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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN KENYA

THE ISSUE

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

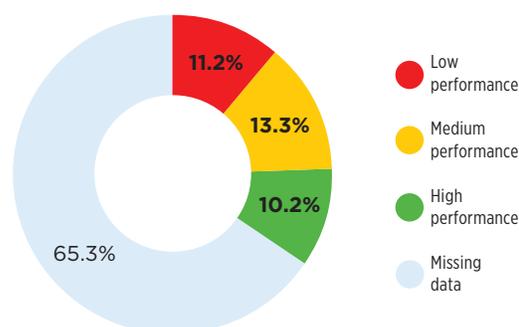
- Lack of trust, siloed data communities and limited push for data-driven decision-making have hampered the generation of gender statistics in Kenya.
- Very few data are disaggregated by sex, age, wealth quintile, region, among others, which undermines the extent to which data can inform implementation and monitoring of gender-related SDGs.
- Insufficient training and awareness are the main factors behind inadequate demand for and use of gender statistics in Kenya.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination within the national statistics system is being improved through the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics and ministries, departments, agencies and selected counties will be supported to systematically integrate gender statistics into national and county planning documents.

FIGURE 1

How is Kenya doing on gender data?

Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#)

- **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) are being strengthened and quality data on unpaid care work, access to decent work, census data is produced to improve SDG monitoring. Existing data will be reprocessed to produce gender-related SDG indicators, and routine data collection tools will be reviewed and improved.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** County gender data sheets, a women’s empowerment index and other gender statistics knowledge products have been developed and disseminated. Research grants have bolstered student research on gender data and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are supported to engage in gender statistics dialogues with data producers.

RESULTS

Since 2018, UN Women has made significant strides in building a strong foundation formalizing strategic partnerships with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). In 2019, results were focused on strengthening coordination through the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee (IAGSTC), advocating for the inclusion and mainstreaming of gender in key policies and national development plans. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender statistics is now included as a key priority in Kenya’s national development plans, including Kenya’s third Medium-Term Plan (MTP III).** During the drafting process, the Monitoring and Evaluation Department within the State Department of Planning received technical guidance from UN Women, which resulted in gender being mainstreamed within the National and County Reporting Indicators Handbook 2018–2022 (MTP III). Launched in 2019, the handbook is designed to increase accountability and transparency and tracking the economic, social, and political performance indicators. This accountability includes tracking progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment commitments in Kenya’s Vision 2030 and key flagship projects under its social pillar.
- **Government spending on gender equality can now be regularly monitored.** The National Treasury updated the Standard Chart of Accounts and government officers were trained to track and make public allocations for gender equality and produce data for SDG indicator 5.c.1, after technical assistance from UN Women and UNICEF. The National Treasury convened a workshop to finalize both the Standard Chart of Accounts Manual and its Codes. An extended reporting segment was added and approved, and gender will be one of the areas to be reported on, as well as climate change and HIV/AIDS.

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2019



Progress in Kenya is the result of a strong coordination mechanism, leading to substantial overall programmatic impact.

- **Coordination on gender statistics continued to be strengthened through the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee (IAGSTC).** Meetings of IAGSTC resulted in the review and approval of the biannual workplan for the activities implemented by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), including the institutional arrangements and road-map required to undertake a Time Use Survey in 2020. The IAGSTC also provided a space for discussion of the Kenya Census of Population and Housing 2019 which included for the first time the enumeration of intersex population. The key to the success of coordination in Kenya has been the leadership of KNBS and the inclusion of different stakeholders, including line ministries such as the State Department of Gender Affairs (SDGA), CSOs and academic institutions (see Case Study 2, Chapter 2).
- **2. Increasing data production**
 - **County Gender Data Sheets ushered in new laws.** The Council of Governors, in collaboration with the KNBS and UN Women, developed and launched 10 County Gender Data Sheets providing new baseline data to track progress on gender equality at the county level. The data has been used so far in Kitui county to inform the design of its gender policy, an empowerment bill on women's economic empowerment and a bill that will ensure that all development actions by the county take into account gender including resource allocation. The Data Sheets will also allow counties to incorporate considerations in commitment and opportunities to integrate a gender focus when designing the County Integrated Development Plans.

- **New data on women’s access to finance leads to revision of the Agriculture Finance Corporation (AFC) gender policy.** In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the European Union, the baseline survey, covering 24 out of 47 counties, sought to better understand women’s access to agriculture finance through the Governments’ Women Affirmative Access Window (WAAW) project. As a result of this partnership, the AFC revised its gender mainstreaming policy to include enabling workspaces, with lactation rooms in all branches. The survey findings led AFC to pledge to mobilize 1 billion Kenyan Shillings (USD 10 million) to support women farmers in the country.
- **Reprocessing existing data is resulting in new data on women’s economic empowerment to improve SDGs monitoring.** UN Women supported KNBS, in partnership with UNICEF, to reprocess existing data from different sources including Demographic and Household Survey and Integrated Household Budget Survey, which will be used to produce the first-ever Women Empowerment Index and Women Poverty Profiles at National and County Levels and will be used to inform monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective.
- **The Kenya Population and Housing Census was carried out in 2019, from a gender perspective.** At both preparatory and actual enumeration stages, UN Women provided technical assistance on integrating gender within the Census monitoring guide, specifically ensuring gender balance of enumerators, sensitive delivery of trainings, and raising gender issues related to heads-of-household, reproductive health issues and wealth. The Census Volume I report was published by KNBS, detailing population distribution by sex, number of households and average household size, at national, county and sub-county levels. A specific gender dimensions monograph will be produced in 2020.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Student research grants bolster gender data analysis.** Implemented by the University of Nairobi in collaboration with KNBS, SDGA and UN Women, the student research grant seeks to promote access to and use of

gender statistics for analysis related to gender and the SDGs. The 17 student grantees showcased their data-driven analysis of some of Kenya’s most pressing gender equality issues at an ICPD 25 summit side event and at the Kenya Institute of Public Policy, Research and Analysis Annual Regional Conference. Their research further prompted commitments from KNBS to filling data gaps identified through their analysis, such as on femicide.

- **GROOTS Kenya and UN Women team up to encourage civil society organizations to use gender data for advocacy.** To commemorate Africa Statistics Week in November, UN Women in collaboration with GROOTS Kenya convened 35 women’s rights organizations data used for advocacy to accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment. As a result, the organizations will produce and use citizen-generated data to monitor SDG 5 and contribute to Kenya’s Voluntary National Report on the SDGs in 2020.

PLANS FOR 2020*

- Providing technical support to the Inter-Agency Technical Committee on Gender Statistics to strengthen coordination on gender statistics;
- Finalize, publish and launching the Gender Sector Plan in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics;
- Provide technical assistance to integrate gender in the Statistics Act;
- Strengthening the capacities of KNBS to conduct a time-use survey, finalize the women empowerment index and poverty profiles;
- Partnering with UNFPA to produce gender dimensions monograph from the 2019 Census;
- Strengthening engagement with civil society by convening user-producer dialogues;
- Conducting a rapid gender assessment of the impact of COVID-19 and supporting the KNBS to conduct a COVID-19 economic impact survey.

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