

Gender Data Outlook 2024:

Unlocking Capacity,
Driving Change



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Foreword

Since the Sustainable Development Goals were agreed in 2015 and countries began putting systems into place to track progress towards them, gender data have been conspicuous by their absence. While this lack has spurred countries and international partners to act, efforts have largely been concentrated on increasing the production of gender data but have stopped short of ensuring the use of these data to advance gender-equitable development.

Over the past eight years, UN Women's global gender data programme, Women Count, has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen gender data systems and promote uptake and use of gender data produced. UN Women and PARIS21 have individually and jointly advocated for better data systems to ensure that women and girls across the globe benefit from progress towards development goals. In this spirit, the 2024 *Gender Data Outlook* (GDO) redefines gender data capacity as the capacity not only to produce gender data but also to deepen knowledge and insights into how these data can be transformed into meaningful change for women and girls.

This GDO introduces a novel approach to measuring gender data capacity across countries. Its aim is to quantify where countries stand in terms of gender data capacity across the entire gender data value chain to identify areas of strength and areas where additional efforts are necessary. The GDO framework 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 extend the focus beyond the collection and/or processing of data to also explore their usage and impact.

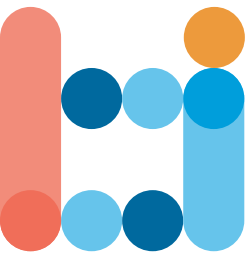
The 2024 GDO Index developed for this report measures the first three dimensions of the framework – the enabling environment for gender data, data production and accessibility of gender data. The inaugural Index covers 83 countries for which comparable data on all three dimensions are available. Due to limited quantitative measures of data use, this fourth dimension of the framework is not included in the Index. 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 utilised, thus laying the groundwork for incorporating quantitative measures of use in future editions of the GDO Index. The GDO is a tool for the gender data community and for gender data advocates to advance further and faster towards improving the lives of women and girls around the world.

This report provides key insights and an overview of the GDO Index findings. Further information on country use cases as well as a detailed overview of the development of the indicators are available in the accompanying [Methodology note and list of analysed country studies](#).

UN Women and PARIS21 look forward to engaging with the gender data community around the findings of this report with a view to collaborating for greater gender data capacity internationally.



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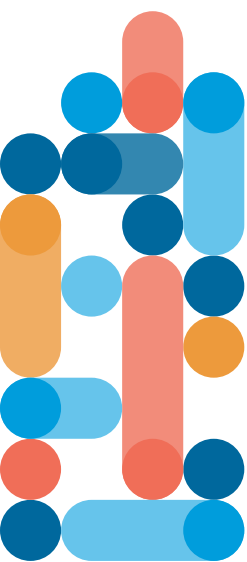
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Abbreviations and acronyms

CSO	Civil society organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
GDO	Gender Data Outlook
GEWE	Gender equality and women's empowerment
GSGS	Global Survey on Gender Statistics
HIC	High-income country
IEAG-GS	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
NSO	National statistical office
NSDS	National strategy for the development of statistics
NSS	National statistical system
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
RGA	Rapid gender assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPI	Statistical Performance Indicators (World Bank)
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
VAW	Violence against women





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Introducing a new approach to assessing gender data capacity to identify and highlight key drivers towards progress

A measurement that looks beyond increasing production

The 2024 Gender Data Outlook (GDO) presents novel insights on how national statistical offices (NSOs), and the international community more broadly, can approach gender data capacity. Efforts over the last 20 years to tackle gender data gaps have typically aimed to improve and increase production of gender data. However, little is known about countries' capacity to transform these data into meaningful change for gender equality and inclusive, sustainable development. The 2024 Gender Data Outlook broadens the scope of gender data capacity to include the institutional foundations for the production of gender data (enabling environment) and emphasises the eventual use of gender data as the main driver for enhancing capacity across dimensions.

Advancing the measurement agenda

This Gender Data Outlook marks a step forward in the international measurement agenda. The mixed-method approach assesses countries' capacity across four dimensions: an enabling environment for gender data, gender data production, accessibility and use. The report is unique in how it covers the full gender data value chain, highlights the importance of connecting data production and use, and underlines the need to extend the focus from the collection or processing of gender data through to their ultimate impact. By specifically focusing on gender data, the GDO approach ensures focused insights while facilitating comparisons between overall statistical capacity and gender data capacity. Through its novel GDO Index, which covers 83 countries in this first edition, the report explores country capacity across the first three of the four dimensions. The report draws additional, practical insights from the qualitative analysis of gender data use in practice. The report's is envisaged to catalyse further research on gender data capacity, continue to contribute to greater quantitative and qualitative insights on gender data use, and expand the number of countries it covers in the future.



Countries are on average at the halfway point

The GDO Index shows that countries' capacities to plan, co-ordinate, produce and make available gender data remain limited. On average, the 83 countries analysed have attained just over half of their full potential. On average, countries' highest performance was on gender data production, followed by enabling environment and then data accessibility. These results reflect the traditional priorities of national statistical systems, which tend to focus on data collection activities while data accessibility is often neglected or an afterthought. Yet, while some countries show stronger enabling environments and accessibility than others, data production remains an area where all countries stand to improve.

Analysing countries by their gender data capacity highlights the factors that advance or hamper capacity

High performance in the GDO Index was not always correlated to high performance in overall statistical capacity, though the relationship is stronger at low capacity levels. Likewise, the relationship of gender data capacity to income status or geographical region is weak. The GDO identifies which key factors appear to drive improvements in gender data capacity and, therefore, where investments in gender data systems should be prioritised. This information can offer development partners guidelines for a joined-up approach to advancing gender data capacity that is tailored to country needs and also identify areas of improvement that are common across countries. Finally, the report develops a call to action to help mobilise different communities in order to multiply efforts to improve gender data capacity.

What advances gender data capacity?

Regular collaboration and dialogue between users and producers

Among the top-performing countries, a common characteristic was regular user-producer dialogues and co-ordination between the NSO and the national statistical system (NSS) and, notably, regular collaboration with the national women's machinery and a working group on gender statistics. Similarly,



almost all cases of gender data use analysed for the GDO built on co-operation 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 organisations, among others.

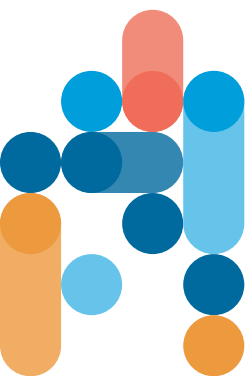
Effective dissemination and communication of gender data are needed, together with meaningful engagement of users

While gender data are available across a wide range of issue areas, a review of 58 successful cases of gender data use revealed their use prevails in sectors such as violence against women and girls and unpaid care work. There is ample scope for gender data to be used in a wider variety of sectors. However, the availability of gender data alone cannot ensure that they translate into meaningful change for women and girls. Producers and advocates of gender data need to explore how they can target potential users by considering needs and preferences as well as channels and opportunities for dissemination and communication.

Financing matters - in regularity and in how it is targeted

Countries with a regular budget for gender data tended to perform better overall than countries that did not. And while countries rely on external funding for their gender data activities, currently only a negligible share of official development assistance for statistics is dedicated to gender-related activities, indicating that there is space for more finance to make a difference towards gender-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Beyond the regularity of financing, investments in gender data could be broadened beyond data production to advance use and impact, connecting evidence to actions that improve the lives of women, girls, men and boys. Insights from existing use cases underscore the importance of investing in skills, tools and capacities to better mainstream gender, improve accessibility and communication, and support multi-stakeholder collaboration as key enablers of gender data use.





1. ASSESSING CROSS-NATIONAL GENDER DATA CAPACITY

This chapter outlines the rationale behind the creation of a Gender Data Outlook Index, exploring existing indicators of gender data capacity and efforts to measure it, as well as ways to improve its measurement. It discusses the findings from the Gender Data Outlook Index, cross-country trends and what can be learned from these findings to enhance support to gender data.

IN BRIEF

- The Gender Data Outlook (GDO) Index offers a new framework that measures the enabling environment for gender data, gender data production and accessibility of gender data across 83 countries using country-level data. Its purpose is to systematically document how countries vary in their capacity to produce and utilise gender data and to identify the factors behind these differences.
- The average country gender data capacity score on the GDO Index is 0.533, just over half of the maximum possible. Capacities vary significantly across countries, ranging from just over 0.800 (Philippines, Mexico) to 0.160 or lower (Liechtenstein, Nauru, Antigua and Barbuda). Countries at either end of the spectrum are from diverse geographies and all four income groups.
- Gender data capacity and overall statistical performance are linked, but several lower-income countries (e.g. Cameroon, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone) have relatively high GDO Index scores compared to their overall statistical capacity, suggesting that these countries may have prioritised their capacity to produce and share gender data. This finding reinforces the argument that achieving high gender data capacity is possible at all income levels.
- Average scores are highest for gender data production (0.591) and the establishment of an enabling environment for gender data (0.547) followed by the average scores for measures to enhance data accessibility (0.520). Some countries, among them Azerbaijan and Chile, show relatively balanced performance across dimensions, while the markedly different scores across dimensions of other countries, such as Mauritania and Viet Nam, show uneven

performance. This scoring offers a starting point for identifying where interventions are most needed.

- The GDO Index findings have implications for efforts to build gender data capacity, which will vary depending on each country's starting point. Regular user-producer dialogues and co-ordination between the national statistical office (NSO) and the national statistical system (NSS) – notably regular collaboration with the women's machinery and a working group on gender statistics – separate the top-performing cluster from all the others. At relatively lower levels of gender data capacity, key focus areas are irregular financing for gender statistics and NSO staffing for gender.
- For some indicators, notably those relating to the enabling environment and data accessibility, many countries need to take steps to match top performers. For other indicators, notably those linked to gender data production, all countries stand in need of improvement.
- Regular and sustained domestic financing is a key predictor of gender data capacity, with most low and middle-income countries (LMICs) reliant on external funders for gender data activities. Yet, half of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members allocated either nothing or only a negligible amount of statistics official development assistance (ODA) to gender-related activities, suggesting there is ample scope for additional investment in strengthening gender data systems.
- The GDO Index is envisioned as a work in progress that will evolve in line with improvements in data availability and quality and with the development of gender data capacity. A fourth dimension, data use, should be included in future editions of the Index.



1.1. Background to the Gender Data Outlook

Gender equality is central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both as a standalone goal (SDG 5) and as a dimension in all other goals. The 2030 Agenda builds on earlier global commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment as embedded in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Achieving gender equality is thus a core objective of long-standing international and national agendas aimed at inclusive sustainable development and safeguarding fundamental human rights.

Gender data are critical to inform policies and investments that can help countries achieve their domestic and global commitments. With the approach of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform and near the midway point of the SDGs, the role of gender data in reviewing progress towards gender equality and women’s empowerment is also paramount.

...it will take an estimated 22 years, on average, for countries to make available all SDG gender data...

Considerable efforts have been made over the past 25 years to improve gender statistics. As the Millennium Development Goals were agreed in September 2000, one of the only sex-disaggregated measures available across many countries was

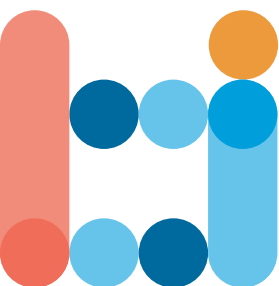
school enrolment; the focus on this indicator of gender progress prompted huge increases in investments in girls’ education (Buvinic and Levine, 2016[1]). Adoption of the SDGs 15 years later fostered new programmes, instruments and initiatives to advance gender mainstreaming in statistics and deliver more and better gender data. When countries committed to the 2030 Agenda, 26% of the indicators needed to monitor the gender equality provisions were available; 56% of these were available by 2024 (UN Women, 2024[2]). The available data are also increasingly providing insights into how gender intersects with other key markers of identity such as age, disability or Indigenous status.

Some countries have made notable strides. Though it will take an estimated 22 years, on average, for countries to make available all SDG gender data, Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru are already



now on track to do so before 2030 (Encarnacion, Emandi and Seck, 2022[3]). Such progress highlights what can be achieved within a short time span when efforts to advance gender data are prioritised.

Nonetheless, while countries' ability to produce, disseminate and use gender data is acknowledged as an important driver of meaningful change for women and girls, fundamental gaps persist. Many gender-related issues are underreported or overlooked, and the production of gender data often lags in crucial sectors such as climate change (Open Data Watch and Data2X, 2021[4]). As of 2023, no data had been reported for any country for 14 gender-specific indicators in areas as diverse as sexual violence, poverty and employment (Emandi et al., 2023[5]). Moreover, the production of gender statistics has not kept pace with the statistical capacity in other areas. For example, countries reported on average 34% of 50 SDG gender-related indicators in at least one year from 2016 to 2020, while the average was 65% for all SDG indicators (Beegle et al., 2023[6]). Stronger gender data systems are needed to ensure that government programmes and policies address the needs of women and girls. In their absence, there is a risk that policies will be gender blind and therefore increase the likelihood that women and girls will be left behind.



Measuring and assessing the capacity of countries to produce and use gender data is a critical part of these efforts. A cross-national evaluation enables a systematic and structured understanding of where countries are performing well and where they may face challenges. The aims are to foster learning and exchange across countries and to ensure that resources and support are targeted for maximum impact.

What has been missing so far is a summary measure of the relevant indicators to facilitate an understanding of how the components of statistical capacity interact and how countries differ from one another in terms of their overall gender data capacity. The GDO Index, a new composite measure presented in this report, builds on previous efforts to profile countries' levels of gender data capacity and statistical maturity. It thus lays the groundwork for an exploration of drivers of progress domestically as well as for international support for gender statistics to address the critical question of how diverse investments in gender data can translate into meaningful change for women and girls.

This chapter introduces the new framework and Index, provides a snapshot of countries' levels of gender data capacity, and discusses what this analysis reveals about the strengths of the countries' NSS¹ and what areas could be improved. The need for regular and sustained financing emerges as a key input to gender data capacity and a lever that development partners can use to support the development of robust gender data systems. For this reason, the chapter also examines OECD DAC member countries' contributions to gender statistics and varying levels of commitment to improving their availability. Finally, the chapter outlines the implications of this exercise for future work, highlighting the need to incorporate measures of data use into future editions of the GDO Index.

1.2. Introducing the GDO framework and Index

Various existing frameworks and indicators make a useful contribution to understanding statistical capacity. Among these are the World Bank Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI) (Dang et al., 2023[7]) and the PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor. Other frameworks have focused on measuring gender data capacity such as the Women Count framework and the Open Data Watch (ODW) and Data2X Gender Data System Maturity Model (2023[8]); the World Bank Strengthening Gender Statistics project (World Bank, 2022[9]); the United Nations (UN) Statistics Division (UNSD) Minimum Set of Gender Indicators;² the ODW Gender Data Compass (Open Data Watch, 2024[10]); and the UNSD Global Survey on Gender Statistics, the latest round of which took place in late 2022 (Box 1.2).

Dimensions of the GDO framework

The GDO framework is based on an in-depth review and assessment of these initiatives (UN Women, 2023, p. 1[11]; PARIS21 and UN Women, 2024[12]). The first dimension, an enabling environment, emphasises institutional elements within the NSO and NSS that support the production, dissemination and communication of gender statistics. The second dimension is data production, or the country's ability to produce gender data to meet SDG reporting



requirements and inform national policy agendas. The third concerns data accessibility, or the country's ability to make gender data openly available and ensure that they reflect the needs of data users. Completing the gender data value chain, the fourth dimension pertains to the use of gender data. The four dimensions allow for an evaluation of connections along the data value chain and an evaluation of factors that contribute to progress.

The value added of the new framework informing this analysis is threefold:

- The framework emphasises data use as the primary purpose of data production, thereby underlining the need for a reorientation from gender data production to use and impact.
- It covers the full gender data value chain from enabling factors through to use.
- It is specific to gender statistics, ensuring a focus on this specific domain and facilitating comparisons between overall data capacity and gender data capacity.

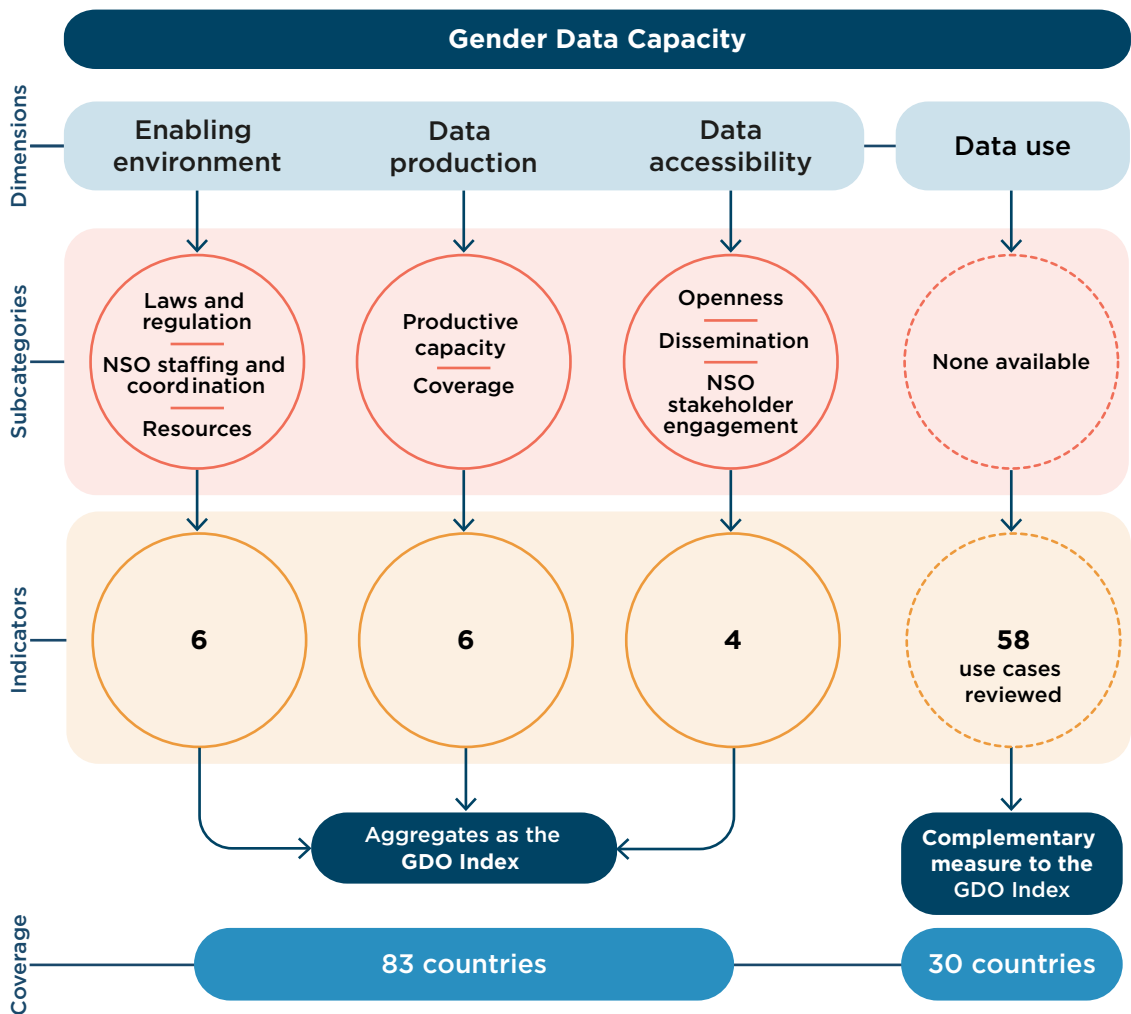
Building on this framework, the GDO Index brings together the first three dimensions of the gender data value chain by aggregating country performance across 16 indicators ([Figure 1.1](#)). Due to lack of consistent cross-national comparable measures, the GDO Index does not include the critical dimension of gender data use³ ([Box 1.1](#)). To address this critical gap, this report explores gender data use through the qualitative analysis of 58 cases of successful gender data use based on a novel typology and presented in Chapter 2. This complementary analysis offers key insights into how gender data are and could be further utilised and lays the groundwork for incorporating quantitative measures of use in future editions of the GDO Index.



FIGURE 1.1.

Gender Data Outlook Framework

The GDO Index comprises the 16 available indicators



Source: Author illustration based on PARIS21 and UN Women (2024[12]) and [Methodological Note 2024](#).

Dimensions, subcategories and indicators of the GDO Index

Enabling environment

Laws and regulations

The existence of supportive laws and regulations is a key aspect of an enabling environment for gender data (Indicator 1.1). A legal mandate to produce and use gender data helps make the national gender architecture resilient, ensuring its durability even in the face of changes in government and policy agendas. A mandate also can help overcome

practical obstacles, for instance by providing NSOs with rights of access to administrative and non-administrative data (PARIS21, 2022, p. 12 [13]). In Morocco, for example, a gender-sensitive amendment to the NSS law has catalysed the country’s first-ever costing of violence against women and girls (VAW) and the inclusion of a zero-tolerance VAW policy in its 2021 New Development Mode (Chapter 2). Similarly, in El Salvador, the law that establishes the NSS includes provisions for collecting data and information on VAW.⁴ In addition to such laws and regulations, the existence of a roadmap, strategy or action plan demonstrates efforts to translate legal mandates into action (Indicator 1.2).

NSO collaboration and co-ordination

NSO staffing and co-ordination mechanisms indicate the emphasis put on gender data within the NSO, which leads and co-ordinates the production of official statistics, and across the wider NSS. Appointing an individual focal point or a dedicated unit within the NSO to be responsible for gender statistics and mainstreaming gender into statistical work (Indicator 1.3) can ensure the sustainability of gender statistics production, effective communication, and the implementation of a clear and harmonised action plan related to gender (PARIS21, 2022, p. 13[13]). In its evaluation of the 2022 Global Survey on Gender Statistics (GSGS), the UN Statistical Commission (2024, p. 8[14]) found a notable decrease singular gender focal points within NSOs over the previous decade alongside a greater prevalence of dedicated offices for gender statistics, reflecting “a growing recognition of the importance of a specialized and comprehensive approach to gender statistics within the NSO framework”.

Efforts to ensure that gender is mainstreamed beyond the NSO and within the NSS are critical to ensuring that gender statistics are co-ordinated, produced and used across government bodies. The establishment of advisory groups and gender statistics entities within the NSS (Indicator 1.4) is linked to higher levels of gender data capacity as these provide a platform for sustained dialogue around gender statistics production (PARIS21, 2022, p. 12[13]). The NSO and national women’s machineries play a key role: Active exchange between these entities often propels capacity development for gender statistics (PARIS21, 2023, p. 37[15]). The data use cases in Chapter 2 demonstrate the value of collaboration between the NSO and national women’s machineries (Indicator 1.5)





as an important driver of work on gender statistics within countries.

Regular and sustained funding

Regular, sustained financing is crucial to build and maintain data capacity. It is needed, for example, to fund instruments such as special surveys used to collect and disseminate gender data as well as information technology infrastructure that enables gender data to be shared between government institutions and allows the NSS to undertake the work needed to report on complex indicators⁵ (PARIS21, 2022[13]). Regular, sustained funding also supports greater co-ordination and management across the NSS (Data2X and Open Data Watch, 2024, p. 7[16]). A commitment of regular funding from the national budget for statistics (Indicator 1.6) signals that the government values gender statistics and that their production will be maintained. The UN Statistical Commission recent summary of the 2022 GSGS shows there has been a marked increase in the share of countries including a dedicated budget for gender statistics in the national budget for statistics, with 69% of countries reporting regular and reoccurring funding from this source in 2022 compared with 13% of countries in 2012 (UN Statistical Commission, 2024, p. 8[14]). For International Development Association countries, donor contributions to gender data capacity are also essential, as further discussed in section 1.4.

Data production

Capacity and coverage

The ability of the NSS to produce gender statistics relies on its ability to field the core data instruments needed to produce gender data, including censuses, household surveys and a range of administrative data. The lack of an up-to-date census in particular poses challenges given that the granular evidence that a census provides on population dynamics serves as critical inputs into policy making, allows for population projections and informs survey sampling frames (Open Data Watch, 2023[17]). A robust NSS will also produce data needed to inform an array of diverse national and international policy agendas that bear on gender equality.



**A COMMITMENT OF
REGULAR FUNDING
FROM THE
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BE MAINTAINED.**



Data accessibility

Openness and dissemination

How well a country's gender data comply with international openness standards sheds light on barriers to accessing and using available gender data: Where data are openly available, their benefits and impacts are multiplied (Open Data Watch, 2023[17]). Likewise, the dissemination and communication of gender data in user-friendly and engaging formats bolsters the effective monitoring of gender disparities and the ability of such data to inform policy and public discourse.

NSO engagement with users and producers

The need for stakeholder engagement and co-ordination to uphold gender statistics production is widely recognised. As PARIS21 (2022, p. 12[13]) has argued, including the wider gender data ecosystem in the national strategy for the development of statistics process through user-producer dialogues can help identify data needs and develop indicators and methodologies for data collection, improve data coverage, and enhance the relevance of the resulting statistics. The end result is “greater uptake and use of gender statistics for policy and programme design” (PARIS21, 2022[13]). Open Data Watch and Data2X (2023[8]) similarly noted that stakeholder co-ordination can “unify activities of all stakeholders engaged with gender data from production to use” along the data value chain. Chapter 2 presents examples of such impactful partnerships, including in Viet Nam, where NSO co-operation with development partners enhanced data literacy and gender sensitivity (Data2X, 2019[18]), and in the Maldives, where NSO-private sector collaboration ensured that the Income Support Allowance programme reached the self-employed and the informal sector where women are concentrated (Ross, 2021[19]).

The GDO Index data and construction

Most of the data used in the GDO Index derive from the 2022 GSGS, a survey conducted every ten years by the UNSD in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) ([Box 1.2](#)). To reflect broader NSS gender data capacities, NSO gender data focal points who responded to the GSGS 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. Indicators on data production and availability are mostly from the Gender Data Compass, which provides an expert third-party assessment of the gender data capacity of 185 countries along five so-called cardinal points: data availability, data openness, institutional foundations, capacity and financing⁶ (Open Data Watch, 2024[10]). All data points are for 2022 except the Compass data, which are for 2023.

BOX 1.1. THE SELECTION OF DIMENSIONS, SUBCATEGORIES AND INDICATORS IN THE GDO INDEX

The three dimensions of the GDO Index represent key elements of the gender data value chain. Each dimension contains several subcategories that add specificity and structure, and each subcategory contains a selection of indicators based on the careful review of the available frameworks and data sets measuring statistical performance and gender data capacity. Given data limitations, it was not possible to include all relevant dimensions, subcategories and indicators in this first edition of the GDO Index. Data use is a critical unfortunate omission. The Index is envisioned as a work in progress that will evolve as gender data capacity develops and data availability and quality improve.

Note: [The Methodological Note 2024](#) describes the indicators and differences between data sources in greater detail.

Source: PARIS21 and UN Women (2024[12]), [A Pragmatic Approach to Developing a Comprehensive Gender Capacity Framework: A Companion Report to the Gender Data Outlook 2024](#); PARIS21 and UN Women, [Methodological Note 2024](#).
<https://data.unwomen.org/publications/gender-data-outlook-2024>

The GDO Index covers 83 countries that have enough indicators to construct a summary measure ([Annex A](#)). Scores range in value from zero to 1. A score of 1 means the country has established all aspects of a conducive enabling environment, produced all the gender data needed to report on national and international commitments, and taken all steps possible

to make those data accessible and to ensure they reflect user needs. A score of zero means the country has not made progress on any of these measures.

BOX 1.2. UNSD GLOBAL SURVEY ON GENDER STATISTICS

In 2022, the UNSD in collaboration with the IAEG-GS implemented a global survey of national gender statistics programmes. This was the second such survey; the first was conducted in 2012. The survey was based on a common global questionnaire containing 17 questions and administered through the UN Regional Commissions. NSOs in each country were asked to submit their responses obtained in consultation with other entities in the country's NSS, the mechanism for the advancement of gender equality, line ministries, and any other relevant offices or agencies. Of the 107 countries that participated in the 2022 survey round, 91 gave explicit consent for their data to be shared. The resulting data provide critical insights into NSOs' perceptions of progress in gender statistics over the previous ten years covering organisational settings and funding, data sources, legal requirements, collaboration and communication, and opportunities and challenges; the extent to which a gender perspective is mainstreamed into national statistical systems; and the relevance and impact of the work of the UN and its partners.

Source: UN Statistical Commission, (2024[14]), *Summary of Results of the Global Survey on Gender Statistics Common Questionnaire – in 2022*, <https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/5Dr8CRo0QHvnoVwiNH2Mc?domain=unstats.un.org>.

1.3. Exploring cross-national differences in gender data capacity

The sample of 83 countries in the GDO Index have an average score of 0.533, indicating that on average countries have attained just over half of their full potential. As is typical, the average conceals wide variations. 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. At the other end are Liechtenstein (0.028), Nauru (0.060), and Antigua and Barbuda (0.161). Average gender data capacity does not differ significantly by geographic or by income group (Figure 1.2). The countries at either end of the spectrum represent diverse geographies and income groups. The 13 countries scoring above 0.700 span all four income groups and several regions including Europe (Belarus, Finland, Latvia, Sweden); West Asia (Oman, State of Palestine); Southeast Asia (Philippines); sub-Saharan Africa (Uganda); Central America (Costa Rica, Mexico); South America (Colombia, Ecuador); and Northern America (Canada). The nine countries scoring less than 0.330 are similarly diverse: They are in Europe (Bulgaria, Liechtenstein); Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Singapore); sub-Saharan Africa (Burundi, Gambia, Mauritania); the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda); and Oceania (Nauru) and belong to all four income groups.

FIGURE 1.2.
Country values of GDO Index, by region and income group, 2024



Note: CSA is Central and Southern Asia; ESEA is Eastern and South-Eastern Asia; ENA is Europe and Northern America; LAC is Latin America and the Caribbean; NAWA is Northern Africa and Western Asia; OCE is Oceania; SSA is sub-Saharan Africa. The figure shows how country GDO Index scores are distributed by region and income group. The colour coding reflects each country's World Bank income group designation, as indicated in the legend.

Source: Author's illustration based on GDO Index calculations.



Uganda is an example of a low-income country that is performing particularly strongly on the GDO Index, with a GDO score of 0.728, and where data have directly informed gender-inclusive policies (Chapter 2). In contrast, several high-income countries (HICs) exhibit significant deficits. Singapore, for example, has a GDO Index score of 0.329, and Belgium and Estonia have scores of just under 0.400.

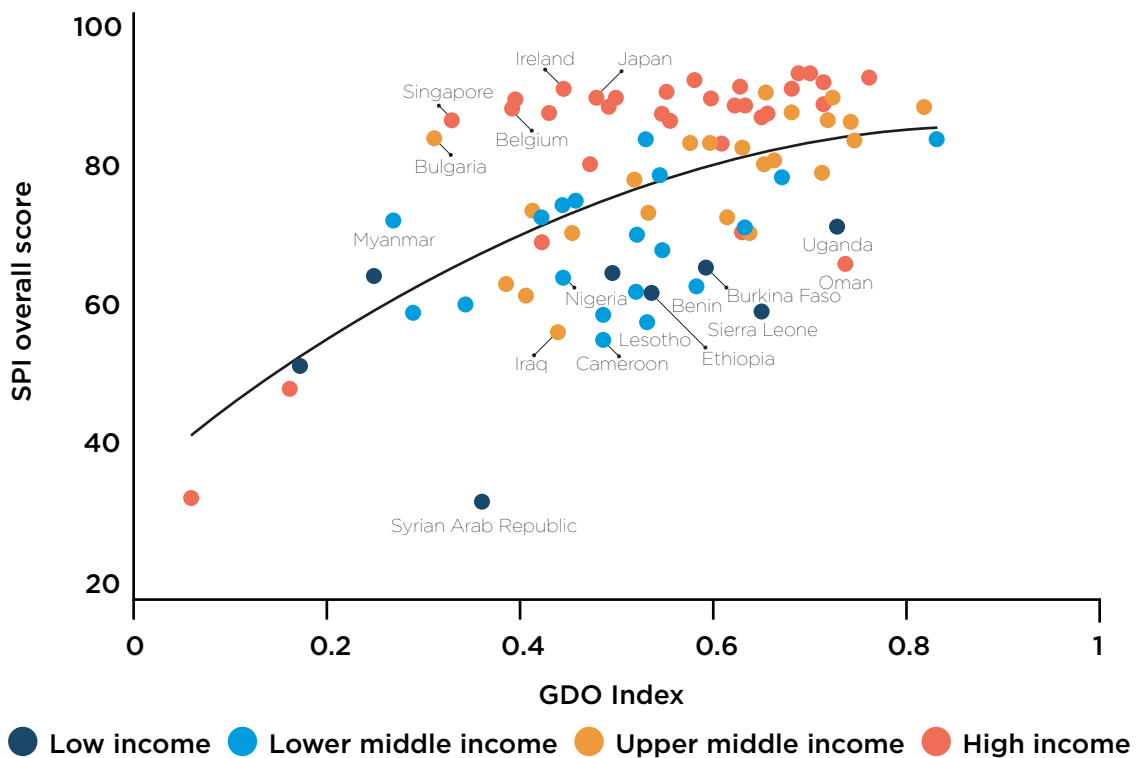
Gender data capacity differs from overall statistical performance. Some insights into potential differences between overall statistical performance and gender data capacity emerge from comparing the GDO Index with the World Bank SPI. Analysis for this report found that the two measures are moderately correlated,⁷ suggesting that a strong emphasis on gender data is often part of a broader commitment to robust statistical systems. But the correlation is driven by countries with relatively weaker statistical systems.⁸ In other words, in these countries, improvements in foundational statistical capacity seem to have a significant impact on gender data capacity. The impact diminishes at higher SPI levels where targeted, specialised interventions may be needed to further enhance gender data capacity.

There are several countries whose gender data capacity appears to be either higher or lower than what might be expected based on their overall statistical capacity⁹ ([Figure 1.3](#)). Estonia, Lithuania and Japan are among several HICs with far higher SPI scores than their GDO Index scores would predict, while several lower-income countries – including Cameroon, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Sierra Leone – have much lower SPI scores than would be predicted given their gender data capacity.¹⁰ The finding that many lower-income countries have prioritised their capacity to produce gender statistics supports the argument that it is possible to build such capacity at any level of economic development.

For those countries that have higher or lower GDO Index scores than their overall statistical capacity would predict, the biggest difference is a more developed enabling environment: 0.360 points higher for those countries with relatively high gender data capacity scores.



FIGURE 1.3.
Gender data capacity and overall statistical capacity are congruous, particularly among low-capacity countries, 2024



Note: Countries above the black line have lower scores on the GDO Index than might be expected given their score on the World Bank SPI. Countries below the black line have higher scores on the GDO Index than might be expected.

Source: Author’s computation based on GDO Index calculations and the World Bank SPI.

How balanced is performance across the three dimensions of gender data capacity?

Of the three dimensions of gender data capacity measured in the GDO Index, countries exhibit the highest levels of performance in gender data production (average score of 0.591) and creation of an enabling environment for gender data (average of 0.547), followed by data accessibility (average of 0.520). In principle, a country’s enabling environment for data production would be expected to predict its ability to produce data and to make those data accessible to users. In practice, the relationships are positive but weak to moderate.¹¹ (Chapter 2 explores one other aspect of this disconnect – the gap between data availability and uptake that emerged in several data use cases.) The lack of a stronger relationship has several potential explanations. One possibility



is that the Index measures are not fully capturing each dimension owing to a lack of data on some elements. However, it is also likely that a historical focus on gender data production preceded greater attention to establishing a conducive enabling environment and ensuring that gender data are accessible, though all of these are necessary for the sustained production and dissemination of gender statistics that are fit for purpose. Indeed, some evidence supports this disconnect. A recent analysis of national statistics plans found that in most countries, earmarked funding for gender activities was concentrated on data production “with very few emphasizing the publication and dissemination of gender data, or use in policymaking” (Data2X and Open Data Watch, 2024, p. 3[16]).

Of the three dimensions of gender data capacity measured in the GDO Index, countries exhibit the highest levels of performance in gender data production.

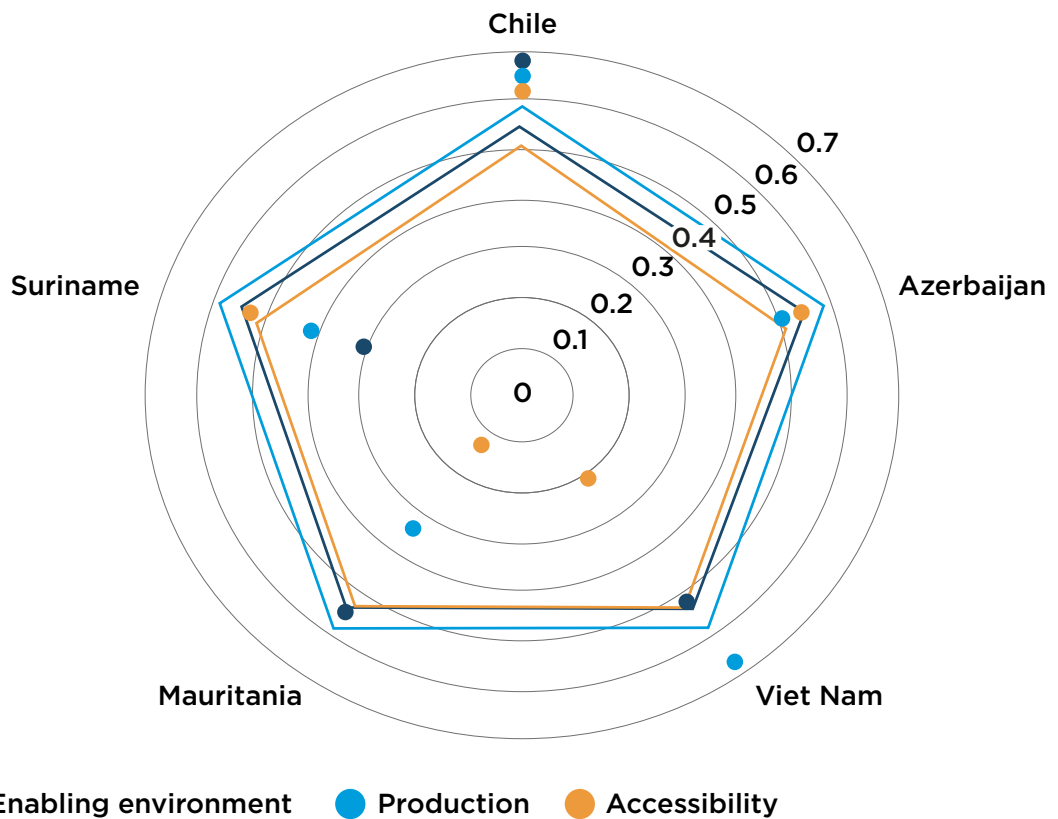
Beneath the average dimension scores in the GDO Index, countries exhibit notable differences. While there are examples of relatively balanced performance, as in Azerbaijan and Chile, in other countries performance between the dimensions is dramatically uneven – for instance in Mauritania and Viet Nam (Figure 1.4). In Suriname, performance on data accessibility (0.530) is higher than for production (0.410) and almost twice as high as the score on the enabling environment dimension (0.310). In Mauritania, the enabling environment score (0.556) is over 0.200 points higher than the score for data production (0.341) and four times the country’s score for data accessibility (0.127). In Viet Nam, in contrast, the country’s gender data capacity is production led with a score on data production (0.678) that is much higher than that for either the enabling environment (0.522) or accessibility (0.213).



**IN MOST
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EARMARKED
FUNDING
FOR GENDER
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ON DATA
PRODUCTION.**



FIGURE 1.4.
GDO Index scores for selected countries with uneven performance in enabling environment, data production and data accessibility dimensions, 2024



● Enabling environment ● Production ● Accessibility
 ⬠ Means of the three dimensions

Note: The figure shows country GDO Index scores by dimension for selected countries and is intended to illustrate balanced and unbalanced performance across the three Index dimensions. The colour coding reflects each dimension, as indicated in the legend.

Source: Author’s computation based on GDO Index calculations.

This type of decomposition begins to hint at the types of improvement that may be necessary and whether they are needed across the board or should be targeted to specific dimensions of capacity. The use cases highlighted in Chapter 2 also show how SDG data production and efforts to enhance access can be linked, with one example being the use of the SDG Index to engage with policy makers in Colombia and another the success of the social media hashtag #SDGGenderIndex in Kenya.



1.4. Patterns in gender data capacity

Conducting a cluster analysis, which sorts countries into groups based on the key similarities among them, can further guide programming and investments in gender data capacity. The

The GDO provides some valuable insights into how statistical systems develop and which aspects could be prioritised to strengthen gender data systems.

GDO Index provides an overall score that shows how well countries perform based on a combination of different indicators. However, cluster analysis takes a different approach. Instead of adding up scores across indicators, it looks more closely at which specific traits tend to occur together in countries and which ones do not, giving a deeper understanding of areas of strength and of relative weakness ([Box 1.3](#)).¹² This exercise has several

benefits. First, since some clusters boast higher average GDO Index scores than others, the analysis reveals the extent to which different combinations of indicators result in better and worse overall performance. Additionally, it identifies which specific indicators are most influential in explaining the variation between clusters.¹³ Furthermore, a careful study of the differences between clusters that have higher and lower average Index scores provides some valuable insights into how statistical systems develop and which aspects could be prioritised to strengthen gender data systems for countries depending on their specific cluster characteristics and levels of gender data capacity.

This information can offer development partners guidelines for a joined-up approach to advancing gender data capacity that sits between a one-size-fits-all approach and one that is tailored to country needs. The information also suggests which types of interventions can be linked for specific groups of countries based on their specific gaps and overall statistical capacity. This classification will naturally evolve as gender data capacity itself develops and new data and insights become available.

BOX 1.3. CLUSTER ANALYSIS – DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION

The GDO cluster analysis identifies clusters, or groups of countries, based on the differences between their scores on various GDO Index indicators. Countries in the same cluster are more similar to one another (in terms of gender data capacity) than to those in other clusters. Accordingly, the clusters provide insights into shared strengths and areas for improvement in gender data capacity. Importantly, since countries are not grouped according to their GDO Index scores, the clusters should not be interpreted as a straightforward hierarchy or ranking.

This analysis reveals patterns in gender data capacity by highlighting which indicators tend to co-occur at a country level and the extent to which each indicator contributes information to distinguish clusters of countries. Adopting such a data-driven approach can help to identify specific groups of countries that would benefit from targeted policies to build gender data capacity in particular areas, and the content of such policies. More information on cluster analysis procedure used can be found in the [Methodological Note](#).

The study's model distinguishes five country clusters¹⁴ characterised by different configurations of indicators ([Annex B](#)). The clusters vary in terms of their average gender data capacity as measured by the GDO Index and by their SPI scores. Each cluster is geographically diverse and notably, as with the different levels of GDO Index capacity, each contains countries from all four income groups. While some countries show generally strong or weak overall performance, others exhibit both strengths and scope for improvement (details in [Annex B](#)). [Figure 1.5](#) summarises these differences, showing whether country performance on each indicator within each cluster is typically strong, medium or weak.

FIGURE 1.5.
Typical characteristics of five clusters of countries

Indicators/sub-indicators	1	2	3	4	5	
Enabling environment	1.1 National legislations supporting gender statistics	●	●	●	●	●
	1.2 Road map supporting gender data	●	●	●	●	●
	1.3 Existence of an individual gender statistics focal point in the NSO	●	●	●	●	●
	1.3 Existence of multiple gender statistics focal point(s) within NSO	●	●	●	●	●
	1.3 Existence of dedicated gender statistics office within NSO	●	●	●	●	●
	1.4 Existence of gender statistics entity within the women's machinery	●	●	●	●	●
	1.4 Existence of gender statistics entity on other ministries or agencies	●	●	●	●	●
	1.4 Existence of gender statistics working or advisory groups	●	●	●	●	●
	1.5 Collaboration between NSO and Women's Machinery	●	●	●	●	●
	1.6 Funding for gender from national budget for statistics	●	●	●	●	●
Data production	2.1 Conduct of population census for the 2020 round	●	●	●	●	●
	2.2 Conduct of regular surveys for gender statistics	●	●	●	●	●
	2.3 Production of administrative data (CRVS, education, health)	○	○	○	○	○
	2.4 Gender Data Compass Availability index	●	●	●	●	●
	2.5 Availability of 52 gender-specific SDG indicators	●	●	●	●	●
	2.6 Availability of sex-disaggregated data on Covid cases and deaths	●	●	●	●	●
Data accessibility	3.1 Gender Data Compass Openness index	○	○	○	○	○
	3.2 Ways NSO disseminates gender data	●	●	●	●	●
	3.3 Collaboration between NSO and at least one outside entity	●	●	●	●	●
	3.4 Dialogue between users and producers of gender statistics	●	●	●	●	●

Country clusters

- 1 Strong all-around performance
- 2 Some gaps in enabling environment and accessibility
- 3 Shortfalls in enabling environment and accessibility
- 4 Significant shortfalls in enabling environment and accessibility
- 5 Significant shortfalls across all three dimensions, and notably in data production

- Countries typically have achieved the highest performance for a given categorical variable (e.g. the NSO conducts regular user-producer dialogues) or that it is in the upper tercile of what is possible for continuous variables (e.g. percentage of SDG gender data that is available).
- Countries typically are in the middle category for a categorical variable (e.g. the NSO conducts irregular user-producer dialogues) or in the middle tercile for continuous variables.
- Countries typically are in the lowest category for categorical variables (e.g. the NSO does not conduct user-producer dialogues) or the lowest tercile for continuous variables.
- Differences between the clusters are not statistically significant.

Note: For more information, see the accompanying [Methodological Note 2024](#).

CRVS – refers to civil registration and vital statistics.

Source: Author’s illustration based on GDO Index calculations; data not publicly available.



The next subsections briefly describe the characteristics of each cluster, highlighting both key features and bottlenecks within each cluster.

Cluster 1: Strong all-round performance (11 countries, 13% of sample; mean GDO Index score 0.711, mean SPI score 79.3)

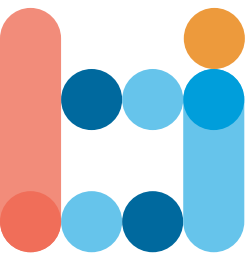
The first cluster is characterised by strong performance across all three dimensions. Countries in this category typically adhere to all the hallmarks of a healthy enabling environment, produce robust gender data allowing them to meet SDG reporting requirements and inform domestic agendas, and take steps to make gender data accessible. The Philippines, the top performer on the GDO Index, is the emblematic country in this category, but other cluster members are geographically diverse, representing Europe, West Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Central and South America in addition to Southeast Asia.

Cluster 2: Some gaps in enabling environment and accessibility (18 countries, 22% of sample; mean GDO Index score 0.582, mean SPI score 78.2)

Countries in this category demonstrate mostly outstanding performance but with some gaps relating to NSO co-ordination with the NSS and with data users. They typically report a conducive enabling environment and solid gender data production. They make efforts to disseminate gender data and to collaborate outside the NSO on their production. Five factors relating to the enabling environment and data accessibility separate these countries from the top-performing category. The countries typically report the lack of a gender statistics entity both in the women's machinery and in other ministries or agencies, no advisory or working group on gender statistics within the NSS, irregular collaboration with the women's machinery, and only irregular user-producer dialogues, all of which suggests a need to widen engagement with broader data communities (Chapter 2). The cluster members are geographically diverse, covering Europe, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central America and Northern America.

Cluster 3: Shortfalls in enabling environment and accessibility (25 countries, 30% of sample; mean GDO Index score 0.596, mean SPI score 79.5)

This cluster demonstrates some positive features relating to an enabling environment for gender data and data accessibility alongside good data production. A unique feature





of these countries' enabling environment is the presence of multiple gender focal points in the NSO. Potential areas for improvement include the lack of a roadmap underpinning gender statistics production, lack of a gender statistics entity in the women's machinery, lack of a working or advisory group on gender statistics, and irregular collaboration with the women's machinery and irregular user-producer dialogues. Of the 25 countries in this cluster, 9 are in Europe and 6 in West Asia, with the remainder being geographically dispersed.

Cluster 4: Significant shortfalls in enabling environment and accessibility (20 countries, 24% of sample; mean GDO Index score 0.373, mean SPI score 77.7)

The countries in this cluster demonstrate average performance in gender data production and clear scope for improvement in building a conducive enabling environment

Some broad-based interventions might be warranted across clusters exhibiting lower and higher levels of gender data capacity, respectively.

and in data accessibility. They typically do not report a statistics law mandating the production of gender statistics or an accompanying roadmap. They lack a gender statistics entity in the women's machinery or in other ministries, and NSOs typically do not collaborate with the women's machinery. Funding for gender statistics from the national

budget for statistics is irregular. Moreover, their dissemination of gender statistics is relatively limited, the NSO reports only irregular collaboration with any outside stakeholder to produce gender statistics and they do not hold user-producer dialogues. Of the 20 countries in the cluster, 10 are in Europe and the rest are in West Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania. More than half (12) are HICs. The concentration of HICs in this cluster raises the question of whether determinants of gender statistics production are so context specific that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. A better understanding of the diversity of institutional configurations in HICs in particular is needed.

Cluster 5: Significant shortfalls across all three dimensions and notably in data production (7 countries, 8% of sample; mean GDO Index score 0.385, mean SPI score 56.4)

Countries in this cluster share some significant shortfalls across the three dimensions. They display gaps in foundational statistical capacity – as shown in the relatively low average SPI score – as well as in gender data capacity. Notably, as of September 2023, their NSO typically did not conduct a census



in the 2020 round.¹⁵ Nor have these countries exhibited the capacity to collect the surveys needed to produce different forms of essential gender data. They also make limited efforts to disseminate gender data. The countries in the cluster also span several different regions: West Asia, Northern Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, South America and the Caribbean.

Implications of cluster characteristics for gender data capacity building

The key variables differentiating clusters affect all three dimensions of the Index.¹⁶ The most influential are laws and regulations (a statistics law and roadmap supporting gender statistics); aspects of co-ordination with the NSS (through gender statistics working groups and a gender statistics entity in the women's machinery): the presence of user-producer dialogues; and the conduct of a census in the 2020 round. Countries also display more uniform tendencies on indicators that span the three dimensions: Notably, there are no significant differences between clusters in terms of the functioning of countries' administrative systems and their ability to meet international openness standards.

The exercise to distinguish characteristics of the five clusters has implications for future work to build gender data capacity. First, it points to specific possibilities for integrated investments at a cluster level. For example, Cluster 5 countries exhibit deficits across the three dimensions, whereas Cluster 4 countries are characterised by significant deficits in just the first two – the enabling environment and data accessibility. It follows that countries in Cluster 5 are likely to require foundational investments in statistical capacity (as suggested by their low mean SPI score), while more targeted interventions focused on the enabling environment and accessibility are called for in Cluster 4 countries.

However, the cluster-based approach also suggests that some broad-based interventions might be warranted across clusters exhibiting lower and higher levels of gender data capacity, respectively, as well as a sequencing of investments.

Clusters 4 and 5, for example, have mean GDO Index scores of just under 0.400. The two clusters share certain characteristics. In both clusters, NSOs tend to lack regular, sustained financing for gender statistics and have at most an individual focal point dedicated to gender statistics. These countries also share a lack of regular user-producer dialogues and limited integration of the NSO within the NSS, evident notably in the lack of regular



collaboration with the women's machinery and absence of a working group on gender statistics.

In turn, countries in Clusters 2 and 3 have average GDO Index levels of about 0.600, indicating higher levels of overall gender data capacity. They also have stronger performance on data production, a more developed enabling environment and mechanisms to make data accessible to varied stakeholders. In contrast to the top-performing Cluster 1 countries, those in Clusters 2 and 3 fall short in terms of having regular user-producer dialogues, regular collaboration with the women's machinery and a working group on gender statistics within the NSS.

Taken together, the findings suggest that for countries with lower capacity, development partners could usefully focus on interventions geared towards NSO staffing and securing regular funding for gender statistics to redress deficits. These efforts may take precedence over enhancing collaboration with the gender ministry, setting up gender statistics working groups and engaging with users through user-producer dialogues. For countries with higher levels of statistical capacity, development partners might instead emphasise measures aimed at strengthening linkages within the NSS and with external stakeholders.

In some features of gender data capacity, the divisions between the five clusters on gender capacity are not entirely clear cut. Countries and NSOs in Clusters 3, 4 and 5, for instance, lack a roadmap supporting the production and use of gender data. Those in Clusters 2, 3 and 4 do not have a gender statistics entity in the women's machinery while countries in Clusters 2 and 4 lack a gender statistics entity in other ministries or agencies – both features that reflect the extent to which gender data are integrated within the NSS. The implication of these less clear-cut divisions is that the development of statistical capacity is not always a linear process, and specific interventions might be needed alongside supports targeted broadly to countries at certain levels of overall capacity.

Specific indicators explain different levels of performance

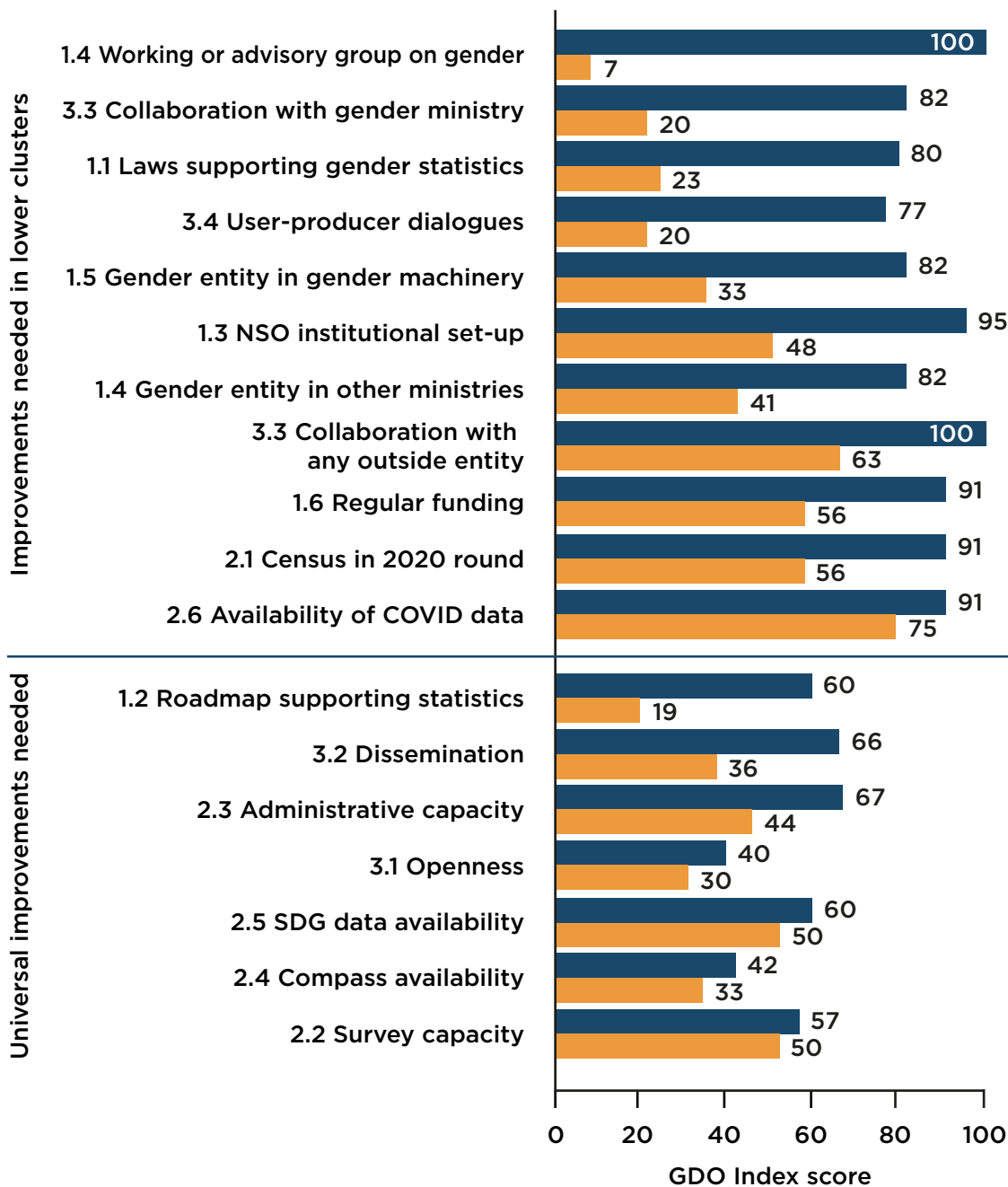
Additional insights emerge from a comparison of the 11 countries in the high-performing Cluster 1 of countries (average GDO Index score of 0.711) with the 27 countries in Clusters 4 and 5 (average GDO Index score of 0.376). There are two categories of indicators: first, those on which Cluster 4 and 5 countries need



to move closer to Cluster 1 performance and second, those on which there is widespread room across all three clusters for improvement ([Figure 1.6](#)). In the first category, the widest gaps are in variables relating to the enabling environment and data accessibility such as, notably, a working group on gender statistics, collaboration with the gender ministry, laws supporting gender statistics and the conduct of user-producer dialogues. Differences are narrowest for variables related to data production and for data openness, a variable countries across all clusters could improve on. These patterns are consistent with the finding that there is an imbalance between data production and the other two Index dimensions and between data production and the 2022 GSGS, which found that NSO respondents identified the most important factors driving improvements in gender statistics as the existence of legal or policy frameworks (45%), the availability of gender data funding within the NSS (37%), and collaboration and dialogues between users and producers of gender statistics at the national level (33%) (UN Statistical Commission, 2024[14]). The implication for development partners is that some investments are merited universally, while others should be targeted towards countries that lag behind the top performers. The analysis also highlights that even if some countries are performing relatively well in many elements of gender data capacity, some improvements – notably in data production – are needed across the board.



FIGURE 1.6.
On some indicators of statistical capacity, investments are needed for some countries only while for others, room for improvement is widespread



● Average for countries in cluster 1 ● Average for countries in clusters 4 and 5

Note: The figure shows the average normalised scores for each indicator for countries in Cluster 1 (dark blue bars) and for countries in Clusters 4 and 5 (orange bars). In the left panel, countries in Cluster 1 show strong performance while countries in Clusters 4 and 5 need additional efforts; in the right panel, countries across the all three clusters need improvements. The indicators are presented in full in [Figure 1.5](#).

Source: Author’s computation based on GDO Index calculations; data are not publicly available.



**SOME
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1.5. International support for gender capacity

In addition to country-level efforts, international and regional dialogues are critical for setting global and regional priorities around gender and developing specific guidelines for statistical systems. An example is the 2022 Buenos Aires Commitment wherein members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean agreed not only to prioritise comprehensive care systems, decent work and women in leadership but also to promote gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems; adopt a gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective in statistics; measure the economic effects of boosting the care economy; and develop well-being measures that highlight and incorporate care work (Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023[20]).

International financial support also is critical for many countries. Analysis of gender data capacity points to the pivotal role of regular funding from the national budget for statistics in increasing statistical capacity, which highlights the need for sustainable domestic finance. However, the evidence suggests this financing alone is insufficient. Open Data Watch and Data2X (2021[4]) have reported that core gender data systems are underfunded by roughly USD 450 million per year on average, meaning they receive half of what is needed to adequately support policy decision making and accelerate gender equality. Development partner support remains a funding source for developing the gender data capacity of ODA-eligible countries. A more recent study by Data2X and Open Data Watch (2024[16]) concludes that most LMICs with gender data in their statistical plans rely on external funders for “more than half of all gender data activities”.¹⁷ Low and middle-income countries, however, receive an average of USD 0.11 per capita for gender data, far less than the USD 1.40 per capita for all data (Data2X and Open Data Watch, 2024, p. 2[21]).

At the same time, the volume of gender data grants as opposed to loans has stagnated, according to the most recent PARIS21 Partner Report on Support for Statistics, which also suggests this trend will continue including for grants aimed explicitly at system capacity





building (PARIS21, 2023[21]). A lack of sufficient financial resources could pose a major obstacle to the advancement of gender statistics given evidence of the importance of targeted ODA funding to address the foundational challenges of gender statistics. This was evident in Nepal where development partner support to data systems has been critical in building robust civil registration and vital statistics systems that can provide sex-disaggregated demographic data (PARIS21, 2023, p. 24[21]).

Shifts in the funding landscape for gender data

Over 2016–18, bilateral donors provided three-quarters of the funding for gender data, but their share fell to less than half (47%) over 2019–21 as multilaterals and foundations stepped up funding (Data2X and Open Data Watch, 2024, p. 2[22]). Nonetheless, the pool of development

Analysis of gender data capacity points to the pivotal role of regular funding from the national budget for statistics.

partners providing gender data funding remains small, with just ten individual donors accounting for almost 70% of total funding over 2019–21.¹⁸ Analysis conducted for this Gender Data Outlook confirms this lack of diversity among DAC allocations, showing marked variation in the share of statistics ODA

that DAC members disburse for gender (Figure 1.7). At one extreme, for 6 countries (Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Austria), shares ranged from 33% to 56%; half of DAC members (15 of the 30 members at the time)¹⁹ disbursed either none of their statistics ODA to gender statistics or a negligible percentage (less than 0.05%). The median share was just 0.67%, indicating considerable scope for DAC members to amplify efforts directed towards enhancing gender statistics.

Donors that invest in gender data as a part of their overall support for statistics are often those with concrete policies, strategies and commitments to gender equality²⁰ (Figure 1.8). Yet funding for gender data remains low, accounting on average for less than 0.2% of DAC funding to gender equality (Data2X and Open Data Watch, 2024, p. 6[22]). Moreover, the share of ODA with gender equality objectives fell for the first time in a decade, dropping to 43% in 2021–22 from 45% in 2019–20 (OECD, 2024[23]). This is a worrying development if sustained in light of some indications that ODA-funded projects for gender data are being mainstreamed through ODA funding for gender equality (PARIS21, 2023, p. 11[21]).

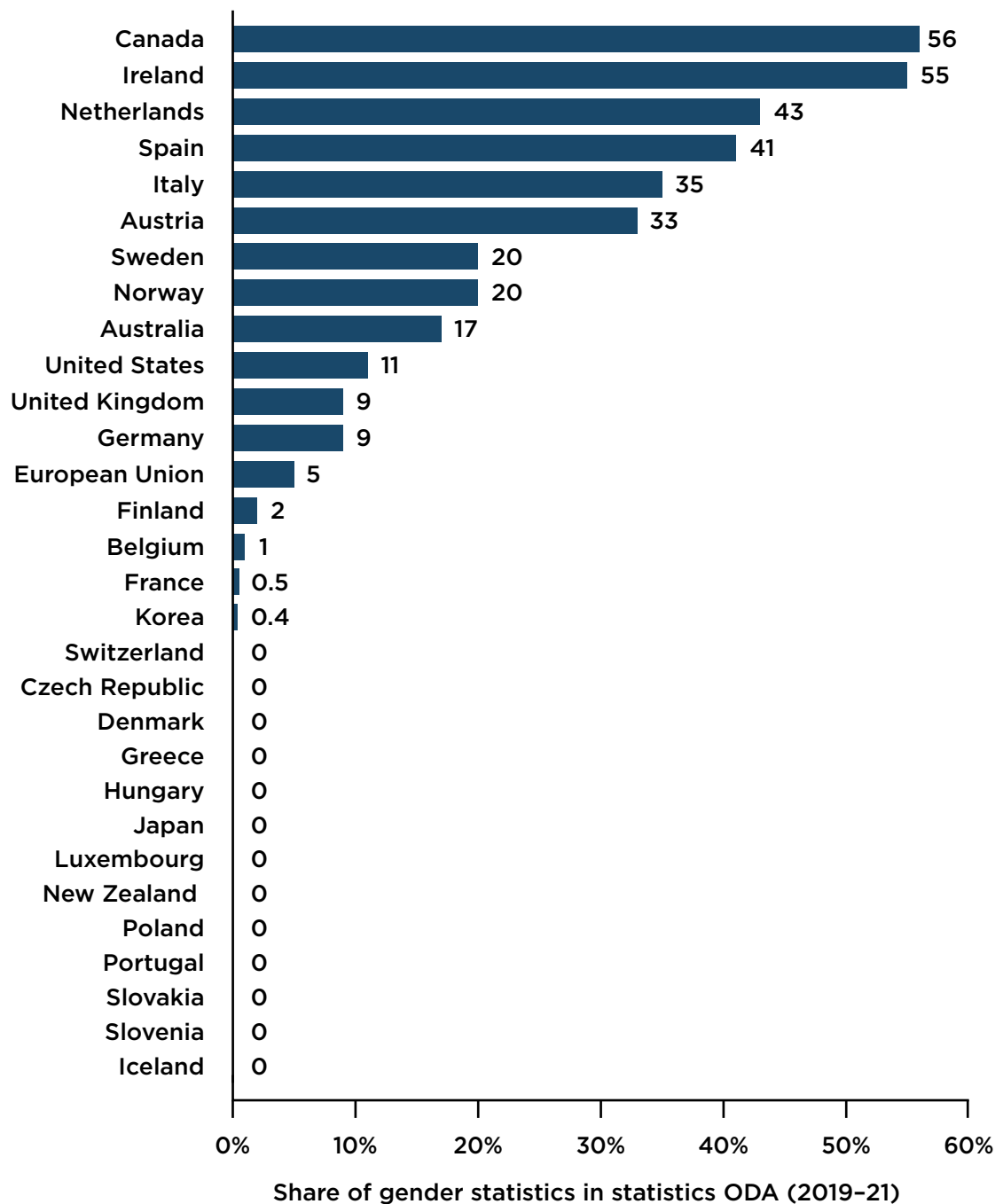


Four countries (Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain) stand out as top contributors of both ODA focused on gender statistics and ODA activities with a principle focus on gender. Iceland is notable for being among the highest contributors of total ODA to activities with a gender focus (15% of total ODA) while also having allocated no funding to gender statistics in the three-year period examined.

Ensuring greater coherence between their gender equality and data projects, either by embedding support for data systems in gender equality projects or defining data for gender equality as an outcome of gender projects, could improve funding volumes for gender data (Data2X and Open Data Watch, 2024, p. 10[22]). Indeed, the “lowest lift” to fund gender data “may be mainstreaming support to gender data in gender equality projects”, and if donors to gender equality were to adopt the approach of the Netherlands in dedicating just 1% of gender equality funding to gender data, it would close the USD 500 million per year gap for robust gender data systems (Data2X and Open Data Watch, 2024, p. 10[16]).



FIGURE 1.7.
Share of statistics ODA allocated to gender by OECD DAC members, 2019-21

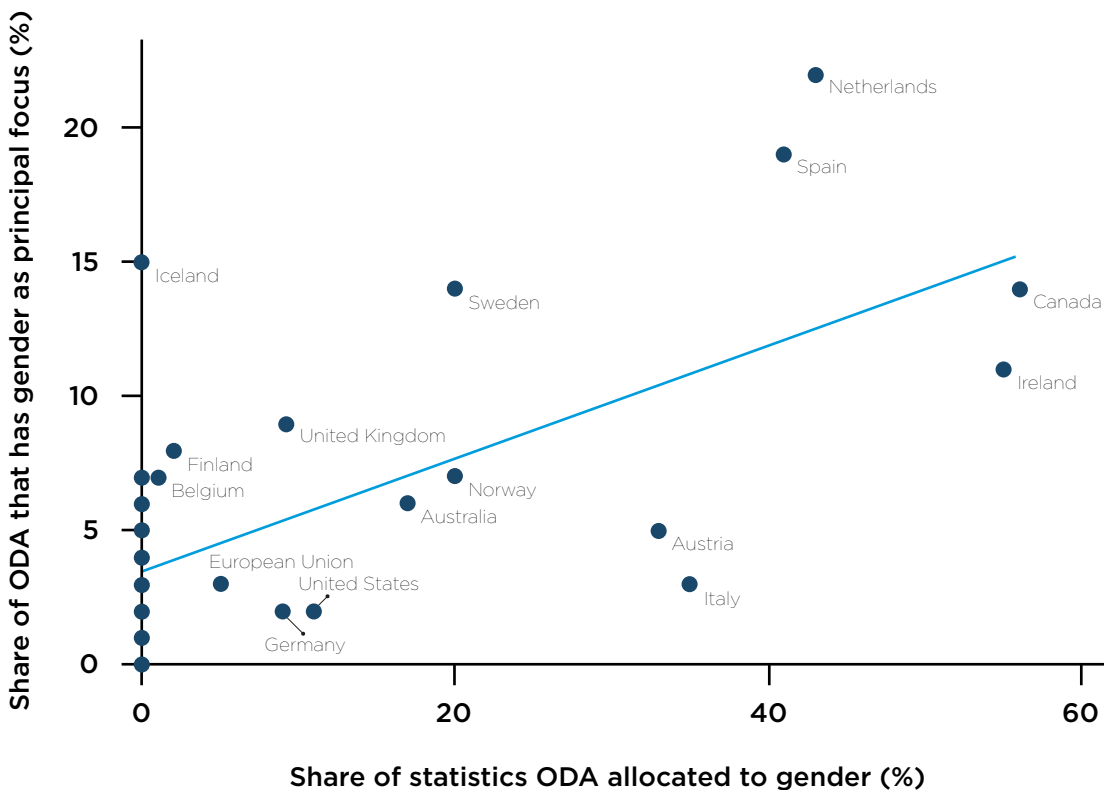


Note: The figure shows the average share of statistics ODA tagged with the gender marker between 2019 and 2021 for each OECD DAC member. Data are provided for DAC's 2021 membership, which comprised 29 countries and the European Union.

Source: Analysis of data from the data set on statistics ODA in PARIS21 (2023[21]), *The PARIS21 Partner Report on Support for Statistics 2023: A Changing Landscape of Financing for Development and Gender Data*, www.paris21.org/knowledge-base/press-2023-paris21-partner-report-support-statistics-2023-changing-landscape.



FIGURE 1.8.
Relationship between the share of ODA allocated to gender in selected countries and the share of statistics ODA that is allocated to gender statistics



Note: Countries above the blue line allocated less funding to gender statistics than might be expected given their allocations of ODA to gender activities, and countries below the blue line allocated more than might be expected.

Source: Analysis of data from the data set on gender ODA from the OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System and from the data set on statistics ODA in PARIS21 (2023[21]), *The PARIS21 Partner Report on Support for Statistics 2023: A Changing Landscape of Financing for Development and Gender Data*, www.paris21.org/knowledge-base/press-2023-paris21-partner-report-support-statistics-2023-changing-landscape.



1.6. Looking forward

In many ways, the outlook for gender data capacity is positive. Of the 83 countries captured in the GDO Index, 29 (more than one-third) exhibit all or many of the hallmarks of a positive enabling environment, robust data production and data accessibility. The analysis presented in this chapter shows where countries now stand in terms of their gender data capacity, in which areas they can make progress and how the international community can ramp up its support. Looking forward, the GDO Index serves as the most robust summary measure possible of gender data capacity, and its findings spotlight areas where more research activity is needed.

Further study of enablers of gender data capacity

Several HICs score more poorly than expected on the enabling environment dimension of the GDO Index. This gap may highlight a need to better understand the diversity of institutional set-ups that foster gender data production and dissemination. For example, both Japan and the United Kingdom exhibit outstanding performance in producing gender data and in meeting international openness standards according to GDO Index indicators but appear to fulfil very few of the criteria identified as components of a healthy enabling environment. The 2022 GSGS indicates that both countries lack a dedicated gender statistics team within the NSO. However, notes appended to the survey suggest the two countries have an alternative institutional arrangement. In Japan, for instance, the statistical system is decentralised with multiple focal points for gender statistics in multiple ministries and agencies; in the United Kingdom, the Government Equalities Office within the NSS is responsible for gender data. Another example is North Macedonia: Though the data give no evidence of co-ordination between the NSO and NSS, the GSGS notes indicate that the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, though not part of the NSS, co-ordinates gender equality issues. Further research should help determine the extent to which the enablers discussed in this chapter are universally important and to better understand the types of institutional arrangements that are successful in producing and making gender data accessible. This would also help to better understand how progress in the enabling environment is linked with gender data production and efforts to make gender data accessible.



Data improvements

The GDO Index currently contains a limited number of indicators. Some indicators initially earmarked for the Index were deemed insufficiently reliable. Others, such as ODA receipt, applied only to a subset of countries. While the UNSD GSGS collected information on NSO use of geospatial, citizen-generated, modern media and other private sector data to produce gender statistics, this was not available for a sufficient number of countries.

Some proposed measures did not align well with the dimensions of the Index, and others do not yet exist (PARIS21 and UN Women, 2024[12]). These challenges call for a renewed emphasis on collecting cross-national measures of gender data capacity. In addition, the review of the available data sets identified some significant differences among data collected using different methodologies and definitions.¹ These differences hint at the need to develop common international standards and methods for collecting data on gender data capacity that draw on both external assessment of statistical systems and information elicited from and in dialogue with NSOs.

As noted, the GDO Index does yet include the critical dimension of gender data use as no reliable measures currently exist. Going forward, the GDO Index aims to develop indicators of data use in national policy documents, the media, and academic and civil society materials. However, efforts to design reliable measures using text mining and other forms of machine learning require refinement (see [Methodological Note 2024](#)). More broadly, the use of non-traditional data to produce gender capacity measures is an area that is ripe for further exploration.

Chapter 2 explores issues around data use further, underscoring its importance as the primary purpose of data production. The chapter's in-depth look at data use from a qualitative perspective, drawing on 58 use cases from around the world, also generates new insights.

Broader representation of gender

The nature of gender is itself a topic of ongoing discussions. Evolving perspectives of gender identity transcend the conventional women-men binary and consider how gender intersects with other characteristics of individuals to shape their experiences. These debates have profound implications

for what data statistical systems should collect and how they should be analysed and shared.²¹ A key element of a forward-looking agenda will be tracking the implications of emerging understandings of gender identity for gender data systems and charting a way forward to embed a broader representation of gender in data collection, analysis and use.

SPOTLIGHT ON DATA SOURCES

What does gender data capacity mean to you and how can it contribute to stronger statistical systems at large?

The primary purpose of the statistical system is to help users make better decisions or hold decision makers accountable. A strong national system for gender statistics should meet the needs of various users. Capacity is key, and the World Bank SPI framework is useful for understanding gender data capacity in particular.

A statistical system must have key services in place to connect users to data. These include regular data releases; online access to statistics with gender breakdowns and microdata; metadata to understand the data; and advisory and analytical services to facilitate dialogue between producers and users.

These services must be connected to up-to-date gender statistics. On average, countries have recent data for only one in three Sustainable Development Goal gender indicators (Beegle et al., 2023[6]). To close these gaps, a system must draw on high-quality data sources including censuses and surveys, administrative data, and potentially novel data sources.

Improved capacity also requires sound data infrastructure. Global standards are essential to the accuracy and comparability of gender data across regions and countries. Modern statistical legislation, skilled technical staff, working partnerships and sufficient financial resources are likewise critical to empower national statistical offices to produce relevant statistics.

A statistical system that fails to produce high-quality, accessible, timely gender statistics is inherently flawed. Improving gender data capacity enhances the overall coherence and integration of statistical systems. Disaggregating data by gender establishes a precedent for managing data inclusively across all demographic

groups. In turn, this approach promotes international collaboration and comparability of statistics, facilitating research, policy benchmarking and strategy definition for stronger global statistical systems.

Crucially, investing in gender data capacity is not solely about improving statistical systems: It is about harnessing data for better lives (World Bank, 2023[24]). Ensuring that gender data are collected, analysed and disseminated empowers policy makers, researchers and advocates to formulate better policies and achieve development objectives. Fostering a culture of data-driven decision making and accountability is pivotal to realising inclusive, sustainable development and the well-being of societies worldwide.

[Umar Serajuddin, World Bank](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON DATA SOURCES

Gender data capacity from the user perspective

The true value of gender data lies in their use to address issues of gender equality like unpaid care work and women's economic empowerment. It is therefore important to consider not only the production of gender data but also how stakeholders such as policy makers, analysts and civil society might access and use them. That is why measuring capacity from the user perspective is crucial. The [Gender Data Compass](#) from Open Data Watch assesses the extent to which gender data are accessible, relevant and comprehensible to their end users. Understanding how users interact with gender data can highlight opportunities to address gaps in quality, timeliness and coverage and guide improvements in statistical processes and dissemination.

The Gender Data Compass assesses the availability and openness of gender data from over 180 countries based on a review of the websites of national statistical offices and line ministries as a user would encounter them. The 2023 Gender Data Compass finds that gender data are less available and open than other types of development data. The assessment further shows that institutional set-ups do not prioritise gender data and that irregular production of many gender data instruments, such as time use surveys, hamper progress on availability and openness. Critically, the 2023 assessment also reveals that financing for gender data today remains insufficient to foster robust gender data system, as documented in the [Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data](#) and other reports (PARIS21 and UN Women, 2024[12]; Open Data Watch and Data2X, 2021[4]).

The Gender Data Compass provides not only a snapshot in time but also a path forward for countries to strengthen their gender data systems and ultimately improve overall statistical capacity; improving gender data is a tide that lifts all boats since gender data are sourced from almost all statistical instruments. Gender data systems are a foundation for more and better inclusive data with much-needed disaggregation to inform policies to leave no one behind and get the 2030 Agenda back on track.

Shaida Badiee, Open Data Watch



2. GENDER DATA USE IN ACTION

This chapter looks beyond the perspectives of national statistical offices and incorporates insights from across stakeholder groups and additional sources of official data to explore how gender data are used in practice, by which stakeholders and in what contexts. It introduces a new typology of gender data use to map and analyse a sample of almost 60 use cases, using qualitative analysis to complement the quantitative framework introduced in Chapter 1 and to help advance the use and impact of gender data. Boxes and infographics present selected gender data stories that demonstrate what successful use cases look like and the factors that contribute to success.

IN BRIEF

- An understanding of the diverse ways gender data are used and how they strengthen efforts to achieve gender equality is important for building a strong business case for support to gender statistics systems.
- The variety of existing gender data use and impact stories provide a base for identifying good practices to amplify gender data use and increase the impact of such data across geographies, sectors and subpopulations of marginalised groups.
- The Gender Data Outlook 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.
- Based on the newly developed typology, gender data use for policy and programming appears far more common than use for other important purposes such as budgeting and awareness raising.
- The availability of gender data does not guarantee their use. While gender data availability has improved across a wide range of areas, examples of gender data use are more concentrated in recognised areas such as those relating to violence against women and unpaid care work.
- Efforts to diversify gender data use can be strengthened by diversifying how data are communicated and disseminated. To increase the chances of uptake among different stakeholder groups, data communities must be intentional in how they share data by considering the capacities, needs and preferences of different potential users.



- Partnerships and collaboration are key to linking gender data production to use. Effective gender data use across sectors requires the engagement of stakeholders beyond the national statistical offices and women's machineries.
- Investments in gender data should be broadened beyond data production to advance use and impact, connecting evidence to actions that help achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Insights from existing use cases underscore the importance of investing in technical and soft skills, tools and capacities to better mainstream gender, improve accessibility and communication, and support multi-stakeholder collaboration as key enablers of gender data use.

2.1. Introduction

As elaborated in Chapter 1, the Gender Data Outlook (GDO) offers a framework for mapping where countries stand across four key dimensions of gender data capacity: the enabling environment, data production, data accessibility and data use from primarily a national statistical office (NSO) perspective. Due to limited quantitative measures of data use, only the first three dimensions are measured in this edition of the GDO index. But as gender data use depends on availability, accessibility and a conducive environment, understanding these other three dimensions and how they interrelate can shed light on countries' capacity to use gender data to drive action and change.

This chapter presents additional insights on the fourth dimension by introducing 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 utilised and lays the groundwork for incorporating quantitative measures of use in future editions of the GDO Index.

2.2. Widening the definitions and practical use of gender data

Gender data are the foundation of evidence-informed action for gender equality. Yet, the dynamics of gender data use are not well understood. Existing literature on data use, and official data use in particular, broadly falls into three categories: conceptual frameworks, studies and guidance. Conceptual frameworks such as the data value chain (Open Data Watch, 2019[25]) and the OECD's virtuous data cycle (OECD, 2017[26]) show where data use fits in the broader statistical system and the structures and processes needed to support this system. Available studies on data use go one step further to also analyse barriers, enablers and behaviours that shape data uptake and use in practice. There are many such studies on data use in general²² and, more recently, a handful



on gender data use specifically.²³ The number of studies on gender data use in the private sector – including in market research, access to financial services and the evolution of artificial intelligence – has also increased rapidly in recent years. In addition, there are toolkits and guidelines designed to support and measure data use, among them the Data to Policy Navigator (UNDP, 2023[27]); UN Women (2021[28]) guidelines on monitoring use of data from the rapid gender assessments; the UN Women (2020[29]) curriculum on using gender data for policy making; the Every Policy is Connected (EPiC) tool developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (n.d.[30]); and data use tools for the private sector (Laboratoire de l'Égalité, n.d.[31]; Adam Smith International, 2016[32]).

Qualitative insights help clarify the context of gender data use by identifying factors and processes that may have facilitated their use.

While the literature offers useful insights into data use, there are significant knowledge gaps. For example, conceptual frameworks help identify the different components of the journey from planning and production to data uptake and use. But they do not fully reflect contextual factors beyond statistical and governance systems that also play a role

in data use, such as political priorities, interactions between stakeholders and social norms. Studies that analyse data use in practice begin to address this gap with findings that feed into practical guidelines and toolkits. However, most of these studies focus exclusively on data use in policy making, leaving little space to explore the plurality of data use or the specific dynamics around gender data.

Advantages of qualitative measures and analysis of gender data use

Quantitative tools and analysis such as text mining can generate valuable insights into where gender data are used, for what purpose, how frequently and by whom. Many relevant quantitative indicators can also provide information on the enabling environment for gender data use, for instance which legal and regulatory frameworks or co-ordination mechanisms are in place (GDO Index dimension 1, enabling environment); what data exist (GDO Index dimension 2, availability) and the extent to which data are accessible (GDO Index dimension 3, accessibility) to facilitate their use.

Quantitative measures, however, do not tell the full story of gender data use. As noted in Chapter 1, many such



measures are limited in coverage or experimental, and so are not included in this edition of the GDO or in several other capacity measures.²⁴ Nor does quantitative analysis alone indicate why, how and to what effect gender data are used or the factors that enabled their use. Moreover, quantitative measures cannot identify many types of gender data use, users and producers. While current quantitative methodologies for monitoring (gender) data use often rely on text analysis and web scraping techniques, not all types of use are documented in text form or always recorded online. For example, resource mobilisation, programme development, and non-written forms of advocacy²⁵ and awareness raising²⁶ are all important types of use that can easily go undetected.

Qualitative analysis of use cases and impact stories, on the other hand, can help answer these who, what and how questions and is the primary approach taken in this GDO. Qualitative insights help clarify the context of gender data use by identifying factors and processes that may have facilitated their use in a given case – for example which stakeholders were engaged, how the data were disseminated, and which particular skills, tools or environmental conditions may have contributed to the use case. Through analysis of use case narratives, relationships between these different factors emerge and strategies and solutions that may support and enable gender data use in practice can be identified. Such insights, alongside data capacity findings (Chapter 1), enhance the sharing of good practices among countries, sectors and stakeholder groups.

Finally, documenting and monitoring narrative descriptions of gender data use can illustrate not only if gender data were used (i.e. instrumental application of data) but also, over time, whether a particular case of data use had an impact on people's lives and why. Monitoring this impact is essential to highlight the impacts of investments in gender data. [Box 2.1](#) discusses the methodology used for the qualitative analysis in this chapter.





**GENDER DATA
ARE LIKELY
UNDERVALUED
IN TERMS OF
THEIR POTENTIAL
TO SUPPORT
EFFORTS TO
ACHIEVE GENDER
EQUALITY
AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT.**



BOX 2.1. A COMPREHENSIVE METHODOLOGY FOR QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

The methodology used for the analysis of use cases in this chapter comprised three main stages. First, a corpus of successful cases of gender data use was compiled using convenience sampling. Cases were sourced from UN Women and PARIS21's own programming, through outreach to the GDO's Technical Advisory Group, and from cases available and published online. A total of [58 gender data use cases](#) from 30 different countries provided by 7 institutions (4 development partners and 3 NSOs) were compiled for the purpose of developing the methodology.

Second, a custom typology of gender data use was designed ([Table 2.1](#)) with the aim of capturing the plurality in gender data use and isolating, to the extent possible, enabling factors of gender data use. To achieve this, PARIS21 and UN Women first identified an ideal set of variables based on relevant literature and programmatic insights, which was later refined considering which variables were adequately documented in the use cases to be able to perform basic analyses.

In the final stage, each use case was reviewed to map all 58 use cases 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. Section 2.3 presents insights from this analysis complemented by results from the 2022 United Nations (UN) Statistics Division (UNSD) Global Survey on Gender Statistics (GSGS), the 2023 Gender Data Compass report and existing studies on data use.

Strengthening the future application of the gender data use analysis

Since convenience sampling was used to compile the sample cases, the cases analysed in this edition of the GDO may not be fully representative and the findings may not always be applicable to other settings, leaving scope to further strengthen the use case analysis in the future.

First, the sample drew on cases already documented by organisations for their own distinct purposes. As a result, the details included in case reporting vary considerably between cases, and this in turn limited the extent to which cross-case analysis could be conducted.

Second, the cases came from only three types of sources, with a high proportion (35 of the 58 cases or 60%) drawn from the Women Count programme, 18 cases (31%) from other development partners and 5 cases (9%) from country partners. The limited variety of sources and the high concentration from development partners introduce possible bias as the cases were collected and documented for different purposes and in different ways.

Third, use cases and impact story narratives often did not document any contextual factors and technical processes that may have contributed to successful gender data use. For example, there were often no details related to how the data reached the user, how current policy or political priorities may have shaped requests for gender data, or how different stakeholders supported or contributed to analysis of the data. Going forward, it will be important to include more contextual information and other documentation around the use and impact of gender data to enhance analysis and monitoring and better promote and scale good practices.

2.3. The plurality of gender data use, purposes and impact

Gender data can help identify where gender inequalities surface and how these affect society. The data can also drive and inform change, support monitoring and evaluation, and thus help hold stakeholders to account for action to address gender inequalities.

The literature, however, often focuses on gender data use in policy making. This more limited definition and documentation of use does not consider the other ways gender data can contribute to gender equality and limits the range of good practices that can be shared across sectors, stakeholder groups and countries. Ultimately, it also undercuts the business case for investing in gender data as a fundamental input for advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusive, sustainable development.

Widening the definitions of gender data use to encompass all its many forms, or plurality, is an important facet of the outlook



for gender data. The plurality of gender data use demonstrates the value of evidence to achieving gender equality.

Applying the gender data use typology

The gender data use typology is designed to guide analysis and systematic documentation of gender data use cases. As documentation of use cases improves, and especially where dedicated data collection exercises are conducted, there is scope to expand the typology to gain insights on further elements of use in the future.

The typology, illustrated in [Table 2.1](#), identifies the main producers, users, and thematic areas and sectors of the gender data use cases; the most commonly used data types and sources; and the purposes for which the data were used. As much as possible given the amount of information on the 58 use cases, the typology allows analysis across these variables and begins to point towards the relationship between the variables.²⁷ To identify emerging patterns and themes, the cases were analysed according to each criterion of the typology, reflecting instances where there is significant variation, potential good practices, and/or where existing literature or empirical evidence establish the significance of a particular factor or theme.

TABLE 2.1.
Typology for analysing gender data use across the 58 cases, 2024

Criterion	Classification	Examples
Data producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Development partners • Civil society, women’s groups, women’s advocates • Private sector • Academia and research community • Other 	French Ministry of Education, World Bank, Bouygues Telecom, UN Women



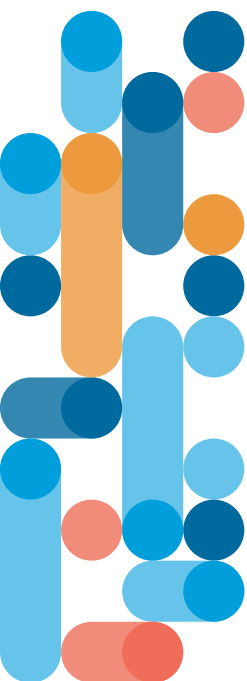
Criterion	Classification	Examples
Data user	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government• Civil society, women’s groups, women’s advocates• Private sector• Academia and research community• Development partners• Media• Other	Rwandan Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Médecins Sans Frontières
Type of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey and/or census• Administrative data• Citizen data• Big data• Other	Time use survey 2021; Rapid Gender Assessment 2022; Labour Force Survey 2016; national telecoms data
Type of use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource mobilisation• Policy development• Budgeting• Strategy and planning• Intervention or programme design• Advocacy• Public awareness• Monitoring of international or national commitments• Use in further research or academic articles• Monitoring and evaluation of programme or policy interventions• Other	Used to guide the design of a non-governmental organisation support programme for victims of gender-based violence



Criterion	Classification	Examples
Topic of data use	Classified according to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals • Relevance to the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action • Relevance to the 63 topics of gender data availability, according to the Gender Data Compass 	
Country	-	-
Year of data publication	-	-
Where documented		
Means of dissemination and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own website(s) • Workshops with users • Knowledge products (e.g. reports, infographics) • Media (e.g. print, social media) • Launch events (online and offline) • Through a development partner • Through a civil society organisation • Through government agency • Other 	Dissemination of key survey outcomes through radio and television broadcasts and bilateral briefings with the gender ministry



Criterion	Classification	Examples
Potential enabling factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical support• Filling data gaps• Capacity building• Dissemination• Lobbying• Advocacy• Inter-agency and/or public-private partnerships• Other	Technical support was provided by UN Women in survey design
Impact of gender data use	-	As a result of the programme, 150 extra school places were made available for girls





2.3. Plurality of practice: gender data are used in a variety of ways

The gender data use typology indicates that in the majority of cases, gender data use was not the result of engagement between a single user and a single producer, but rather co-operation between multiple stakeholders. The overall pattern is for many different sorts of actors to engage with or use gender data, demonstrating the plurality of contexts of gender data use.

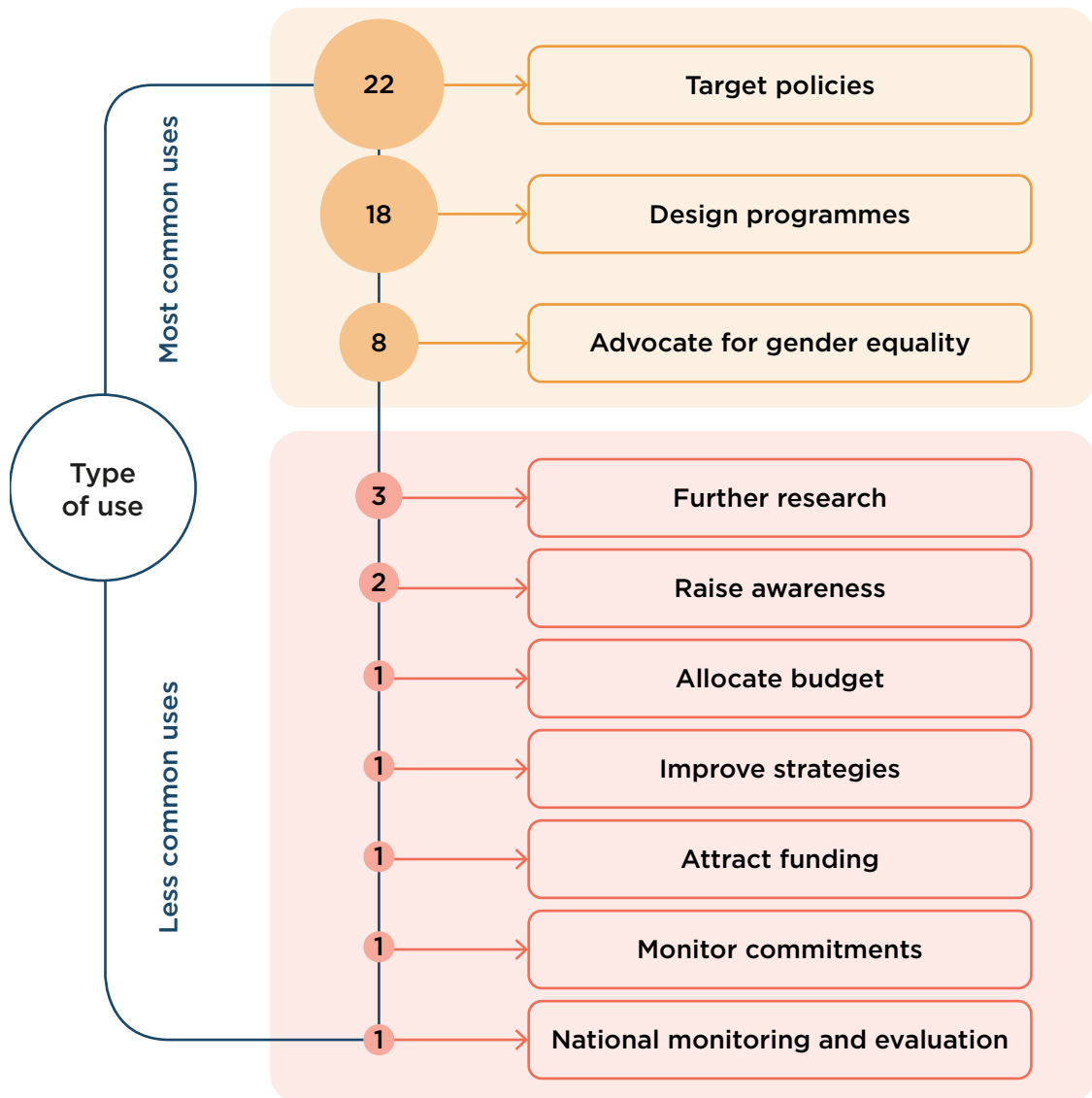
The plurality of gender data use itself demonstrates the value of evidence to achieving gender equality. The use case review found that gender data are used in a wide range of ways, including several ways largely unaddressed in existing literature such as budget allocation and monitoring international commitments. The typology identified ten broad use types ranging from policy development and programme design to raising public awareness and budgeting ([Figure 2.1](#)).

The most frequently cited uses for gender data in the cases analysed are for policy development (22 cases) and for intervention or programme design (18 cases). Among the well-documented examples are the use of results from the domestic violence module in the 2019/20 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey to develop the country's national violence against women policy (UN Women, 2022[33]) and the use of gender data from the Tanzania Household Budget Survey to target beneficiaries for the government poverty reduction strategy in Zanzibar (UN Women, 2020[34]).





FIGURE 2.1.
Type and frequency of use of gender data in the 58 use cases analysed, 2024



Note: Where the type of use identified fits in two different categories, the figure counts the same case under all relevant types of use.

SPOTLIGHT ON USE**Good data for good prevention and care policies**

The Dominican Republic has one of the highest percentages of adolescent mothers in the Latin America and Caribbean region, according to data from the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the main national planning instruments accord the issue a high priority. The production of official statistics on this issue has informed the development of public policies and initiatives to reduce adolescent pregnancy, among them the Policy for the Prevention and Care of Early Unions and Adolescent Pregnancy (PPA), implemented in 2021 and led by the Ministry of the Presidency through the Cabinet for Children and Adolescents and the National Council for Children and Adolescents.

In the design of the PPA, indicators calculated from the National Multipurpose Household Survey (ENHOGAR), produced annually by the National Statistics Office (ONE), were incorporated in both the situation analysis and in the set of key indicators for monitoring the PPA. Specifically, the policy used data from ENHOGAR 2018,²⁸ which includes a module on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and from ENHOGAR-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019,²⁹ which covers statistics on children, adolescents and women of reproductive age.

To meet the demand for official statistics for decision making, the ONE also produced a [map of teenage pregnancies](#), an online visualisation tool that facilitates the monitoring of the PPA and includes indicators from both the ENHOGAR-MICS and from administrative records. The tool illustrates the impact of the PPA including a reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies from 27,476 in 2021 to 23,070 in 2023, according to records from the hospital services of the National Health Service and other health centres.

This progress underscores the crucial role that statistics play in the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies to ensure their rigour and effectiveness.

**Maffel Santana, Research Division Co-ordinator,
National Statistics Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic**
**Marcia Contreras Tejada, Head of Research Division,
National Statistics Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic**



The predominance of gender data use for policy making and programme design [...] might also reflect current priorities and prevailing expectations or biases as to the types of use that matter most.

Examples of gender data being used for other purposes – monitoring and evaluation, budgeting, strategy, and planning, for example – are scarce, though these are important for fulfilling commitments to gender equality. One case of gender data influencing budget allocations is in Uganda, where results from the rapid gender assessment (RGA) informed a government stimulus package to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) (UN Women, 2022[33]). In a case from Indonesia, national data from the 2022 SDG Gender Index were used in global reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) progress, highlighting how national sources of gender data contribute to larger collective efforts to track progress towards gender equality and inclusive, sustainable development (Equal Measures 2030, 2023[35]).

The predominance of gender data use for policy making and programme design might be an artefact of the convenience sample used for the analysis. But it might also reflect current priorities and prevailing expectations or biases as to the types of use that matter most. These findings also suggest that gender data are likely undervalued in terms of their potential to support efforts to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE). Documenting the different ways and different contexts in which gender data are used could help promote their wider uptake across countries, sectors and stakeholder groups.

Critically, demonstrating use and even impact is a powerful tool for advocating for more investments in gender data and highlighting these as an integral part of wider investments in gender-equitable development. For development partners, governments, civil society and the private sector alike, documenting impact can illustrate their commitment to achieving GEWE and the efficacy and success of their efforts to do so.



2.4. Unmasking how data can work for women and girls and help to achieve gender equality

The review of use cases using the GDO typology reveals good practices in transforming gender data into meaningful action. These the good practices stretch across the dimensions of gender data capacity detailed in Chapter 1 (enabling environment, production and accessibility). Drawing on these good practices, the review highlights three key insights about how to put gender data in action today and what practices could be reinforced to better leverage gender data in the future.

The first insight relates to the disparity between the production and use of gender data and the potential of available gender data to advance gender mainstreaming. The second insight focuses on how approaches to dissemination and communication of gender data can influence how, by whom and for what purposes gender data are used. Third, there are a range of positive practices in stakeholder co-operation and partnerships to facilitate gender data use that can make their use more effective.

There is untapped potential to leverage existing gender data across sectors

Gender data use is highly concentrated around just a handful of priority topics for GEWE. The use cases highlight commendable efforts to address key gender issues such as GBV, women's economic empowerment and unpaid care work with the help of gender data. At the same time, evidence on the production of gender data implies far wider availability of such data across sectors, pointing to missed opportunities and untapped potential to take up and use gender data for evidence-informed action for gender equality and inclusive, sustainable development.

The GDO typology classifies use cases and impact stories according to their relevance to the 17 SDGs,³⁰ the 12 key areas of the Beijing Platform for Action³¹ and the 53 topics for gender data availability from the Gender Data Compass. While the

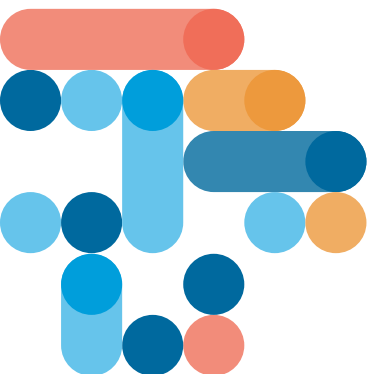


cases are grouped differently in each of these classifications, it is clear that use cases are predominantly grouped around thematic areas of GEWE. For example, in Morocco, data from the 2019 Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey catalysed advocacy that led to the acknowledgement of VAW as a critical obstacle to women's economic empowerment within the National Integrated Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment (UN Women, 2022[33]). Likewise, in Uruguay, data from time use surveys were used to advocate for a response to the so-called care deficit (Buvinic and Rabinovitch Blecker, 2017[36]).

Regarding the SDGs, 48 of the cases in the sample (83%) map to SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). Similarly, according to the classification by Gender Data Compass areas of gender data availability, the highest concentrations of use cases relate to gender-related themes rather than broader policy domains (such as health, education, or infrastructure), with the highest concentrations focused on unpaid domestic and care work and VAW ([Figure 2.2](#)).

The predominance of gender data use in priority areas of GEWE further underscores existing evidence that gender data are less likely to be used to address issues where gender is not considered a priority or where gendered consequences are less recognised and considered (UN Women, 2023[37]). This finding mirrors patterns in gender mainstreaming, where progress in some sectors often outpaces progress others (Caywood and Darmstadt, 2024[38]; OECD, 2017[39]).

Gender mainstreaming is often more successful in social sectors such as health, welfare and education, where the implications of gender inequality are more recognised (OECD, 2017[39]). These sectors also reflect areas identified in the use cases, encompassing issues such as employment (seven cases) and poverty (five cases), though the pattern is less consistent. This may be partially due to the emphasis on economic empowerment as part of the global gender equality agenda. At the same time, areas such as internet use, climate change, and trade and commerce do not feature at all in the reviewed use cases.





**POLICIES ARE
MORE LIKELY
TO ADDRESS THE
NEEDS OF WOMEN
WHEN RELEVANT
GENDER DATA
WERE AVAILABLE.**





A possible explanation for uneven use of gender data, beyond the limitations of the use cases reviewed in this report, is the ongoing prevalence of gender data gaps since availability of gender data is a precondition for taking up and using gender data across sectors. Previous analysis of gender data use in policy making found that policies are more likely to address the needs of women when relevant gender data were available (UN Women, 2023[37]).

The relationships between data availability and gender-sensitive policy further underscore the fundamental role that gender data can play in mainstreaming gender across sectors. Once gender data are produced, they must also be accessible to enable use. As observed in Chapter 1, there is a notable disconnect between country capacity to produce gender data (a dimension where countries tend to perform higher) and country capacity to make the data accessible (where they score lower). Thus, understanding the availability of data both in terms of production and access in a given sector or in relation to a given topic is important to assess whether the environment is conducive to gender mainstreaming. Exploring availability is also critical to highlight barriers to use, allowing for the differentiation between cases where gender data may not be used because they do not exist or are inaccessible and cases where other challenges, such as limited skills and capacity, lack of awareness or weak co-ordination between stakeholders hinder us (UN Women, 2023[37]).

A comparison of the sectors and themes where gender data are more frequently available and those where these data are more frequently used reveals a striking mismatch. The 2023 Gender Data Compass³² explored availability of gender data across 53 topics. Overall, the median score for availability was 33.7/100, suggesting that there are still substantial gaps in mainstreaming gender in official statistics ([Figure 2.2](#)). However, unlike the use cases captured in the gender data use typology, where data were most frequently used to address gender issues, gender data analysed for the Gender Data Compass were more commonly available for topics such as education and employment than they were for more gender-specific issue areas such as unpaid domestic and care work and VAW. The use of VAW data in Colombia ([Box 2.2](#)) is one such example.

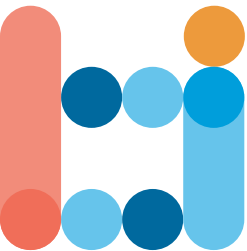
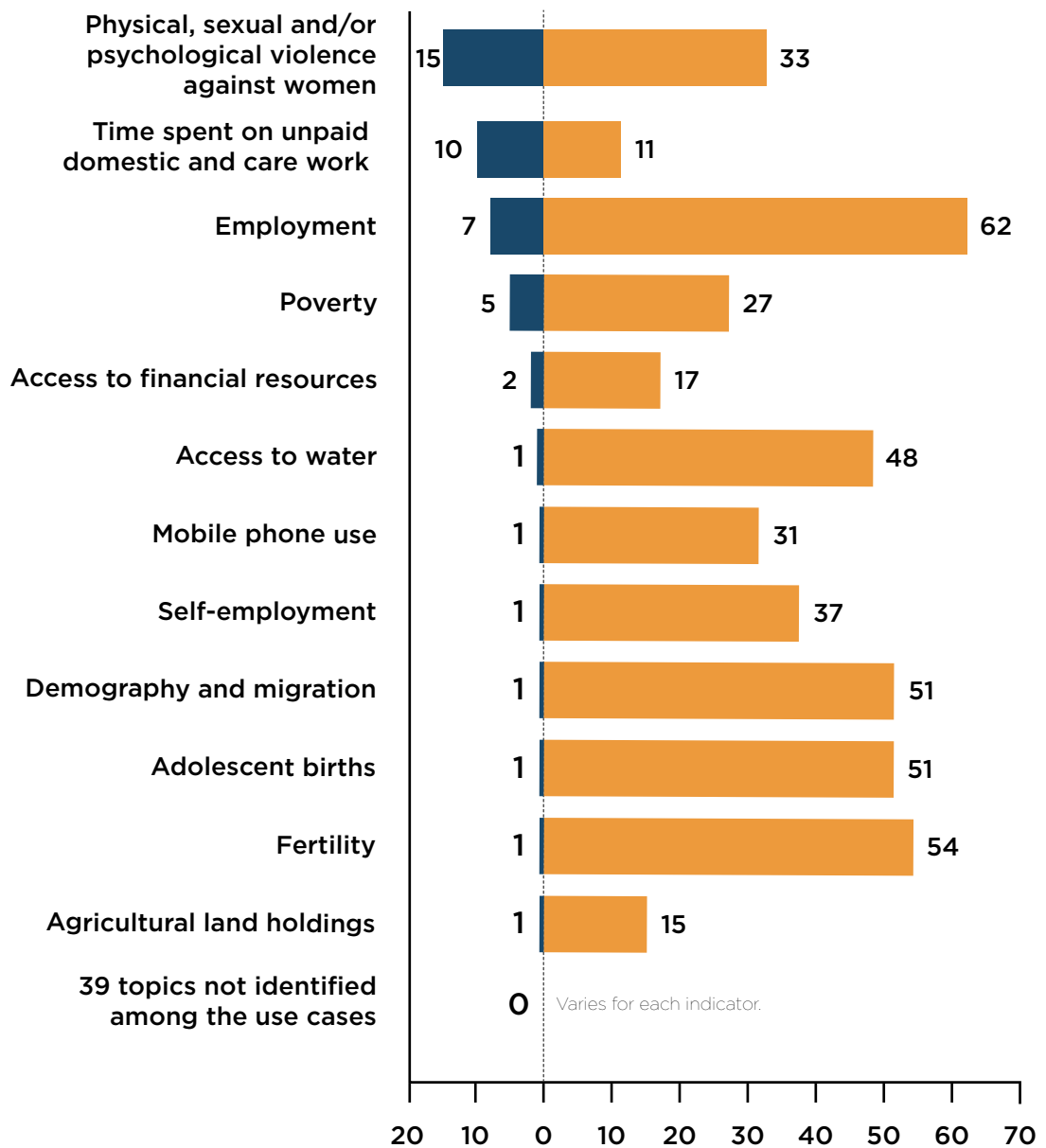




FIGURE 2.2.

Topics of gender data availability versus use of these data



● Number cases, Gender Data Outlook use cases

● Median availability score, Gender Data Compass

Note: The table presents the number of cases in the GDO sample by topic and the Gender Data Compass availability score for these data by topic. Where a use case related to more than one thematic area or topics, it is listed under each of the topics. Gender Data Compass scores range from 0 to 100. There were 14 use cases that did not relate to any of the indicator topics such as cases targeting gender mainstreaming, overarching gender equality initiatives, fatherhood, sexuality and gender identity.

Source: Open Data Watch (2024[10]), Gender Data Compass Methodology Guide, <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1phzCrmGf3bPHrShOIPCS0xSPOdLKgfc61QDzXP9DJKo/edit?rm=embedded&pli=1&tab=t.0#heading=h.5uoc4mfz7mn4>.

Two key lessons can be drawn from this disparity between the sectors and topics for which gender data are most available and the main topics where gender data are used. First, there are opportunities to further capitalise on existing gender data. Second, ensuring the sheer availability of gender data cannot ensure that gender data contribute to gender equality. Capacity across dimensions is therefore critical.

BOX 2.2: A SPOTLIGHT ON USE: LEVERAGING VAW DATA IN COLOMBIA

In the municipality of Pasto, in Colombia, data from the RGA on VAW during COVID-19 were used to highlight the importance of addressing violence against women. Data from the assessment were used to inform the Municipal Development Plan, which allocated unassigned resources to the issue and facilitated the development of a gender-sensitive economic autonomy project. This project was introduced in 2022 because it was understood that the levels of violence in households documented through the RGA called for support for the economic autonomy of women to enable them to escape cycles of violence. Later that year, the Secretary of Women, Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities said that under the project 147 women had already benefited directly from individual and collective entrepreneurial ventures and another 435 people from their families would benefit indirectly. Further down the line, documenting how the project affects the levels of VAW would provide an even fuller picture of the ultimate impact of gender data use.

Also in Pasto, the Nariño Gender Observatory successfully used the VAW data to lobby the University of Nariño to reopen the Support Unit for Women Victims of Violence, which had closed during the pandemic due to administrative issues. The unit reopened in May 2022 offering legal clinics and psychological support for an average of 20 survivors per month.

Source: Ross (2022[40]), "COVID-19 survey on violence against women in Colombia heralds local-level data and changes", <https://data.unwomen.org/features/covid-19-survey-violence-against-women-colombia-heralds-local-level-data-and-changes>.



Diversifying how gender data are communicated can help reach more users and increase the ways they use the data

The different ways in which gender data are communicated in positive use cases offer another important insight into the potential enablers of gender data use and help connect the dots between producers and users. Expanding awareness of available gender data can increase their use overall and for a wider range of purposes. Dissemination and communication must be strategic to link and engage producers and users, stimulate broader use of gender data and bring to light needs of potential new users.

The use cases and impact stories include notable examples of how effective communication and dissemination of gender data can contribute to their uptake and use and highlight the variety of channels, formats and methods used to do foster these. In Kenya, gender data from various counties were disseminated as County Gender Data Sheets featuring user-friendly tables and charts (Kenya Council of Governors, 2019[41]). The publication of a gender data sheet concerning the County of Kitui led to new county laws to inform the design of its gender policy, increase women’s economic empowerment and ensure that all development actions by the county take gender into account (UN Women, 2022[33]).

A wider variety of communication and dissemination methods may also influence how a given data set is used. The need to understand and adapt to different audiences in order to effectively communicate with them is widely acknowledged in the literature (Drucker et al., 2019[42]; Schwan, Arndt and Dörk, 2022[43]). Research by PARIS21 (forthcoming)³³ documents the

How gender data are communicated may not only influence if they are used, but also how, by whom, and for what purpose.

different user preferences for receiving gender data in terms of both channel of communication and data format. For example, some government stakeholders participating in the research noted that time pressure associated with policy making increases the need for easy-to-understand evidence such as infographics or thematic reports on gender issues. In Colombia, the subnational gender observatory in the department

of Nariño employed a range of techniques to disseminate gender statistics, including infographics and figures produced during the COVID-19 pandemic, a radio show, and a public participation forum to encourage dialogue and evidence-based decision making on gender equality. As discussed in [Box 2.2](#), gender data were subsequently used to inform the Municipal



Development Plan to develop an economic autonomy project with a gender perspective (Ross, 2022[40]).

Simple, easy-to-understand gender data are also important for reaching the wider public and other stakeholders with lower levels of gender data literacy (PARIS21, forthcoming[44]).

The radio show and public participation forum launched by the Nariño Gender Observatory are great examples of this kind of tailored communication to maximise public engagement. Data producers could also consider that some stakeholders prefer accessing tabular data files so that they can run their own analyses to pull out the most relevant insights for their own distinct purposes (PARIS21, forthcoming[44]). Tabular data can be particularly important to enable gender data use in academic research. Researchers from the African Economic Research Consortium, for example, used data from the Burkina Faso Household Living Conditions survey to study the modes of access to land and the gender-related productivity gap in Burkina Faso (African Economic Research Consortium, 2021[45]).

These findings highlight the importance of intentional, strategic approaches to disseminating and diversifying communication of gender data. Further, they show that how gender data are communicated may influence if they are used as well as also how, by whom and for what purpose. Results of the 2022 GSGS suggest that disseminating gender data in diverse ways is not a common practice among NSOs ([Figure 2.2](#)). The survey asked NSOs whether they have one or more dedicated web page, data portal, publication or data visualisation tool; 24 of the NSOs responding, (representing just over a quarter of the countries included in the analysis in this report) reported that they have just one of the listed products and another 11 NSOs surveyed reported not having any of the products.





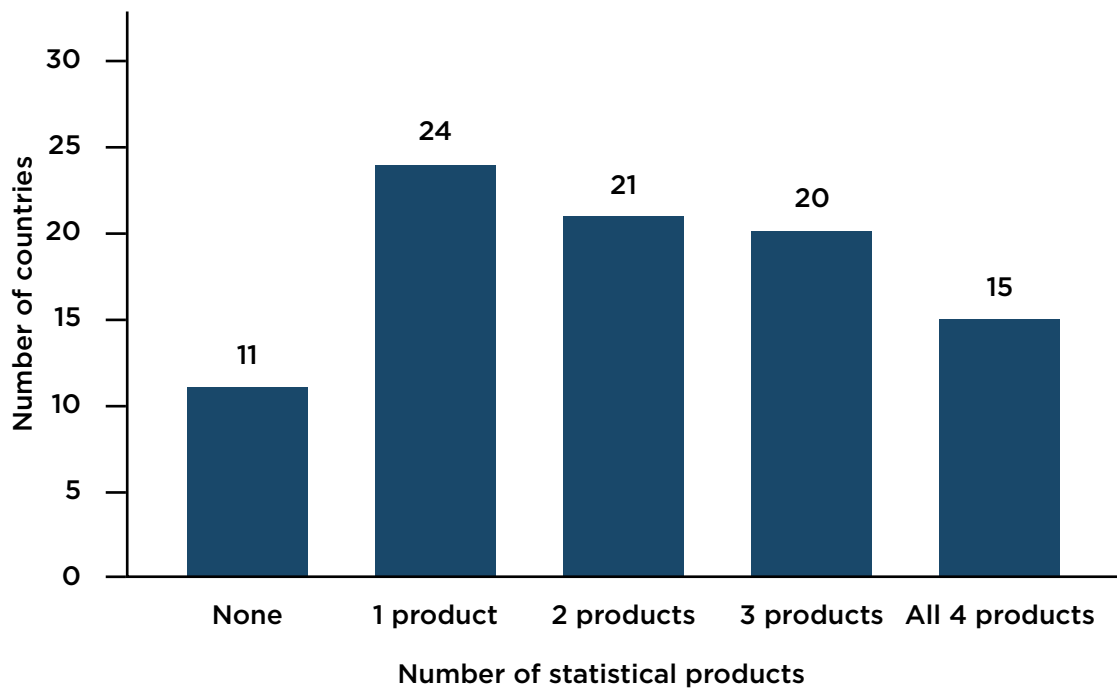
**AN INVESTMENT
IN GENDER DATA
IS ULTIMATELY
AN INVESTMENT
IN THE LIVES OF
WOMEN, GIRLS,
BOYS AND MEN.**





FIGURE 2.3.

NSOs responding to the GSGS that reported using one to four of the listed products to disseminate gender statistics



Note: The figure is based on data from the 2022 UNSD GSGS. Data products survey respondents could select were web and or landing page(s), data portal(s), publication(s) and data visualisation tool(s).

Only 26% of the use cases included in the gender data use typology included information on the mode of communication and dissemination of gender data. However, those that did indicated that the data were communicated in a variety of ways, suggesting good practice to reach users. Collecting more use cases and intentionally documenting how gender data are disseminated and communicated should help provide deeper insights as to which methods are likely to reach which users and enable greater use and impact and build on existing literature on communication methods and knowledge cultures with concrete good practice examples from a range of different contexts.

Activating partnerships and collaboration around gender data is critical to pool together skills and expertise

All too often, there is an assumption that data and statistics are the concern of NSOs and that gender issues are solely the concern of the national women’s machinery. However,



the use cases in the gender data use typology suggest that collaboration between these entities and among a wider set of state and non-state actors is a powerful force for advancing gender data use. The findings presented in Chapter 1 demonstrate that regular collaboration in gender data is a key capacity area that shapes country-level performance across domains of gender data capacity.

The use cases also reflect a wide range of different configurations of stakeholders that can help facilitate gender data use. Notably, in almost all cases successful gender data uptake and use built on co-operation and engagement across two or more stakeholder groups. In one example from Chile, three institutions – UN Women, the Chilean Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, and the ENTEL telecommunications company – contributed to the implementation of an RGA that produced data on the economic impact of COVID-19 on women and women’s use of digital technologies. In an even broader collaboration, six stakeholders then contributed to putting data from the RGA into action. In addition to UN Women and the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, the International Labour Organization, ECLAC, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Chilean Ministry of Labor and Social Security collaborated to develop a joint UN programme targeting 4 000 young women who lost their incomes during the pandemic with the aim of empowering them with digital skills (Ross, 2021[46]).

Collaboration among stakeholders also occurred at several stages in the use cases, from co-operation with development partners to enhance data literacy and gender sensitivity in Viet Nam (Data2X, 2019[18]) to NSO partnerships with the private sector in data production in the Maldives (Ross, 2021[19]) and a joint UN Women-World Health Organization programme in Georgia to disseminate results of a national study on VAW (Ross, 2020[47]). Notably, 37 of the cases (64%) documented collaboration in the production of gender data and 9 (16%) documented co-operation in the use of data. This evidence of collaboration across dimensions of gender data capacity underlines the value of pooling skills and expertise from across stakeholder groups to enable greater gender data use (PARIS21, forthcoming[44]).

Several types of partnerships were also particularly prevalent in the use cases analysed. Partnerships in data production, for example, were most commonly between NSOs and



development partners (e.g. UN Women, the UN Children’s Fund and the UN Population Fund) or between NSOs and national women’s machineries. In many cases, NSOs and development partners also co-operated with other government agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organisations and the private sector in various countries (Ross, 2021[19]). The same prevalent forms of co-operation emerged from the GSGS data, which show that nearly two-thirds (62%) of respondent NSOs reported that they regularly collaborated with ministries in the production of gender statistics, nearly half (47%) said they regularly collaborated with international organisations and nearly one-third (30%) reported they regularly collaborated with the women’s machinery specifically.

User-producer dialogues represent a specific aspect of co-operation that can support countries’ capacity to use gender data. As noted in the discussion of the GDO Index cluster analysis in Chapter 1, regular user-producer dialogues were a key factor differentiating the top-performing cluster from the other four. The 2022 GSGS also found that on average NSOs deemed collaboration and co-ordination that facilitate dialogues between users and producers³⁴ to be the third-most important factor driving improvements in gender statistics at the country level, after the existence of legal or policy frameworks and the availability of gender data funding within the national statistical system (UN Statistical Commission, 2024[14]). Documented examples of user-producer dialogues were rare among the use cases, though in one case from Viet Nam where survey data on VAW were used to inform the country’s 2011–20 National Strategy on Gender Equality, the role of such dialogues was cited as a key facilitator of gender data uptake and use:

Stakeholder consultation throughout the entire process (including design, collection, and analysis) was key to developing a sense of ownership over the findings, thereby increasing the prospects of data use. Multiple stakeholder workshops were held to discuss, analyze, and socialize the results of the survey with representatives from government agencies, civil society, and development partners. This helped promote data literacy among participants, while promoting acceptance of the findings, ahead of publication. (Data2X, 2019[18])

Within the use cases reviewed, the media, civil society organisations (CSOs), parliamentarians, financial institutions, private companies and development partners were among





the actors co-operating in the use of data. The value of such wide forms of co-operation as a good practice in facilitating data use is further supported in research on the topic by UN Women (2023[37]), which noted that lack of co-ordination between many of these same actors (e.g. CSOs, ministries of women, government partners) is perceived as a particular obstacle to gender data use. Exploring which forms of collaboration between stakeholders are effective will contribute to a greater understanding of how to facilitate gender data uptake and use and help identify the good practices that might be scalable to other contexts. National and international actors are therefore encouraged to enrich their documentation with details on the stakeholders involved in use cases. Further efforts to deepen insights into how partnerships and collaboration contribute to the enabling environment for gender data use are important to guide efforts towards strengthening communities around gender data at the country level.

2.5. Practical lessons for boosting gender data use and impact

The analysis in this chapter points to Five key steps to effectively leverage gender data for meaningful action towards gender equality. First, it is important to understand and document the plurality of ways gender data are and can be used. Not recognising the myriad types of use undervalues how data contribute to gender equality and ultimately limits the business case that should be made for more and better investments in gender data. Illustrating the diversity of use cases can also be an important mechanism to identify a wider range of good practices that can be transferred across sectors, geographies and subpopulations of marginalised groups of women.

Second, availability of gender data is not enough to ensure that they will be taken up and used. More gender data are available today than are being used to drive change. As shown in Chapter 1, countries also have greater gender data capacity in the data production dimension than they do in other dimensions of the Gender Data Outlook Index. The mismatch

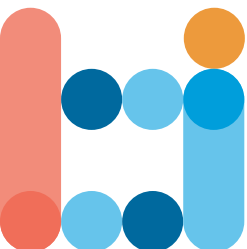


between the areas that documented use cases focus on and the areas where gender data are available suggests that there are underexploited opportunities to mainstream gender in policy making move from data access to evidence-informed action for inclusive, sustainable development.

Third, communication of gender data should be intentional. How data are communicated is likely to influence if, how and by whom gender data are used. Different stakeholders have different needs, preferences and capabilities when using gender data. Some use cases in the typology show that a wide variety of channels and methods are available to ensure that gender data reach different communities, though further efforts to document the role of communication and dissemination are needed. Ultimately, to promote the plurality of use and expand potential for impact, it is key to also ensure plurality in how gender data are communicated.

Fourth, building a diverse, multi-stakeholder community around gender data characterised by strategic partnerships and collaboration is a key enabler of use. Often, gender data are perceived as a matter for NSOs, and gender issues are seen as a matter solely for the national women's machinery. However, to support gender data use across sectors and mobilise all the necessary capacities to enable their broader use, different stakeholders should be engaged. A vibrant and diverse gender data community allows countries to pool different skills and subject matter expertise in an efficient and sustainable way.

Fifth, an investment in gender data is ultimately an investment in the lives of women, girls, boys and men. However, to ensure that gender data have impact at the individual and community level, more and better financing must be targeted towards all dimensions of gender data capacity. This means expanding investments beyond gender data production to also create an enabling environment for making gender data more accessible and ensure that the necessary skills, tools and capacities are in place to put gender data in action.





**DISSEMINATING
GENDER DATA IN
DIVERSE WAYS IS
NOT A COMMON
PRACTICE
AMONG NATIONAL
STATISTICS OFFICES.**



SPOTLIGHT ON USE**Use of the National Survey on Time Use in Mexico**

The National Survey on Time Use (ENUT), conducted by Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) every five years since 2002, has become a crucial tool for strengthening public policy, particularly gender equality policy in Mexico. It is developed in collaboration with the National Women's Institute and informed by consultations with public sector users, academics and civil society.

The ENUT sheds light on the value of unpaid work in households, primarily performed by women. These data provide vital support for policies promoting more equitable distribution of domestic responsibilities, improved work-life balance through parental leave programmes, and increased female participation in the labour market, among others.

State secretariats, autonomous bodies, federal entities and women's organisations use the ENUT data, which are considered information of national interest. The ENUT also contributes to measuring the economic value of women's unpaid work through the Satellite Account of Unpaid Work of the Households of Mexico. Significantly, the ENUT played a key role in developing the proposal for a constitutional reform recognising care as a human right and obligating the Mexican State to guarantee its protection.

National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)
National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) of Mexico



3. A CALL TO ACTION

This chapter spotlights how statistical systems can promote gender equality and inclusive, sustainable development. It suggests four areas for collective action to strengthen data production, use and access across a wider spectrum of policy areas, with specific messages for various stakeholder groups. It draws on insights gained from the assessment of country-level gender data capacity through the Global Data Outlook Index in Chapter 1 and the analysis of gender data use cases in Chapter 2.



In the run-up to 2030 and the end line for the Sustainable Development Goals, many actors ranging, from governments to civil society, donors, the private sector, academia and advocates, have a stake in producing and using more and better gender data to inform policies and monitor progress towards commitments. Each has a unique perspective, needs and capabilities. Yet, the collective action and engagement of everyone in this diverse ecosystem are needed to ensure that data play their full part in achieving gender equality and the empowerment and rights of all women and girls.

The outlook for gender data is in many ways positive. Countries are improving their enabling environment and promoting regular production, access and use of gender data, with a diverse array of countries among the top performers including Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, State of Palestine, Sweden and Uganda. Stories from different countries and partners highlight the value of gender data in a wide range of contexts and applications.

Despite these positive steps, significant challenges remain. Persistent data gaps, broken links between gender data production and downstream access, irregular funding, and underdeveloped mechanisms for collaboration inhibit the development of transformative, impactful gender data systems. Moreover, weaknesses in available data on gender data capacity and limited efforts to systematically track gender data outcomes and impact over time undermine opportunities to learn what works and further accelerate progress.

The nine countries scoring lowest in the Gender Data Outlook (GDO) Index represent an equally diverse mix of income groups, regions and overall levels of statistical capacity. For many of those countries, shortfalls in gender data capacity track closely with limits in overall statistical capacity and particularly with challenges in implementing the 2020 census round. However, barriers to gender data capacity are not unique to countries with lower statistical capacity; a number of high-income countries (HICs) such as Belgium, Liechtenstein, Japan and Singapore have lower than average GDO Index scores, illustrating both the emergence of different patterns of strengths and challenges within gender data systems and a need for nuanced approaches to address capacity shortfalls.



Decisive action is urgently needed. The four action areas detailed in this chapter can lay the groundwork to overcome these challenges and ensure that statistical systems are part of the solution to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Action 1: Foster communities around national gender data systems to build accountability and spur progress across dimensions of gender data capacity

The diversity of gender data capacity found within and across geographic regions, populations and income groups in the Gender Data Outlook Index shows that improvements in gender data can emerge anywhere and at any time. In a world where gender data remain scarce, this is hopeful news. On the other hand, the Index also points to missed opportunities to identify and scale up what works in contexts that share common challenges and opportunities.

The GDO Index reveals both the substantial strides countries are making in delivering more and better gender data (although gaps remain pervasive) and their ongoing struggle to convert progress in one dimension of gender data capacity to progress in others. Relationships across the three dimensions of this first edition of the GDO Index are positive but weaker than expected – that is, improvements in the enabling environment for example may not map to improvements in gender data production or access. Likewise, improved gender data production may not link to higher levels of access or subsequent use. The qualitative analysis of use cases in Chapter 2 underscores this challenge.

These relationships across the dimensions of the Gender Data Outlook suggest that some of the common wisdom about how change happens in gender data systems warrants further exploration. If more and better data alone do not translate to gender data uptake and action, then what kind of support enables countries to move from evidence to impact?

The answers to this question hold practical implications for national statistical systems (NSS) and national women's machineries working to strengthen their capacities to collect and use gender data as well as for how these systems and machineries engage with different stakeholders, including funders, partners and advocates.



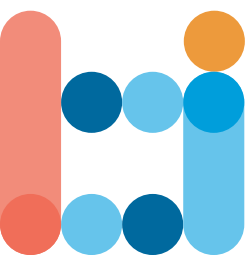
Indicators captured within the enabling environment related to stakeholder engagement beyond the national statistical office (NSO), including relationships and collaboration with the gender ministry, are deciding factors in shaping levels of gender data capacity. In parallel, mechanisms for NSO engagement with gender data users through user-producer dialogues are a defining feature of countries with strong performance. Together, these insights point to the power of community and shared responsibilities to advance across dimensions of gender data capacity.

The analysis of use cases further underscores the importance of diverse, dynamic multi-stakeholder partnerships to enable gender data uptake, use and impact. As NSOs and national women's machineries make gender data available, different partnership configurations with users, development partners and advocates figure prominently in the majority use case narratives, further highlighting the importance of a networked approach to realise the value and impact of gender data.

These findings also hold practical implications for funding models and programme time horizons for gender data capacity. As observed in Chapter 2, narrow interventions on short-run funding timelines restrict how statistical communities develop, what they can achieve, and, ultimately, what can be observed and learned about gender data impact.

To develop and deepen gender data communities, collective action will be useful in the following areas:

- **Strengthen co-ordination and dialogue among actors of gender data systems.** The GDO affirms the power of partnerships, communities and collaboration as a lever of change in gender data capacity. Countries performing better in the GDO Index have established working groups, user-producer dialogues, and regular mechanisms for exchange between NSOs and national women's machineries. But these are just starting points. Progressing beyond gender data access to evidence-informed action calls for a wider set of partners with different skills and opportunities for influence.
- **Enhance international collaboration on gender data.** Co-ordination and dialogue need not stop at national borders. The use cases and cluster analysis both point towards considerable scope for sharing good practices among countries and for seeking common solutions





where countries face common gender data challenges. Development partners should play an important role in facilitating relevant dialogues and further developing capacity across stakeholder groups.

- **Fund gender data capacity over longer time horizons.** Building communities takes time. When donors maintain funding cycles for gender data that are short term and narrow, opportunities for improving the enabling environment and learning what works – and, critically, why it works – are similarly narrow. Ultimately, this pattern also affects how knowledge is shared and how success stories are documented, blurring definitions of data use and impact and further obscuring pathways to progress across dimensions of gender data capacity.

Action 2: Scale and sustain domestic and external financing through meaningful investments across all dimensions of gender data capacity

This GDO underscores the critical role of a regular budget for gender statistics to achieve even average levels of performance. For 56 countries in the GDO Index, regular budgets for gender data as a share of the overall budget for statistics represent an essential hallmark of progress in gender data capacity. Dedicated budgets hold significance beyond resources, signalling political prioritisation and national commitment to strengthen statistical systems.

Notably, in addition to regular budgeting, other enablers that reflect national commitments to gender data, including legal frameworks that reflect a mandate to produce gender data and dedicated offices for gender statistics, are decisive factors in gender data capacity in higher-performing countries. Further efforts to demonstrate the links between domestic investments in the enabling environment for gender data and national policy priorities are critical to regularise domestic resource mobilisation as a key dimension of overall statistical capacity development.

Regular domestic resources are also a positive signal for external financing for gender data, offering a framework to crowd in a wider set of donors and funders to complement and amplify national commitments. Notably, the GDO Index highlights the importance of regular budgets but does



not differentiate performance based on the level of the budget. External financing has played and continues to play a vital complementary role to domestic resources in the development of gender data capacity (Open Data Watch and Data2X, 2021[4]).

Previous research on external financing for gender data and statistics indicates worrying trends, including a declining share of grants for gender statistics (PARIS21, 2023[21]) and a decoupling of official development assistance (ODA) for gender equality and gender data (Buvinic and Rabinovitch Blecker, 2017[37]). But the Gender Data Outlook adds much-needed nuance to this narrative: The small circle of donors that invest in gender data as a part of their overall support for statistics are often those with concrete policies, strategies and commitments to gender equality. However, the outlook for gender data financing continues to darken as the share of ODA allocated towards gender equality recently declined for the first time in a decade (OECD, 2024[23]).

Against the backdrop of a rising backlash against gender equality and women's rights (UN, 2020[49]), ODA for gender equality is both more scarce and more vital than ever, raising the stakes for demonstrating the value – the impact – of investments in gender data. Ensuring that gender data are accessible and responsive to the needs of policy makers, champions and advocates is essential to enable donors to both deepen ODA investments for gender equality at this challenging moment and sustain financing for gender data capacity.

Given that national budgets are under strain, increasing the funding envelope for gender data will remain a challenge for donors and countries alike. This raises a pertinent question: If resources are indeed key to the development of gender data capacity, what kind of investments enable countries to advance and maximise gender data impact?

Channelling and co-ordinating investments through national action plans, including through gender mainstreaming in national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS), represent an important pathway in this regard. In Bangladesh, the 2013–23 NSDS underscored the business case to invest in gender data by highlighting efficiencies in overall statistical business processes. However, more targeted investments can also be strategic. In Paraguay, for example, the National



Institute of Statistics introduced a financing lab to mobilise resources for its Time Use Survey, grounding its call for funding in concrete examples of policy use and collaborations with ministries, departments and agencies across government.

Under current conditions, making smart investment choices and targeting investments effectively are equally as important as investing more. Advocating for gender data investments across all dimensions of gender data capacity to strengthen the enabling environment and enhance gender data access and use is key to build and strengthen the business case for gender data today, to 2030 and beyond.

To scale and sustain financing, collective action is needed in the following areas:

- **Commit to regular budgets for gender data.** The role of regular budgets in shaping gender data capacity is reaffirmed in the results of this Gender Data Outlook. Ensuring that gender statistics are included as a standard dimension of national planning and budgeting processes for the statistical system is a key commitment in this regard.
- **Align investments with national priorities.** The GDO Index indicates that many countries are still facing significant gender data capacity shortfalls. A key factor driving gender data capacity is the presence of regular national budgets alongside other characteristics of the enabling environment. Aligning and augmenting investments to these national commitments is an important strategy to enhance country ownership and the effectiveness of financing for gender data going forward.
- **Place national priorities at the forefront of donor contributions.** Like national investments, donor investments must also be well aligned to national needs and priorities to ensure they are targeted to where they will have the biggest impact. This requires dedicated and careful co-ordination between donors and national partners.
- **Consolidate the business case.** In a challenging investment climate, governments need a clear narrative to allocate domestic resources and ODA to gender data capacity. Further efforts from partners and advocates to document the use and ultimate impact of gender data in relation to national policy priorities and global development agendas are vital to solidify the business case for sustained and targeted investments.



**IMPROVEMENTS
IN GENDER DATA
CAN EMERGE
ANYWHERE AND
AT ANY TIME.**





Action 3: Engage across sectors and stakeholders to activate gender data users and unlock the plurality of gender data use and impact

Even though more gender data and evidence are increasingly available across countries (UN Women and UN DESA, 2023[50]), the analysis in this GDO shows that significant roadblocks remain that impede both enhanced availability of gender data and progress towards connecting that gender data to action.

While the GDO Index highlights the need for continued investment in countries' capacity to produce gender data, it also shows that on average, countries tend to perform better in gender data production than in other dimensions of gender data capacity with a strong historical focus on building capacity within NSOs. This finding is a testament to the great progress that has been made over the years in raising the bar for representation and inclusion in official statistics in tandem with the global ambition to leave no one behind. On the other hand, the analysis of use cases in Chapter 2 shows a mismatch between gender data that are available and gender data that are used, with many use cases concentrated in specific sectors and themes related to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).

The disconnect between gender data production and use captured in this report raises a salient question: Is limited gender data use purely an evidence problem or also an engagement problem?

The GDO's findings point to solutions to tap into demand for gender data and to measure what matters, thus ensuring that gender data production connects to national priorities and user needs within each country. Importantly, these solutions hold implications not only for how countries and development partners prioritise gender data production but also for how they analyse gender data and engage with users to support effective gender mainstreaming.

While countries generally perform better in the production dimension of the GDO Index, average performance is lowest in the access dimension overall, indicating a critical bottleneck between producers and users. Developing and deepening communities (Action 1) represents one important strategy

to overcome this challenge, looking not only to engage different types of stakeholders with different gender data needs but also to engage specialists across sectors, particularly those where gender data are available but remain largely untapped.

Notably, indicators in the access dimension underscore the importance of NSOs amplifying their engagement in both production and use of gender data. Countries are holding user-producer dialogues, but countries with at least average gender data capacity also engage in at least one collaboration with outside entities in gender data production. This kind of external engagement upstream in gender data production is strategic to not only widen skills and knowledge but also to identify demand, respond to user needs and set the stage for influence.

Enriching analysis, communication and dissemination of gender data is a second and equally important strategy to support gender data use. However, gender data capacities tend to be less developed in this regard. Under the access dimension of the GDO Index, countries exhibit mixed performance across clusters in developing targeted gender data products. This is the case even for countries with relatively strong gender data capacity overall. Dissemination is one concrete area where lower-performing countries in the GDO Index could catch up with top performers.

The analysis of use cases in Chapter 2 shows a range of communication and dissemination strategies and their unique potential to support targeted engagement across different stakeholders and communities. Diversifying communication of gender data is key to reach more stakeholders for a broader set of purposes, thus unlocking the plurality of gender data use to realise the full potential of gender data for gender equality.

To engage across sectors and stakeholders, collective action is needed in the following areas:

- **Enhance and diversify gender data communication.**
To capitalise on advances in gender data production, it is vital to ensure that gender data reach different users. Existing use cases illustrate good practices and solutions to effectively target gender data and maximise reach to different audiences and the wider public.



- **Invest across all dimensions of gender data capacity.** The higher average performance in the GDO Index production dimension across countries and analysis of existing gender data use cases suggest that many countries hold untapped sources of gender data that have yet to be used or, at minimum, that use of those data has yet to be observed and documented. Expanding investments to solutions that enable gender data use through improved access, analysis and dissemination is important complement to efforts to expand gender data production.
- **Work with stakeholders across sectors.** Building and diversifying stakeholder engagement around gender data expands opportunities for influence and learning, enriching gender data systems and their potential for impact. Widening the scope of engagement beyond stakeholders working in GEWE is critical to tap into existing sources of gender data to amplify their use and advance gender mainstreaming.

Action 4: Expand learning agendas around gender data capacity to deepen insights and accelerate progress

The first three calls to action point to the importance of vibrant communities, dedicated financing and strategic engagement in advancing gender data capacity. But limited knowledge of how to effectively mobilise communities, channel resources and engage stakeholders underscores the need to not only continue to build gender data capacity but to deepen measurement and learning agendas around it.

For the community that is calling for better and more inclusive gender data, there is scope to go much further in capturing insights to guide this critical work. This first edition of the GDO Index includes indicators for only three of the four planned dimensions of gender data capacity due to limitations in data availability on gender data use. Within dimensions, indicators for key areas such as “active civil society organisations in gender data” or “breadth of non-traditional data sources used in gender statistics” are unavailable or incomplete. Where data and indicators are available, they are often not collected with sufficient frequency or made open and available to support regular analysis and inform progress. It is now widely recognised that unofficial data sources, such as citizen-generated data



or private sector data, are vital to close gender data gaps, and future efforts to expand the GDO Index will require further efforts to capture the activities of this wider set of actors for a more holistic view of gender data capacity.

Yet, as noted in Chapter 2, there are limitations in existing documentation of gender data use cases and impact narratives in terms of both the breadth of cases covered and their depth. Enriching qualitative insights and case studies on gender data use and impact – and indeed across all dimensions of gender data capacity – is an important complement to efforts to develop new quantitative indicators. Clarifying not only when gender data are produced, accessed and used but also how and for what purpose will make it possible to draw out good practices to test, scale and deepen the collective understanding of the relationship between evidence and action for gender equality.

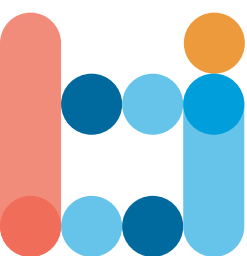
To expand learning agendas, collective action is possible in the following areas:

- **Develop and refine measures of gender data capacity.**

The GDO Index represents the latest effort to assess progress across countries in developing impactful gender data systems, providing deeper insights to guide efforts of countries, funders, partners and advocates. However, the exercise also illustrates the limits of what is known today and the importance of expanding research on this topic through the development of new surveys, methods and indicators that enrich global and national understanding of the different dimensions of gender data capacity.

- **Document use cases and impact stories systematically.**

The GDO underscores the plurality of gender data use on multiple dimensions despite the limitations of convenience sampling. Future efforts to systematically document a wider range of gender data users and uses and the factors that shape use – for instance deploying a solution such as a typology – will open new possibilities to identify unique challenges and opportunities to enhance evidence-informed action for gender equality.



A PERSPECTIVE ON A SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATE**Investing in statistical capacity “critical” for gender equality**

It is a privilege to reflect on the progress that the Republic of Maldives has made in strengthening gender statistics and have this opportunity to advocate for these worldwide.

Allow me to commend PARIS21 and UN Women for their unwavering commitment to advancing gender statistics and for providing a platform to share our experiences and learn from others.

Over the years, the Maldives has placed significant emphasis on the collection and utilisation of gender data, understanding that robust gender statistics are crucial for informed policy making and advancing gender equality. The Maldives Bureau of Statistics has been at the forefront of these efforts, ensuring that gender data are integrated into national strategies and policies.

Our participation in the Women Count programme has been transformative. The multi-year engagement has equipped us with the tools and knowledge to develop a stronger gender statistics system. Through capacity-building initiatives, we have seen a marked improvement in gender data literacy among our stakeholders.

One of the most significant achievements has been the innovative partnerships formed to address gender data gaps. These collaborations have enhanced our data collection capabilities and also ensure that the data are used to drive meaningful change in the Maldives. The impact of these investments is evident in the improved quality of life and increased opportunities for our women and girls, especially those in the islands I have had the honour of visiting.

Gender statistics will also play a key role in the success of the government’s Gender Equality Seal initiative – a mechanism to monitor and recognise gender equality measures adopted by state institutions through a comprehensive matrix. There is a lack of institutionalisation of gender mainstreaming, including a lack of robust mechanisms for collection of sex-disaggregated data for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

The Gender Data Outlook is a timely initiative that provides a comprehensive analysis of gender statistics capacity across



countries. This report will undoubtedly serve as a critical resource for identifying areas where further investments are needed and where current efforts are making an impact.

I would like to emphasise the underlying need for gender data to further accelerate efforts to attain gender equality in the Maldives. Such data provide the evidence needed to understand the unique challenges faced by women and girls, allowing us to develop targeted policies and interventions. Strengthening our national statistical system is essential for ensuring that these data are accurate, comprehensive and effectively used to make informed policy decisions.

This is why investing in statistical capacity is critical. State institutions need better understanding and know-how around the collection and dissemination of gender data for evidence-based decision making and to ensure that policies cater to the needs of the ever-evolving societies that we are part of.

Sajidha Mohamed, First Lady of the Republic of Maldives

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Endnotes

- 1 UN Women and the United Nations Statistics Division define the NSS as “the ensemble of statistical organisations and units within a country that jointly collect, process, and disseminate official statistics on behalf of national government”. See <https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/2023/ESA-admin-data-toolkit.pdf>.
- 2 One of the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators is the qualitative indicator “existence of law on gender statistics”.
- 3 See the accompanying Methodology Note for additional discussion of existing indicators on use.
- 4 The two examples from Morocco and El Salvador are drawn from (unprocessed) data from UN Women’s Women Count monitoring framework.
- 5 Complex indicators include “indicators that rely heavily on administrative sources or require multi-stage compilation and validation (e.g. mortality statistics)”. See <https://www.paris21.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2023-10/NSDS-Gender-Module-English.pdf>.
- 6 Other sources for data on gender data production are the following: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/gender-snapshot/2023>; <https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Story%20docs/Methodological%20note%20%20SDG%20time%20distance.pdf>; and <https://globalhealth5050.org/the-sex-gender-and-covid-19-project/the-data-tracker>.
- 7 $r=0.5664$, $p< 0.001$.
- 8 The correlation is statistically significant at the 5% level for low GDO countries only ($r=0.5957$, $p=0.0317$).
- 9 Countries performing relatively better and relatively worse on statistical capacity relative to their gender data capacity are identified by regressing the SPI overall score on the GDO Index (and its square) and calculating the residuals, then identifying countries with a gap of more than one standard deviation from the mean residual.
- 10 Twelve countries outperform expectations in terms of gender data capacity, meaning their SPI score is one standard deviation or more lower than the predicted score given their gender data capacity. Five of these countries are low-income countries and five are lower middle-income countries.
- 11 Between the enabling environment and data production scores, $r=0.2829$, $p=0.0109$. Between the enabling



environment and data accessibility scores, $r=0.4682$, $p<0.001$. Between the data production and data accessibility scores, $r = 0.4629$, $p < 0.001$.

12 The accompanying [Methodological Note](#) describes the cluster analysis informing this section.

13 The analysis is based on the analysis of variance, or ANOVA analysis, which reports the extent to which the clusters formed are significantly different from one another based on the variables included in the analysis. The F-statistics (ratio of between-group to within-group variance) indicate the extent to which the clusters significantly differ from each other. See the [Methodological Note](#) for more details.

14 Monaco and Nigeria each have a unique set of characteristics that do not fit into any of the five clusters associated with this particular cluster solution.

15 The 2020 round is the Gender Data Compass term for censuses conducted between 2015 and a cutoff date of September 2023.

16 The analysis is based on the analysis of variance, or ANOVA analysis, which reports the extent to which the clusters formed are significantly different from one another based on the variables included in the analysis. The F-statistics (ratio of between-group to within-group variance) indicate the extent to which the clusters significantly differ from each other. Full details of the cluster analysis are available in the Methodological Note – Supplementary Analysis file: <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/gender-data-outlook-2024>.

17 A 2015 study estimated that domestic resources cover just 48% of the cost of statistical systems, with development partners providing the remaining 52%. See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=2017&menu=35>.

18 The ten, in descending order, are the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Gates Foundation, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Union. For more information, see www.paris21.org/knowledge-base/press-2023-paris21-partner-report-support-statistics-2023-changing-landscape.

19 The most recent data for ODA for gender are for 2020–22 and for ODA for gender statistics are for 2019–2021. The analysis predates the membership of Lithuania (November 2022) and Estonia (July 2023) in the DAC, and therefore refers to DAC’s 30 members rather than the current 32.

20 Among the 30 DAC members, the share of ODA that has gender as a principle focus and the share of statistics ODA allocated to gender show a moderate positive correlation ($r=0.6409$, $n=30$, $p=0.0001$).

21 See <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/pragmatic-approach-developing-comprehensive-gender-capacity-framework> (especially Box 2).

22 Some examples can be found at <https://r4d.org/resources/scoping-study-evidence-translators-role-in-evidence-informed-policymaking/>; <https://docs.edtechhub.org/lib/CJNYRKP>; www.aiddata.org/publications/decoding-data-use; and <https://devinit.org/resources/data-use-overview-conceptual-practical-approaches/>.

23 A PARIS21 forthcoming report looks at the barriers and enablers of gender data use in practice. Another example is <http://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/2023/barrier-opportunities-evidence-based-decisionmaking.pdf>.

24 For example, there is currently no methodology for four of the five indicators on data use in the World Bank Statistical Performance Indicator framework. See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/statistical-performance-indicators/Framework.

25 Advocacy refers to the use of data to support or propose a particular issue or policy.

26 Public awareness refers to use of data to educate or inform the public or a specific group about an issue without proposing or supporting a specific change.

27 As noted, the cases studied have some limitations. The GDO, therefore, does not include more complex analyses across multiple criteria in the typology. Dedicated use case collection following a standard reporting template would be needed in the future for deeper analyses.

28 ENHOGAR 2018 was developed with financial support from the Ministry of the Presidency and technical assistance from the UN Population Fund.



29 ENHOGAR-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019 was undertaken with technical and financial support of the UN Children’s Fund.

30 The SDGs are described at <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

31 See www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/csw59/feature-stories.

32 This Compass is available at <https://opendatawatch.com/publications/gender-data-compass-charting-data-availability-and-enabling-environment>.

33 Studies on gender data use in Dominican Republic, Kenya, Maldives and Rwanda will be available on the PARIS21 website from October 2024 www.paris21.org/knowledge-base.



























34 Collaborations included a task force, technical committee or a similar working group at the national level.

Annex A: Country scores


















TABLE A.1
Country scores, Gender Data Outlook Index

- 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

Country	Region	Scores			
		Index	Enabling environment	Production	Accessibility
Antigua and Barbuda	●	0.161	0.193	0.175	0.124
Armenia	●	0.597	0.578	0.699	0.527
Australia	●	0.597	0.648	0.625	0.526
Austria	●	0.500	0.389	0.678	0.474
Azerbaijan	●	0.533	0.544	0.510	0.546
Bangladesh	●	0.521	0.589	0.638	0.377
Belarus	●	0.720	0.722	0.632	0.817
Belgium	●	0.392	0.215	0.602	0.465
Benin	●	0.583	0.811	0.399	0.612
Bosnia and Herzegovina	●	0.455	0.533	0.436	0.405
Brazil	●	0.654	0.615	0.723	0.628
Bulgaria	●	0.312	0.122	0.618	0.401
Burkina Faso	●	0.592	0.648	0.670	0.477
Burundi	●	0.173	0.126	0.329	0.124

Country	Region	Scores			
		Index	Enabling environment	Production	Accessibility
Cameroon		0.486	0.593	0.369	0.524
Canada		0.761	0.722	0.709	0.861
Chile		0.652	0.685	0.654	0.620
Colombia		0.742	0.830	0.731	0.673
Costa Rica		0.724	0.930	0.711	0.573
Dominican Republic		0.615	0.607	0.742	0.515
Ecuador		0.712	0.667	0.706	0.767
El Salvador		0.412	0.689	0.282	0.361
Estonia		0.395	0.233	0.651	0.407
Ethiopia		0.536	0.722	0.379	0.562
Fiji		0.385	0.296	0.360	0.537
Finland		0.701	0.589	0.686	0.854
France		0.552	0.348	0.631	0.765
Gambia		0.249	0.181	0.386	0.219
Georgia		0.655	0.644	0.497	0.876
Germany		0.682	0.800	0.653	0.607
Ghana		0.444	0.485	0.586	0.309
Greece		0.491	0.552	0.651	0.330
Hungary		0.548	0.456	0.700	0.516
India		0.445	0.481	0.467	0.392
Iraq		0.440	0.541	0.465	0.339
Ireland		0.445	0.389	0.631	0.360
Israel		0.610	0.689	0.644	0.512
Japan		0.480	0.437	0.630	0.402
Jordan		0.670	0.589	0.685	0.747
Kuwait		0.423	0.278	0.500	0.545

Country	Region	Scores			
		Index	Enabling environment	Production	Accessibility
Latvia		0.714	0.578	0.720	0.875
Lesotho		0.531	0.448	0.530	0.631
Liechtenstein		0.028	0.000	0.694	0.300
Lithuania		0.431	0.389	0.699	0.294
Malawi		0.497	0.281	0.661	0.659
Mauritania		0.289	0.556	0.341	0.127
Mexico		0.818	0.896	0.740	0.825
Monaco		0.409	0.556	0.458	0.268
Mongolia		0.530	0.489	0.756	0.403
Montenegro		0.518	0.544	0.557	0.459
Myanmar		0.268	0.156	0.473	0.262
Nauru		0.060	0.033	0.394	0.016
Nepal		0.521	0.733	0.668	0.289
Nigeria		0.487	0.752	0.495	0.310
North Macedonia		0.576	0.611	0.704	0.444
Norway		0.689	0.563	0.679	0.856
Oman		0.738	0.759	0.631	0.838
Pakistan		0.633	0.685	0.690	0.536
Panama		0.636	0.944	0.725	0.376
Philippines		0.832	0.967	0.720	0.826
Poland		0.628	0.500	0.731	0.677
Qatar		0.630	0.759	0.656	0.501
Republic of Korea		0.655	0.681	0.723	0.571
Republic of Moldova		0.630	0.637	0.538	0.729
Saudi Arabia		0.473	0.567	0.518	0.359
Serbia		0.662	0.633	0.643	0.711

Country	Region	Scores			
		Index	Enabling environment	Production	Accessibility
Sierra Leone		0.650	0.785	0.581	0.603
Singapore		0.329	0.170	0.606	0.343
Slovakia		0.631	0.511	0.680	0.724
Slovenia		0.580	0.578	0.686	0.493
State of Palestine		0.746	0.789	0.779	0.676
Suriname		0.406	0.307	0.409	0.531
Sweden		0.713	0.622	0.685	0.852
Switzerland		0.624	0.633	0.741	0.518
Syrian Arab Republic		0.361	0.548	0.247	0.348
Timor-Leste		0.344	0.111	0.587	0.623
Tunisia		0.457	0.715	0.407	0.327
Türkiye		0.682	0.681	0.661	0.703
Uganda		0.728	0.933	0.542	0.764
Ukraine		0.544	0.633	0.434	0.586
United Kingdom		0.556	0.404	0.732	0.580
United Republic of Tanzania		0.547	0.600	0.613	0.446
Viet Nam		0.422	0.522	0.678	0.213

Names of countries and regions – from SDG <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups>

Annex B: Cluster groupings description

TABLE B.1
Table of country cluster groups

Description	Typical features	Typical challenges	Countries*	Mean GDO Index
Cluster 1: Strong all-around performance	<p>Enabling environment: Statistics law mandating production of statistics and accompanying road map. Dedicated gender statistics office in NSO. Gender statistics entity in women's machinery and in other ministries. Working or advisory group on gender statistics within NSS. NSO collaborates with women's machinery. Regular funding for gender statistics from national budget for statistics.</p> <p>Data production: Conducted census in 2020 round. Highest score of any cluster in capacity to collect household survey data and reporting of SDG gender data. High gender data availability score. Produces sex-disaggregated disaggregated reporting of COVID-19 cases and deaths.</p> <p>Data accessibility: NSO disseminates gender statistics products in three of four ways. NSO collaborates regularly with at least one entity outside NSS to produce gender statistics. NSO holds regular user-producer dialogues.</p>		<p>11 countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Sierra Leone*, State of Palestine, Republic of Tanzania, Uganda</p>	0.71

***Highlighted countries.** Note: Countries in blue are outliers in the cluster as their distance from the cluster centre is more than one standard deviation from the mean distance.

Description	Typical features	Typical challenges	Countries*	Mean GDO Index
<p>Cluster 2: Some gaps in enabling environment and accessibility</p>	<p>Enabling environment: Statistics law mandating the production of gender statistics and accompanying road map. Individual focal point or dedicated gender statistics office in NSO. Regular funding for gender statistics from national budget for statistics.</p> <p>Data production: Conducted census in 2020 round. Above average capacity to collect household survey data. Above-average SDG reporting of gender data and gender data availability score. Produces sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19.</p> <p>Data accessibility: NSO disseminates gender data in two of four ways. NSO collaborates regularly with at least one outside entity to produce gender data.</p>	<p>Enabling environment: No gender statistics entity in women’s machinery nor other ministries or agencies, no advisory group on gender statistics. Irregular collaboration with Women’s Ministry.</p> <p>Data accessibility: Irregular user-producer dialogues.</p>	<p>18 countries: Armenia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Israel, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Nepal, Oman, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Viet Nam</p>	0.58

***Highlighted countries.** Note: Countries in blue are outliers in the cluster as their distance from the cluster centre is more than one standard deviation from the mean distance.

Description	Typical features	Typical challenges	Countries*	Mean GDO Index
<p>Cluster 3: Shortfalls in enabling environment and accessibility</p>	<p>Enabling environment: Statistics law supporting the production of gender statistics. Multiple focal points for gender in NSO. Gender statistics entity in ministries and agencies apart from women’s machinery. Regular funding for statistics from national budget for statistics.</p> <p>Data production: Conducted census in 2020 round, average performance in reporting SDG gender data, above-average gender data availability, produces sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19.</p> <p>Data accessibility: NSO disseminates gender statistics in three of four ways. NSO collaborates regularly with at least one outside entity to produce gender statistics.</p>	<p>Enabling environment: No road map supporting the production of gender statistics. No gender statistics entity in women’s machinery. No working or advisory group on gender. NSO does not collaborate with women’s machinery.</p> <p>Data accessibility: Irregular user-producer dialogues.</p>	<p>25 countries: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Malawi, Slovakia, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Timor-Leste, Türkiye</p>	0.60

***Highlighted countries.** Note: Countries in blue are outliers in the cluster as their distance from the cluster centre is more than one standard deviation from the mean distance.

Description	Typical features	Typical challenges	Countries*	Mean GDO Index
<p>Cluster 4: Significant shortfalls in enabling environment and accessibility</p>	<p>Enabling environment: Individual focal point for gender in NSO.</p> <p>Data production: Average gender reporting of SDGs, average gender data availability, produces sex-disaggregated COVID-19 data.</p> <p>Data accessibility: NSO disseminates gender data in two of four ways.</p>	<p>Enabling environment: No statistics law supporting production of gender statistics. No road map supporting the production of gender statistics. No gender statistics entity in women’s machinery, not other ministries or agencies. No gender statistics working or advisory group. NSO does not collaborate with women’s machinery. Irregular funding for gender statistics from national budget for statistics.</p> <p>Data accessibility: Irregular NSO collaboration with outside entity to produce gender statistics. No user-producer dialogues.</p>	<p>20 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Estonia, Gambia, Fiji, Hungary, India, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Kingdom</p>	0.37

***Highlighted countries.** Note: Countries in blue are outliers in the cluster as their distance from the cluster centre is more than one standard deviation from the mean distance.

Description	Typical features	Typical challenges	Countries*	Mean GDO Index
<p>Cluster 5: Significant shortfalls across all three dimensions, notably data production</p>	<p>Enabling environment: Statistics law supporting the production of gender statistics. Individual focal point for gender in NSO. Gender statistics entity in women’s machinery and in other ministries or agencies.</p> <p>Data accessibility: NSO collaborates regularly with at least one outside entity to produce gender statistics.</p>	<p>Enabling environment: No road map supporting the production of gender statistics. No working or advisory group on gender statistics. NSO collaborates irregularly with women’s machinery. Irregular funding for gender statistics from national budget for statistics.</p> <p>Data production: NSO did not conduct census in 2020 round (as of September 2023). Functioning of household surveys well below average. SDG gender reporting and gender data availability are below average. Produces sex-disaggregated data on COVID cases or deaths but not both.</p> <p>z NSO disseminates gender statistics in one of four ways. Irregular user-producer dialogues.</p>	<p>7 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Iraq, Mauritania, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia</p>	<p>0.39</p>

***Highlighted countries.** Note: Countries in blue are outliers in the cluster as their distance from the cluster centre is more than one standard deviation from the mean distance.

Through the Gender Data Outlook, PARIS21 and UN Women introduce a novel approach to understanding gender data capacity in 83 countries. By combining insights from a new capacity index with qualitative analysis, this report documents country capacity to foster an enabling environment for gender data, data production, its accessibility, and use.

This holistic overview of gender data capacity sheds more light on where capacity and investment gaps around gender data lie and where more efforts are needed to systematically improve gender data systems in a way that benefits all and targets the most vulnerable populations.

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