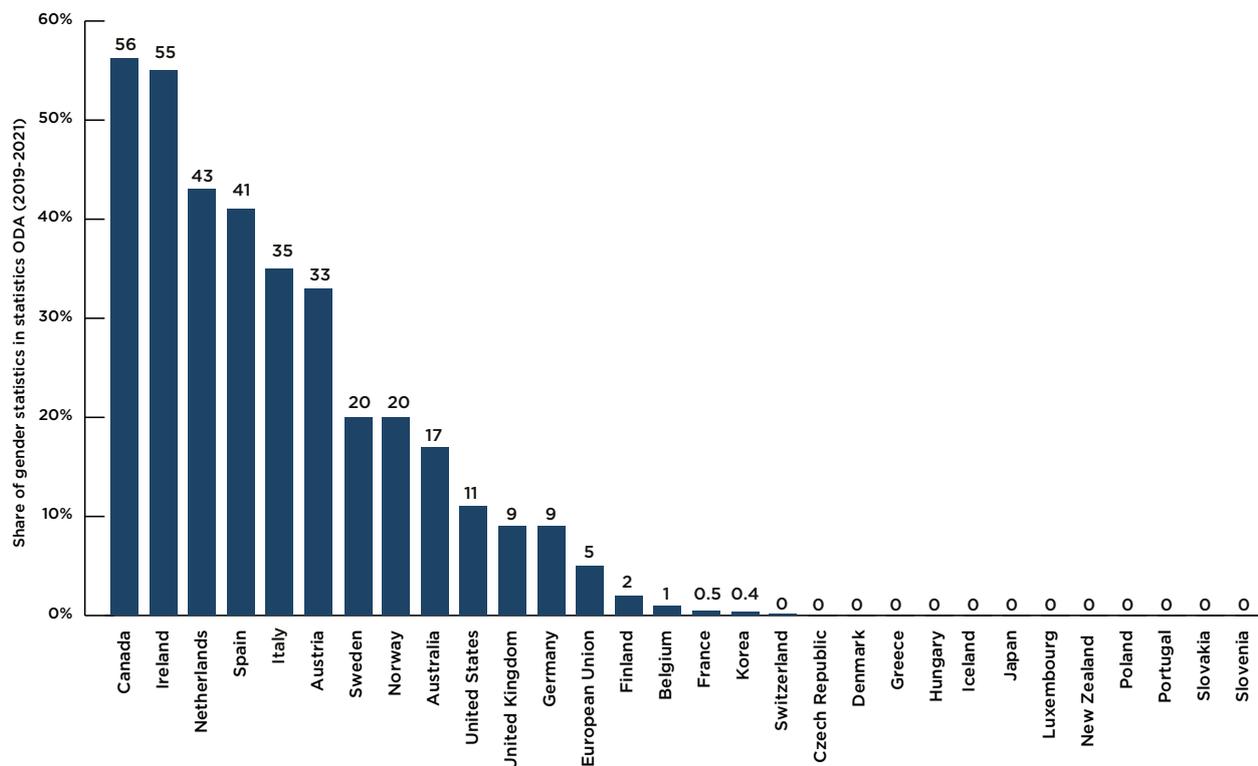
**COUNTRIES WITH RELIABLE DOMESTIC FUNDING FOR GENDER DATA PERFORM UP TO 60 PER CENT BETTER ON ACCESSIBILITY.**

Another key driver of gender data capacity is funding and reliable budgetary support. On average, countries with regular budgets perform 30 per cent better on gender data production and 60 per cent better on accessibility,<sup>3</sup> relative to their peers with no regular budgets, and perform better overall than countries with irregular budgets (see Figure 3).

However, financing for gender statistics remains a critical stumbling block. Recent analysis from [Data2X](#) and Open Data Watch indicates that countries typically rely on external funding for more than half of all gender data activities. Yet nearly half of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members allocated either nothing or only a negligible amount of statistics ODA (Official Development Assistance) to gender-related activities, suggesting that there is ample scope for additional investment in strengthening gender data systems (see Figure 4).

**FIGURE 4.**

**Share of statistics ODA allocated to gender by OECD DAC members, 2019–2021**



Note: This graph includes only 30 countries, as at the time of data collection, Estonia and Lithuania did not yet appear in DAC statistics.

Source: Analysis of data from the data set on statistics ODA in PARIS21, The [PARIS21 Partner Report on Support for Statistics 2023](#): A Changing Landscape of Financing for Development and Gender Data.

<sup>3</sup> The enabling environment dimension (i.e. having budgetary and institutional support mechanisms in place) was not included in this analysis as the regularity of NSO funding for gender statistics comprises a third of its score and therefore will not provide new or independent insight.

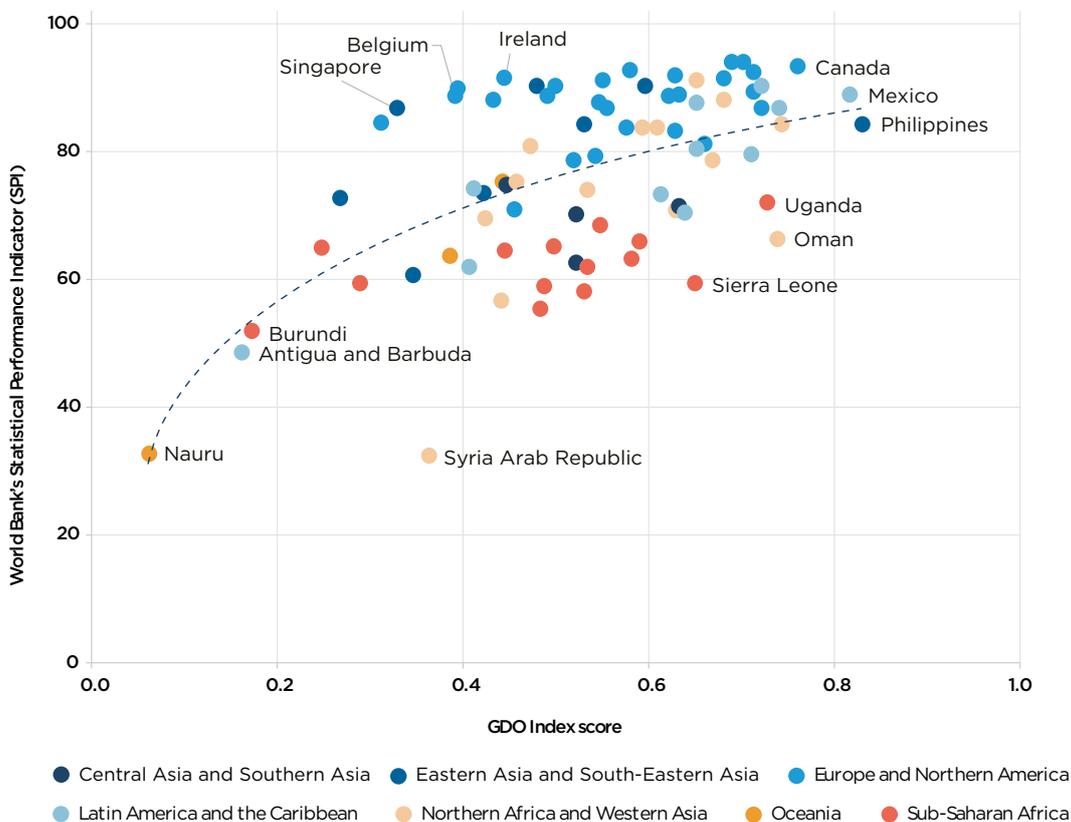


### OVERALL STATISTICAL CAPACITY IS NOT ENOUGH.

There is a positive relationship between overall statistical capacity and gender data capacity. However, strong overall statistical capacity does not automatically translate into strong gender data capacity.

In Belgium, Ireland and Singapore, gender data capacity lags behind overall statistical capacity, as measured by the World Bank’s Statistical Performance Indicator (SPI). Conversely, countries such as Benin, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria perform relatively better on gender data capacity than their overall statistical performance would suggest (see Figure 5). A key takeaway is that irrespective of their income level or overall statistical capacity, countries can have high gender data capacities if they prioritize and invest in such systems. For countries with lower SPI and GDO Index scores, improvements in foundational (enabling environment) statistical capacity seem to have a significant impact on gender data capacity. At higher overall capacity levels, targeted, specialized interventions may be needed to further enhance gender data capacity. In some countries, for example, this could include developing a roadmap underpinning gender statistics production or, in others, establishing a gender statistics entity in the national women’s machinery.

**FIGURE 5.**  
**Countries performance on the GDO Index vis-à-vis the SPI, 2024**



Note: 81 out of 83 countries, as Monaco and Liechtenstein do not have SPI data.  
Source: PARIS21 and UN Women. Forthcoming. Gender Data Outlook 2024; World Bank. ND. [Statistical Performance Indicators](#).



## A new typology:

### Re-envisioning gender data use

The commitment to gender data is rooted in the belief that these data will be used to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. This requires ensuring that gender data that are collected are not just informative but actionable. There is thus a critical need to emphasize and integrate the intended uses of gender data at every stage of the gender data value chain – from the specification of needs, to design, collection, analysis, dissemination and evaluation.

#### **UNMASKING HOW DATA CAN WORK FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

To maximize the relevance, effectiveness and impact of gender data, the GDO introduces a novel gender data use typology that outlines diverse types of data producers, data users, data sources, data uses, thematic topics, means of dissemination and potential enabling factors. It presents a variety of use cases providing a broader base for identifying good practices for replication or inspiration. It is designed to guide countries in their analysis and systematic documentation of improving data uptake and use. Moreover, illustrating how gender data can inform decisions in various ways and forms is essential to building a strong business case for strategic investments in gender data capacity.

Using a qualitative approach, the GDO reviews 58 successful examples of gender data use to shed light on how countries put gender data into action. Such analysis can facilitate a deeper understanding of contextual factors that may contribute to gender data uptake and use.

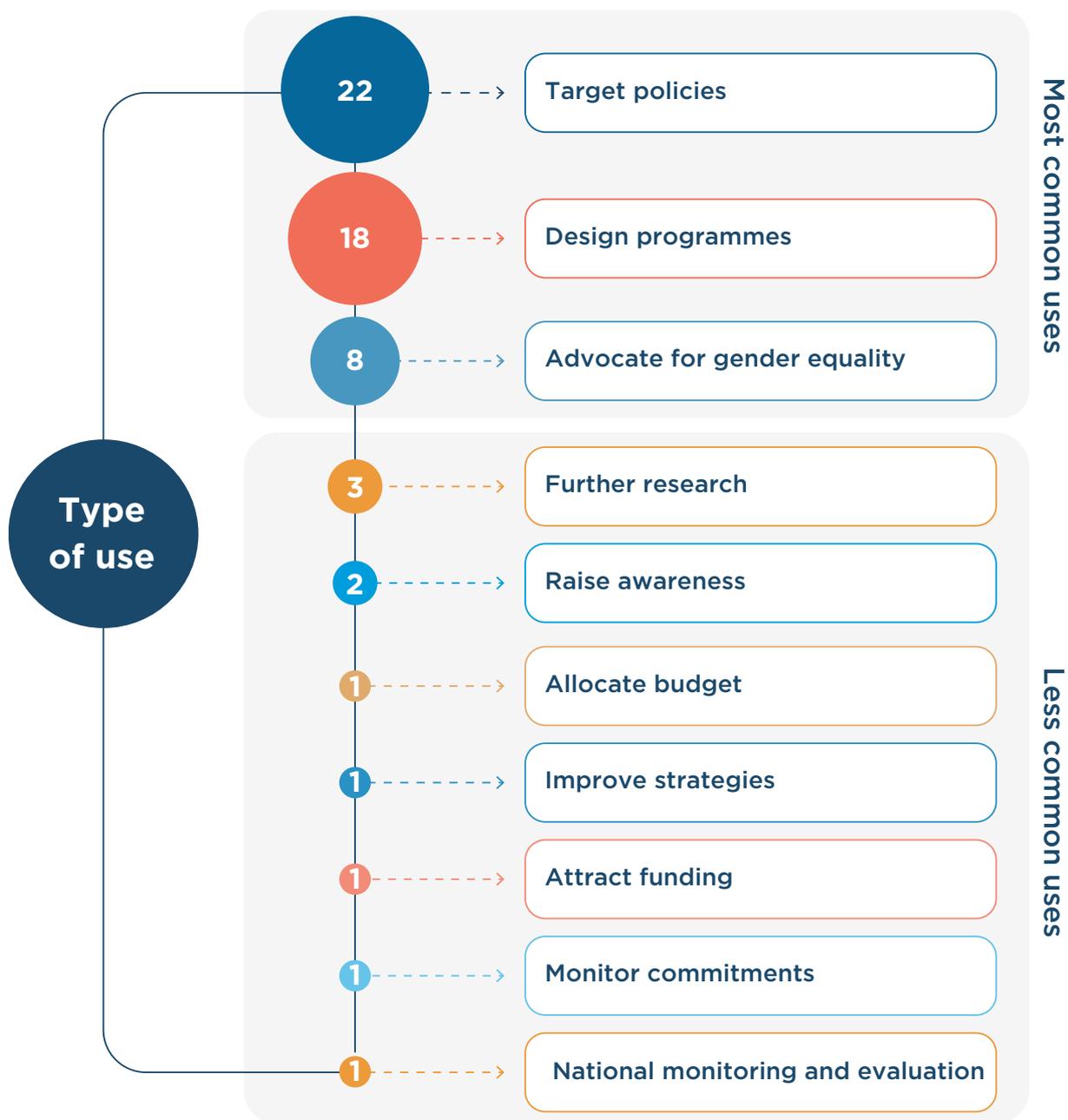
#### **MOST GENDER DATA USES ARE IN POLICY AND PROGRAMMING.**

Based on the newly developed typology, the GDO identifies at least 10 distinct purposes of gender data use in a sample of 58 cases, ranging from use in research and analysis, to advocacy, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation (see Figure 6). Examples of gender data use for policy development and programme design far outweigh those

of other types of use. This imbalance could point towards current priorities, expectations or biases<sup>4</sup> as to the types of use that matter most. The variation in context and factors is discussed in the succeeding sections.

The myriad ways in which gender data are used in practice illustrate their powerful potential to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment.

**FIGURE 6.**  
**Distribution of GDO sample of gender data use by purpose, 2024**



Note: The predominance of gender data use for policymaking and programme design may also be related to the [convenience sample](#) used, which is one limitation of the analysis (e.g. 60% of the 58 use cases are from UN Women’s gender data programme, Women Count.)

<sup>4</sup> Note that 60 per cent of the use cases analysed are from UN Women’s Women Count programme, which has violence against women and unpaid care work among its priority thematic areas of intervention.



### **AVAILABILITY OF GENDER DATA DOES NOT GUARANTEE THEIR USE.**

Gender data availability is high across a wide range of issue areas, such as [employment, fertility and adolescent births](#). Yet examples of the analysis of the 58 gender data use cases show they are more concentrated in select priority areas such as violence against women and unpaid care work, where data availability is comparatively lower (see footnote 4). The mismatch between gender data production and use has three possible implications: first, there are opportunities to further capitalize on existing gender data to drive change; second, capacity-development is needed to increase uptake among users across diverse gender data; and third, the lack of use cases in other areas could be due to lack of documentation, so it is critical to invest in better monitoring and documentation of gender data use cases in all areas.

### **TARGETED COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH CAN INCREASE UPTAKE AND USE.**

In the global survey on gender statistics programmes, NSOs indicate that they often produce only one dedicated gender data product – or none at all. However, the way gender data are communicated have a strong influence on how they are used by diverse stakeholders with different capacities. Simple, easy-to-understand and visual gender data, for example, are key to reaching a wider public that may have lower levels of familiarity with gender data, while tabular data can be particularly important for uptake among specialist users.

To increase the chances of uptake among different stakeholders, NSS actors should be intentional and varied in how they communicate data, considering the needs and preferences of diverse potential users.

### **PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION ARE KEY TO LINKING GENDER DATA PRODUCTION TO USE.**

Fostering partnerships and collaboration around gender data at the country level has shown to be an important instrument for putting gender data into action. In almost all cases analysed for the GDO, successful gender data uptake and use built on cooperation and engagement across two or more stakeholder groups, with examples reaching far beyond NSOs and women's machineries to include development partners, research institutions, the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations, among others.

## Key takeaways

This statistical brief on the Gender Data Outlook highlights the need for a comprehensive, strategic approach to strengthening gender data systems, ensuring that gender data are not only produced but also effectively used to drive meaningful and transformative change. The following key messages aim to guide future efforts, collaborations and investments to this end:



**Strengthening gender data systems requires a holistic and comprehensive approach** – Focusing not only on producing more gender statistics but also on enhancing institutional and budgetary support mechanisms, data availability and data use is crucial. Capacity-development and interventions across all dimensions of gender data capacity are critical.



**Sustainable domestic and external funding is needed** – Securing reliable funding is essential to improve data capacity and ensure that gender data are effectively used to promote gender equality. For example, resources are needed to put in place the primary drivers of gender data capacity – statistical laws and actions plans, advisory or working groups on gender data, and user-producer dialogues.



**Gender data should be used in diverse ways to effect change and prioritize investments** – The GDO introduces a new typology for understanding the various ways gender data are used, promoting a broader range of applications beyond just policy and programme design. This typology should be used to enhance data uptake and guide strategic investments in gender data capacity.



**Intent to use from the outset and targeted approach in addressing capacity needs are essential** – The GDO Index highlights that strategies to improve gender data capacity must be tailored to each country's unique needs and context, particularly on dimensions where they are lagging. Deliberate efforts should be made to strengthen gender data capacity when overall statistical capacity is being developed. Intent to use should be a core consideration when producing data and making them available to ensure their actual use in informing decisions.



**Partnerships and communication are key to linking gender data production and availability to use** – Successful use of gender data often relies on partnerships and collaboration among various stakeholders, including national women's machineries, other ministries, departments and agencies in governments, civil society and non-government organizations, research institutions and the private sector. Additionally, how gender data are communicated greatly affects their uptake and impact, so varied, user-friendly and targeted dissemination are key.



## Statistical note

The Gender Data Outlook Index is based on the gender data capacity framework outlined in the PARIS21 and UN Women companion [report](#) and updated in the [Gender Data Outlook Methodological Note 2024](#). Its indicators draw primarily from two sources: 1) the 2022 round of the Global Survey on Gender Statistics (GSGS), a survey conducted every 10 years by the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with the UN regional commissions and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics; and 2) the Open Data Watch Gender Data Compass, which provides indicators of data production and accessibility. Additional data sources are UN Women's [analysis](#) of SDG gender data availability and the Global Health 50/50, International Center for Research on Women and African Population and Health Research Center's COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated [Data Tracker](#) 2022.

Each dimension of the Index contains relevant subcategories and indicators. The indicators (normalized on a 0 to 1 scale) were assigned equal weights within each subcategory, and the subcategories, equal weights within each dimension. Subcategory scores reflect the arithmetic averages of indicator scores and the dimension scores are the arithmetic averages of subcategory scores. The index is the geometric average of the dimension scores, with each dimension assigned an equal weight.

The methodology used to analyse gender data use cases comprised three main stages: first, a selection of 58 successful cases of gender data use from 30 different countries was compiled, using convenience sampling. Second, a custom typology of gender data use was designed to capture the plurality in gender data use and, to the extent possible, isolate enabling factors. In the final stage, each use case was reviewed and mapped against the typology, providing a basis to analyse the breadth of gender data uses as well as emerging patterns across geographies, sectors, institutions and themes to the extent feasible given the limitations of convenience sampling. Insights from the analysis were complemented by results from the GSGS, the Gender Data Compass and existing studies on data use.

# Country-level results: GDO Index and scores by dimension, 2024

Country	GDO Score					Country	GDO Score				
	Region	INDEX	Enabling environment	Production	Accessibility		Region	INDEX	Enabling environment	Production	Accessibility
Antigua and Barbuda	0.161	0.193	0.175	0.124	Liechtenstein	0.028	0.000	0.694	0.300		
Armenia	0.597	0.578	0.699	0.527	Lithuania	0.431	0.389	0.699	0.294		
Australia	0.597	0.648	0.625	0.526	Malawi	0.497	0.281	0.661	0.659		
Austria	0.500	0.389	0.678	0.474	Mauritania	0.289	0.556	0.341	0.127		
Azerbaijan	0.533	0.544	0.510	0.546	Mexico	0.818	0.896	0.740	0.825		
Bangladesh	0.521	0.589	0.638	0.377	Monaco	0.409	0.556	0.458	0.268		
Belarus	0.720	0.722	0.632	0.817	Mongolia	0.530	0.489	0.756	0.403		
Belgium	0.392	0.215	0.602	0.465	Montenegro	0.518	0.544	0.557	0.459		
Benin	0.583	0.811	0.399	0.612	Myanmar	0.268	0.156	0.473	0.262		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.455	0.533	0.436	0.405	Nauru	0.060	0.033	0.394	0.016		
Brazil	0.654	0.615	0.723	0.628	Nepal	0.521	0.733	0.668	0.289		
Bulgaria	0.312	0.122	0.618	0.401	Nigeria	0.487	0.752	0.495	0.310		
Burkina Faso	0.592	0.648	0.670	0.477	North Macedonia	0.576	0.611	0.704	0.444		
Burundi	0.173	0.126	0.329	0.124	Norway	0.689	0.563	0.679	0.856		
Cameroon	0.486	0.593	0.369	0.524	Oman	0.738	0.759	0.631	0.838		
Canada	0.761	0.722	0.709	0.861	Pakistan	0.633	0.685	0.690	0.536		
Chile	0.652	0.685	0.654	0.620	Panama	0.636	0.944	0.725	0.376		
Colombia	0.742	0.830	0.731	0.673	Philippines	0.832	0.967	0.720	0.826		
Costa Rica	0.724	0.930	0.711	0.573	Poland	0.628	0.500	0.731	0.677		
Dominican Republic	0.615	0.607	0.742	0.515	Qatar	0.630	0.759	0.656	0.501		
Ecuador	0.712	0.667	0.706	0.767	Republic of Korea	0.655	0.681	0.723	0.571		
El Salvador	0.412	0.689	0.282	0.361	Republic of Moldova	0.630	0.637	0.538	0.729		
Estonia	0.395	0.233	0.651	0.407	Saudi Arabia	0.473	0.567	0.518	0.359		
Ethiopia	0.536	0.722	0.379	0.562	Serbia	0.662	0.633	0.643	0.711		
Fiji	0.385	0.296	0.360	0.537	Sierra Leone	0.650	0.785	0.581	0.603		
Finland	0.701	0.589	0.686	0.854	Singapore	0.329	0.170	0.606	0.343		
France	0.552	0.348	0.631	0.765	Slovakia	0.631	0.511	0.680	0.724		
Gambia	0.249	0.181	0.386	0.219	Slovenia	0.580	0.578	0.686	0.493		
Georgia	0.655	0.644	0.497	0.876	State of Palestine	0.746	0.789	0.779	0.676		
Germany	0.682	0.800	0.653	0.607	Suriname	0.406	0.307	0.409	0.531		
Ghana	0.444	0.485	0.586	0.309	Sweden	0.713	0.622	0.685	0.852		
Greece	0.491	0.552	0.651	0.330	Switzerland	0.624	0.633	0.741	0.518		
Hungary	0.548	0.456	0.700	0.516	Syrian Arab Republic	0.361	0.548	0.247	0.348		
India	0.445	0.481	0.467	0.392	Timor-Leste	0.344	0.111	0.587	0.623		
Iraq	0.440	0.541	0.465	0.339	Tunisia	0.457	0.715	0.407	0.327		
Ireland	0.445	0.389	0.631	0.360	Türkiye	0.682	0.681	0.661	0.703		
Israel	0.610	0.689	0.644	0.512	Uganda	0.728	0.933	0.542	0.764		
Japan	0.480	0.437	0.630	0.402	Ukraine	0.544	0.633	0.434	0.586		
Jordan	0.670	0.589	0.685	0.747	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	0.556	0.404	0.732	0.580		
Kuwait	0.423	0.278	0.500	0.545	United Republic of Tanzania	0.547	0.600	0.613	0.446		
Latvia	0.714	0.578	0.720	0.875	Viet Nam	0.422	0.522	0.678	0.213		
Lesotho	0.531	0.448	0.530	0.631							

- Central Asia and Southern Asia
- Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia
- Europe and Northern America
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Northern Africa and Western Asia
- Oceania
- Sub-Saharan Africa

Note: The table presents the data based on the [SDGs' regional groupings and country names](#).

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