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IN BRIEF:

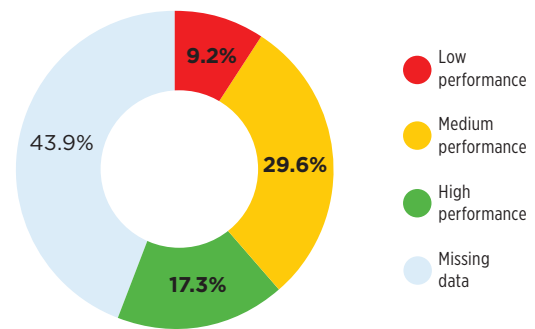
MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN COLOMBIA

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics conducted in 2019 in Colombia revealed three inter-related challenges:

- The National Statistical System (NSS) has multiple entities producing statistical information, which can lead to duplication and inconsistency.
- There is limited information and evidence to inform local policymaking and weak capacity to produce gender data on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the subnational level. There is limited training on gender perspectives or intersectional approaches for staff that produce and disseminate statistics.

FIGURE 1
How is Colombia doing on gender data?



Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#)

- Gender statistics are not concentrated in a single place and there is limited availability of survey and census microdata. There are also few feedback mechanisms to detect unsatisfied needs from users – with half of the country’s institutions lacking such mechanisms.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination between the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) and the Presidential Advisor for Women’s Equality (CPEM) is being improved; a coordination mechanism will be established to facilitate exchanges between key actors in the NSS to better mainstream gender in national policies and legal frameworks.
- **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of DANE are being strengthened and quality data on time-use, political culture and security is being produced to improve SDG monitoring.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Partnerships with national and regional Gender Observatories are being strengthened to improve data accessibility and use; publications on the status of women and men in Colombia to track progress towards gender equality will be produced and widely disseminated.

RESULTS

The Women Count project in Colombia officially kicked off in September 2019, through the finalization of a national assessment and project document, several activities took place including:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Inclusive and participatory process of designing national assessment resulted in improved coordination on gender statistics.** Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed in September with DANE and CPEM to on strengthening production, access and use of gender statistics for policy-making, promoting accountability on gender equality and women’s empowerment. Based on these bilateral agreements, DANE and CPEM also agreed to share knowledge and jointly present statistical information related to the National Development Plan and the SDGs, and reduce gaps in gender data, improving the creation of evidence on the situation of women and the existing gender gaps in the country and supported by UN Women through technical assistance.

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2019



Significant progress was achieved as a result of building strong partnerships with the national statistical office and the gender ministry.

2. Increasing data production

- **Data on unpaid care work is informing the design of the national care policy.** UN Women supported the analysis of the 2016-17 Time Use Survey to produce indicators on unpaid care, time poverty, caregivers, and estimates of care needs, which was initiated by DANE and the Gender Ministry to inform development of national care policy, an essential component of Colombia’s fight against poverty and gender inequality. The results revealed 60 per cent of women contribute to unpaid care and domestic work activities and women face higher poverty rates due to insufficient income and lack of employment, aggravated by higher time poverty. Based on these findings, a series of evidence-based recommendations were developed and submitted to the National Department of Planning to inform the design of the care policy.
- **National SDG Subgroup is improving the production gender data for monitoring SDG 5 as a result of UN Women’s advocacy.** The SDG Subgroup is chaired by DANE to facilitate coordination of UN custodian agencies on measuring and monitoring SDG indicators. As a result of participating in the SDG Subgroup, UN Women will lead in partnership with UNFPA and UNICEF to develop methodologies for 5 SDG indicators – measuring prevalence of violence against women, women’s political participation and women’s land ownership. Additionally, UN Women supported the design of a barometer to measure data availability across SDG indicators in SDG 5, to be developed and used to measure progress on achieving the SDGs in 2020.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Data users and producers were brought together to improve access to data on women’s land tenure.**

UN Women organized a workshop with DANE and four civil society organizations with expertise on gender and land tenure, to identify the barriers rural women face to access land tenure which will be used to inform the revision of the Decree that governs the implementation of the Multipurpose Cadastre – a tool that contains data and information on the physical, legal, and economic aspects properties. These efforts are critical to ensure the Multipurpose Cadastre is gender responsive and informed by timely data.

- **Statistical bulletin produced and disseminated new data on women’s economic empowerment.**

In partnership with DANE, UN Women published a statistical newsletter on “Women’s Economic Empowerment in Colombia,” informed by the gender data analysis conducted by UN Women of data from three national surveys . It presents an overview of the discrimination against women and inequality gaps in the context of the economy and highlights the importance of having timely and quality statistical information for evidence-based policy action. Used to strengthen advocacy to put in place measures to improving women’s economic empowerment, including social protection.

- **UN Women partnered with national and regional Gender Observatories to promote greater access to gender data.**

Gender observatories are institutional mechanisms that promote access to national and sub-national gender data for researchers, academics

and civil society organizations. UN Women established a partnership with Universidad de Nariño, aimed at strengthening the department’s gender observatory, preparing the first departmental gender profile, designing research and advocacy agendas to improve the dissemination of gender data, and create an observatories network. Partnerships with the gender observatories in Universities of Antioquia, Meta and Cauca will be pursued in 2020.

PLANS FOR 2020*

- Establishing a Gender Statistics Technical Committee to improve coordination on gender statistics in the national statistics system;
- Conducting a rapid assessment survey on the impact of COVID-19;
- Designing and implement training modules for producers and users on gender statistics;
- Strengthening gender mainstreaming in the conceptual and methodological design of national surveys, including the Economic Census 2021, Multipurpose Cadastre and Integrated Information System on Gender Violence (SIVIGE);
- Establishing a network of national and regional gender observatories to improve dissemination and use of gender statistics;
- Developing publications to promote the access, analysis and use of gender statistics.

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