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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN MOROCCO

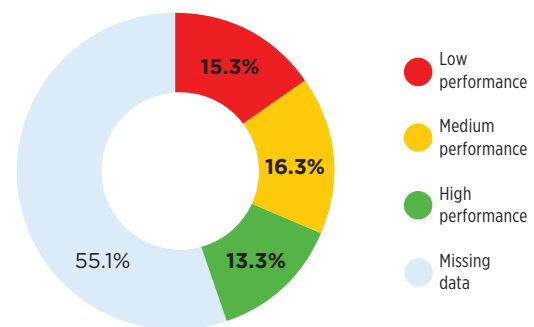
THE ISSUE

A national assessment of gender statistics in Morocco, conducted in 2019, revealed three inter-related challenges:

- Morocco's fragmented statistical system lacks coordination, as several institutions are in charge of producing gender-disaggregated statistics and sensitive data – including the High Commissioner of Planning (HCP), ministries, independent observatories and the national bank.
- Irregular production of gender data, including related to violence against women and girls (VAWG) and women's economic empowerment, are particular challenges that are partly the result of the HCP's lack of financial capacity.

FIGURE 1

How is Morocco doing on gender data?



Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#)

- Gender statistics producers and users lack skills and human resources, while vocational training and capacities-building remain limited.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Efforts include engaging and training to advocate for reform and develop recommendations to improve the legal, political and institutional environment for the production and use of gender statistics.
- **Increasing data production:** Trainings are being delivered to increase the capacities of national and regional statistics producers to generate gender-sensitive statistics, in keeping with international norms and standards. Financial and technical support is being provided for the production and analysis of gender statistics, particularly on violence against women and girls and women's economic empowerment.
- **Improving data use accessibility and use:** User-producer dialogues are being held to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics. The national statistical office is also being supported to produce infographics and user-friendly gender-data-related documents.

RESULTS

Since 2018, UN Women has been supporting the High Commissioner for Planning (HCP) to conduct a detailed national assessment of the production and use of gender statistics at both national and regional levels and support capacity building efforts to improve the production and use of VAW data. Administrative delays led to challenges in implementing activities, prolonging the planning phase. Nonetheless, several key activities took place:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **HCP reaffirmed its commitment to improving coordination on gender data.** Findings from the national assessment conducted in partnership with UN Women and HCP pointed to the critical need to strengthen coordination within the National Statistics System in order to strengthen the production and use of gender data in Morocco. Following a [press conference](#), organized by UN Women and HCP to present the recommendations of the national assessment, the High Commissioner committed to taking critical steps to amend the Statistics Act to include a gender perspective and establishing a

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2019



Progress is due to increased appreciation of the need to improve the system of gender statistics in the country, as well as critical statistical activities such as the violence against women survey.

mechanism to facilitate greater collaboration on gender data with UN Women.

2. Increasing data production

- **Capacities of data producers were strengthened to generate estimates on economic impact of VAW.** In preparation for the VAWG survey, HCP statisticians, executives, engineers and regional managers increased their knowledge of definitions, violence typologies, methodologies for data collection and international ethical principles through a two-day Training-of-Trainers organized from 14-15 January by UN Women in partnership with the Moroccan Association for Women's Rights (AMDF). As a result of the training, trained regional managers later in shared and replicated the training for their surveyors at the regional level. UN Women also supported five HCP statisticians to attend a training at the National University of Ireland (NUI) Centre for Global Women's Studies on methodological approaches for estimating the economic costs of violence against women and girls. Skills attained from the training were applied to integrate in the methodological design of the second national prevalence survey on VAW ways in which to measure the economic impact of VAW.
- **New data on violence against women reveals that violence continues to be widespread.** The national VAW survey, conducted in 2019 with the support of UN Women was the first in the country since 2009. The survey shows that while there is an overall decline of VAW from 63 to 57 per cent in 10 years, economic and sexual violence are on the rise. The findings also reveal that poverty and deprivation are

key causes of violence, and that most women are unaware of the laws in place to protect them. HCP published preliminary results of the national VAWG survey, during the 16 days of activism against gender based violence in November. The data has since been used by over 30 Moroccan civil society organizations to argue for measures to protect women against violence, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (see Case Study 3 in Chapter 2).

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **User-producer dialogues stressed the need to improve access to gender data in Morocco.** UN Women held a user-producer workshop, bringing together over 30 data producers and users from key ministries, civil society organizations to validate the results of the national assessment. The workshop particularly highlighted the need to improve the accessibility and use of gender data. As a result, UN Women will support HCP to develop a user-friendly platform online platform to improve dissemination of gender statistics.

PLANS FOR 2020*

- Providing technical support to advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives for the amendment of the Statistics Bill to support legal reform aiming at improving the coordination and financing of the production, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics;
- Institutionalizing user-producer dialogues to strengthen communication, identify needs, promote knowledge-sharing on gender-sensitive statistics, and build capacity;
- Supporting the HCP in developing of a user-friendly online platform for key gender statistics;
- Conducting a rapid gender assessment to measure the impact of COVID-19;

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