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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN CAMEROON

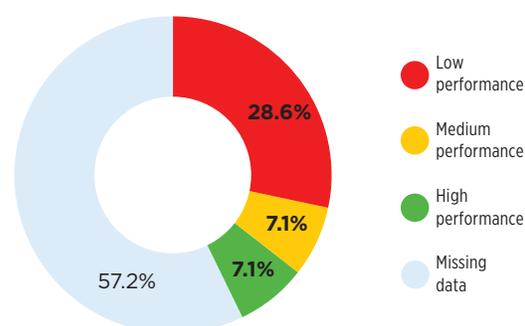
THE ISSUE

A national assessment of gender statistics, conducted in 2018, revealed three inter-related challenges:

- Gender is insufficiently integrated into Cameroon's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Within the National Statistical System (NSS), there are no specific laws or regulations governing gender statistics, although general references are made by many statistical regulations and laws on gender.
- Few financial resources are allocated to gender statistics within Cameroon's NSS. There is little understanding of gender-related issues by national statisticians, and poor collaboration between the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF).

FIGURE 1

How is Cameroon doing on gender data?



Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#)

- There is poor dissemination of gender statistics, at both national and local levels, as a result of: limited dialogue between statistics users and producers, the absence of a mechanism to facilitate coordination, and an overall misunderstanding of gender statistics and their importance.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination mechanisms were established to improve coordination on gender statistics, and to improve the normative framework through the adoption of a minimum set of gender indicators.
- **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of the NIS are strengthened to produce gender data in the General Census of Agriculture and Livestock, and the General Population and Housing Census.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** MINPROFF is being supported to establish a gender information system with a central online database for storing and sharing gender-related SDG indicators, while parliamentarians, media, civil society organizations, academics, ministries, and the private sector are being trained to use and analyse gender statistics in decision-making.

RESULTS

During the first full year of implementation in Cameroon in 2019, progress was driven by strengthening collaboration between key actors in the NSS, mainstreaming gender in data collection and strengthening the capacities of data producers and users through training. Key achievements include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Improved coordination resulted in increased investments in gender data.** A high-level Inter-ministerial Committee on Gender Statistics, composed of statistics directors from all 12 social ministries, statistical institutions and university statistics schools, as well as a Technical Committee on Gender Statistics, were established with UN Women's support. Co-chaired by the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Family (MINPROFF) and by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), these mechanisms provide the building blocks to strengthen coordination and to advance technical leadership in the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics. As a result, the Government included gender statistics in its 2020 Budget for the

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2019



Progress was driven by building diverse partnerships, contributing to a strong foundation for the project's success.

first time, resulting in USD 700,000 being granted to the MINPROFF to strengthen monitoring of the M&E framework of the National Gender Policy.

- **National assessment on gender data will be used to strengthen monitoring of the National Gender Policy.** UN Women and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Family (MINPROFF), which is in charge of piloting the national gender policy, conducted an assessment on the gender statistics gaps for the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the National Gender Policy and its Multi-sector action plan. The final validation is expected for next year. This assessment will be the base for the development of the next National Gender Policy which is to begin by next year. Moreover, it will become an advocacy document for the Ministry and other development partners on the use of gender statistics and the need for the National Statistical System to pay a key attention to their production.

2. Increasing data production

- **UN Women trained over 141 data producers, strengthening their capacities to mainstream gender in key census and surveys.** Covering topics such as: gender statistics production (including from administrative data), communicating gender statistics, using gender data to plan and monitor public policies, and computing gender-related SDG indicators, these trainings contributed to build the capacity of national statisticians on gender statistics. Since then, they have been using the acquired skills to improve the quality of gender data produced in surveys and national censuses, including the General Census of Population and Housing, the General Census on Agriculture and Livestock and the Survey on

employment and informal sector. As a result, special volumes on gender from the General Population and Housing Census and the General Census of Agriculture and Livestock will be produced.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Strengthened collaboration improved the quality of national reporting on gender equality commitments.**

For the first time, core statistical institutions – such as the NIS and the Central Bureau of Census and Population Studies (BUCREP) – were involved in preparing the Voluntary National Review and Beijing+25 report, led by the MINPROFF. As a result, relevant data and analysis were a key part of the reports. UN Women facilitated the coordination between MINPROFF and the NIS, which yielded an MoU between the two to expand their collaboration.

- **A network of journalists was established to improve how gender data are communicated in Cameroon.**

The network's 37 members – which includes national journalists from 18 media organizations and communications staff from MINPROFF, NIS and BUCREP – are improving how gender statistics are communicated through various media, and one of the initiatives was the creation of a [YouTube channel](#). Videos have been created in English and French, including to encourage people to participate in the recently launched COVID-19 rapid gender assessment.

- **User-producer dialogues strengthened government's commitment to engage more data users.** During the African Statistics Week, UN Women convened data users and producers from 29 civil society organizations, government bodies and UN agencies to discuss

key areas where there are pervasive gender data gaps, including employment, violence and time use and challenges related to accessing data. As a result of the discussions, two civil society working groups were established: the Civil Society Organizations Working Group on gender and public policies in Cameroon (GTOG) and the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG), which will support the Ministry of Women's Empowerment in advocacy efforts to ensure data is mainstreamed in policies and national plans.

PLANS FOR 2020*

- Continuing advocacy for gender mainstreaming within the next National Strategy for the Development of Statistics;
- Continuing advocacy for the final adoption and dissemination of the normative framework on gender statistics and the minimum set of gender indicators;
- Producing gender indexes to monitor gender equality objectives within national strategies and plans;
- Continue facilitating user-producer dialogue on gender statistics, and collaboration between MINPROFF and other data producers;
- Supporting the production and dissemination of knowledge products highlighting gender data and gaps;
- Conducting a rapid gender assessment to measure the impact of COVID-19.

* Plans for 2020 may be further adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.