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## IN BRIEF: GLOBAL

# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

## THE ISSUE

The Women Count global policy support project aims to address three-interrelated challenges:

- A weak policy space, and legal and financial environments, are barriers to progress. In many countries, the production of gender statistics is not specified in statistics laws and policies, and as a result the sector is underprioritized and underfunded in national budgets.
- Technical and financial challenges limit the production of gender statistics. Areas such as violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and unpaid care and domestic work, are important to measure but are under-resourced. Also at-risk are emerging areas, such as gender and poverty, gender pay gaps and women's participation in decision-making, where a lot more methodological work is needed.
- Lack of access to data and limited user capacity to make use of gender statistics to inform policies. Where data are available, they are not accessible or shared in user-friendly formats, impeding their analysis or use to inform evidence-based advocacy in decision-making. When data are not used to inform policy and advocacy, this leads to low demand, which in turn reduces the incentive to produce gender statistics.

## WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** In response to these challenges, UN Women developed guidance to integrate gender statistics in National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), in collaboration with PARIS21. Programmatic and technical guidance to pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries to implement gender statistics activities. .
- **Increasing data production:** Global monitoring of the SDGs is improving as a result of finalization methodological work and data compilation of gender-related SDG indicators and partnering with World Bank, ILO and UN Habitat – is generating new data on data on women's economic empowerment.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The Women Count Data Hub was launched and used as a one-stop shop for gender data. Knowledge products, statistical briefs and brochures on gender and the SDGs are being produced and are being widely disseminated; and global advocacy on gender data is improving through UN Women's participation and organization of major global and regional events.
- **Monitoring, learning and evaluation:** The mid-term review and annual review meetings were held providing an opportunity to take stock of progress, lessons learned and inform the future direction of the programme.

## RESULTS

In 2019, progress was driven by increasing demand for UN Women's support to advise on gender statistics activities; strengthening partnerships with ILO, World Bank and UN Habitat to improve data on women's economic empowerment, launching of the Women Count Data Hub as a one stop shop for all gender data. It was also an important year of reflection, as the Mid-term Review of the programme was held to assess progress and inform the future direction of Women Count, which resulted in a new programme end date of December 2021. Results include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **UN Women met increasing demand for technical support to conduct gender statistics activities.** UN Women provided technical support to five pathfinder countries (Colombia, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Jordan) conducted gender statistics assessments, developed detailed strategies. In addition, UN Women provided technical and financial support to three non-pathfinder countries (Egypt, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) to develop national gender statistics projects inspired by the Women Count programme approach. Technical support provided to UN Women's Multi-Country Office in the Caribbean resulted in six countries agreeing to integrate questions about unpaid care and domestic work in upcoming censuses.
- **PARIS21 and UN Women launched a new tool to support countries to assess gender data gaps in a more unified way.** As there have been many different assessments prepared by international organizations and other countries over time, this tool provides a more unified way to support NSOs to assess gender statistics for the purpose of the NSDS. The framework has been used to support the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives and Senegal to conduct national assessments and develop National Strategies for the Development of Gender Statistics.

### 2. Increasing data production

- **Data is increasingly available to monitor how countries are doing on SDG 5.** Building on the completion of the methodological work and successful reclassification of SDG indicators 5.1.1 (whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex), 5.5.1b (women's representation in local governments) and indicator 5.c.1 (gender-responsive budgeting) in 2017-2018, data was collected for the

FIGURE 1

### Measuring Progress in 2019



Progress was driven by strong technical support to all Women Count projects, and by building partnerships with UN-Habitat, ILO and the World Bank to improve SDG monitoring and launch the Women Count Data Hub.

first time and used to inform the UN Secretary-General's 2019 annual SDG report. As a result of data collection efforts, 53 countries have data on legal frameworks (5.1.1); 70 countries have data on gender responsive budgeting (5.c.1); and 130 countries have data on women's representation (5.5.1b).

- **Improved data disaggregation to measure 'leave no one behind'.** In collaboration with the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS), UN Women is using existing household survey data in six pilot countries<sup>1</sup> where the Women Count programme is being implemented to provide more disaggregated gender statistics on key policy priorities such as: poverty eradication; food insecurity and health; education; access to economic resources and decent work for all; and impacts of climate change. Learning from the experiences of the pilot countries, a global toolkit will be formulated, which other countries and the broader statistical community can adapt and implement to meet their specific gender data priorities. This work will contribute to the ISWGHS' proposed actions on Achieving the Full Potential of Household Surveys in the SDG Era during the 50th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in 2020.
- **Partnerships with ILO, World Bank and UN Habitat strengthened data and analysis on women's economic empowerment.** UN Women partnered with ILO and UN Habitat to produce two new global databases on women's labour force participation by marital status (SDG 8) and gender and slums (SDG 11), shedding additional light on key topics and as a result, both organizations will continue to regularly update the data as part of their regular work.

- In collaboration with the World Bank, UN Women updated the Gender Data Navigator assessment framework with SDG questions and implemented it in six of the twelve pathfinder countries (Bangladesh, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda). The Navigator is a searchable inventory of gender-related questions that helps users identify household surveys and censuses which contain gender relevant topics or indicators.

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **The Women Count Gender Data Hub was launched as a one-stop shop for all gender-related SDG indicators.** Following the launch of the [Women Count Data Hub](#), all the gender-related SDGs indicators for which data are available, are accessible to the public through the SDG Indicator Dashboard. Country fact sheets have also been produced and made available on the Hub for over 247 countries and territories, as a key resource to measure country performance on the status of women and girls and assess gender data availability needed to improve SDG monitoring. In the last three months of 2019, over 13,000 users from over 192 countries have visited the Data Hub since its launch, with a total of over 44,400 page views.
- **UN Women and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) launched the 2019 Gender Snapshot: Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.** Released in September, the gender snapshot publication presents the latest available evidence on gender equality across all 17 SDGs, underscoring progress made and action still needed to accelerate progress. To date, the report has been widely disseminated, downloaded over 4,300 times and generating engagement with over 20,000+ users on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, and indirect engagement of 272,500 users on Twitter alone. UN Women and UNSD will aim to produce this publication on an annual basis.
- **UN Women continued to strengthen awareness of the importance of gender data through participating in global advocacy events.** This was achieved through organizing or participating in over 6 global events, regional workshops and trainings to present the Women Count programme and promoting work on gender data at global fora including Commission of the Status of Women, UN Statistical Commission, Tunis Forum on Gender Equality etc.<sup>2</sup>

- **Partnership with Devex yields important insights how media can be used to communicate the impact of gender data.** The result of the partnership is the creation of a new [Focus Area on Gender Data](#) on the Devex site. A focus area elevates Devex’s coverage of an important topic in global development and engages the audience around that topic. This focus area is enabling Devex to produce more content on gender data and further position UN Women as a leader in this field. Devex-produced stories are also cross-featured on the Women Count Data Hub.

### 4. Monitoring, learning and evaluation

- **The first Annual Review Meeting (ARM) and Mid-term Review (MTR) promoted greater learning to inform the future direction of Women Count.** The ARM and MTR, organized by UN Women, brought together all Women Count staff and programme partners to share experiences, lessons learned and identify the necessary programmatic shifts needed to inform the final years of implementation (for more information see Chapter 4).

### PLANS FOR 2020\*

- Providing technical, programmatic and operational support to pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries and regions implementing Women Count projects;
- Collaborating with international agencies, including the UNSD, World Bank, ILO and UNICEF to improve analysis and disaggregation of existing gender data to address the “Leave no one behind” (LNOB) principle of the 2030 Agenda;
- Developing global guidance on conducting COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessments and provide technical support to countries and regions to collect data and produce analysis;
- Developing a COVID19 and gender data dashboard on the Women Count Data Hub;
- Organizing and participating in user-producer events, including: the UN World Data Forum, Generation Equality Forum, Global Conference on LNOB data, among others.

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

<sup>1</sup> Asia and the Pacific: Mongolia and Vietnam; East and Southern Africa: Tanzania; Europe and Central Asia: Georgia; West and Central Africa: Cameroon and Senegal.

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.unwomen.org/news/data-producers-users-and-partners-discuss-how-navigate-politics-open-data>; <https://data.unwomen.org/news/papa-seck-underscores-need-sex-disaggregated-data-apec-workshop>; <https://data.unwomen.org/news/global-leaders-statistics-share-solutions-close-gender-data-gaps-and-achieve-sdgs>