



© UN Women Europe and Central Asia/Rena Effendi

IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

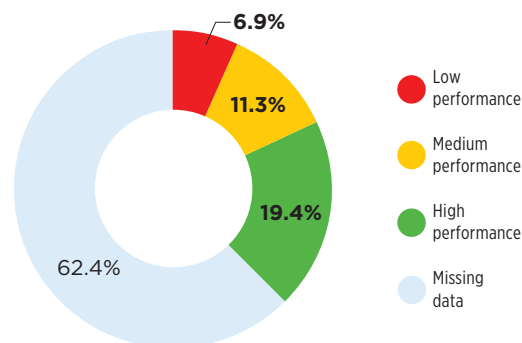
THE ISSUE

A regional assessment on gender statistics, conducted in 2017, in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) revealed three inter-related challenges:

- The low priority given to gender within national statistical systems (NSSs) is evident in organizational structures, budget allocation, and the absence of a strong commitment to gender monitoring and reporting in national statistical strategies and plans. Together, weak policy space, limited resources, and a lack of coordination, mean gender statistics are not adequately mainstreamed in statistical production.
- Technical challenges limit the effective and efficient production of gender statistics. Although data production is relatively strong in the ECA region, ongoing issues related to data sensitivity and transparency result in data either not being collected or not being released.
- Ineffective use of gender statistics is the most problematic issue in the region. The demand for support to improve dissemination, communication and use of data seems to outweigh the supply of funding and technical assistance.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Regional coordination is being improved, working with organizations such as the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECE) and participating in inter-agency mechanisms such as the Issue-Based Coalition on Data for the SDGs and countries are supported to identify
- **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of national statistical systems are being strengthened and quality data on violence against women and unpaid care work is being produced to improve SDG monitoring.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Capacities of users are being strengthened to conduct gender data analysis and to improve how gender data are communicated through training and accessibility of gender statistics to all users is increased through better reporting.

FIGURE 1**How is Europe doing on gender data?**

Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#). Note: Central Asian countries are not included in this calculation.

and address institutional, legal and financial constraints to gender mainstreaming in their national statistical systems and to establish an efficient monitoring and evaluation system for the SDGs.

RESULTS

Building on the progress achieved 2018, regional coordination continues to be strengthened as a result of UN Women's participation in inter-agency mechanisms and strong partnership with UNECE; the technical capacities of data producers in over 5 countries (Albania, Georgia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) are being strengthened to integrate gender in national planning and conduct time use and violence against women surveys, and capacities of users are being strengthened to invest in gender data literacy to improve the way gender data are communicated. Key results in 2019 include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender is mainstreamed in National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDS) in Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan.** In 2019, UN Women supported Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to integrate gender in their NSDS, forms the basis for national commitment of these countries not only to improve gender statistics production and use, but also to integrate the gender perspective into user-producers dialogue and to ensure data driven policies. As a member of the UN SDG Data Group, UN Women actively revised Uzbekistan's first-ever NSDS 2020–2025, which sets its strategic direction in gender statistics, including priorities for strengthening the coordination, production and use of gender data, demonstrating the importance of regional coordination.
- **Regional monitoring of the SDGs is better coordinated, resulting in gender statistics being prioritized in country level UN Support.** Through participation in the Issue-Based Coalition on Data for the SDGs (IBC-SDGs Data), UN Women and four other UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNCTAD, UNESCO) developed a guidance/recommendation paper for UN Country Teams on how to integrate SDG 17.8 (on strengthening national capacities to generate data/statistics) into cooperation frameworks between governments and UN agencies. Results of the national gender statistics assessments led by UN Women were used to inform the development of the guidance note. The guidance will strengthen UN Country Teams' capacities to integrate results of national gender statistics assessments data in the new UN Development Assistance Framework Process in 2020. The guidance will be piloted in Albania and Kazakhstan. Additionally, UN Women lead the design of the new Regional UN Coordination Group on Data and

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2019



Significant progress was made in Europe and Central Asia as a result of capacity-building on time use and SDG monitoring, regional coordination on gender statistics and strong country support.

Statistics that will replace the IBC-SDGs in 2020, to promote better coherence and system wide action on data.

2. Increasing data production

- **Skills of over 40 data producers in 13 countries were strengthened to better measure women's unpaid care.** UN Women organized a regional workshop on time-use surveys, held in Istanbul in November, was attended by 40 representatives of NSOs and National Women's Machineries from 13 countries to strengthen national capacity to produce time use statistics on unpaid domestic and care work and enhance monitoring and reporting of relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Building on the workshop, UN Women will now support Georgia and Armenia to conduct time-use surveys in 2020–21 and assist the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan to develop policy briefs based on time-use statistics.
- **UN Women and UNICEF partnered to fill gender data gaps in Kosovo.** UN Women in partnership with UNICEF supported the Kosovo Agency of Statistics to implement the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS6), to improve the availability of sex-disaggregated data, including gender related SDGs indicators. Once completed in 2020, for the first time statistically sound and internationally comparable data for the main social indicators for women, children and vulnerable and marginalized groups of population in Kosovo will be available.
- **Gender data production is increasing in 5 countries to monitor the SDGs.** As a result of UN Women's support, Albania, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Belarus produced and published over 50 per cent of SDG gender-specific indicators, more than any other

region. UN Women is also supporting Albania and Georgia's NSOs to pilot the IAEG-SDGs recommendations on data disaggregation.

- **National Statistics Offices pledged greater cooperation to improve SDGs monitoring.** UN Women in partnership with Georgia's NSO (GEOSTAT) organized a regional conference on gender statistics in July, that brought together over 60 representatives of NSOs, policy makers and civil society, to share the best practices and experiences on improving data and evidence for gender policies. A concrete outcome of the workshop, Director-Generals of NSOs of 7 countries issued a joint statement supporting the development of a national statistical system to report on the implementation of Agenda 2030, and are open to greater cooperation among their national statistics agencies. This will continue to inform UN Women's support to the region to strengthen coordination between NSOs.
- **Kyrgyzstan's NSO committed to improving communicating gender data as a result of UN Women-led training.** As a result of a three-day national workshop (29 November – 1 December), organized by UN Women and the National Statistical Committee, 21 statisticians improved their skills to communicate and present gender statistics in a user-friendly way targeting needs of different users groups. To promote continuous learning, a mentoring and coaching plan were developed for at least five statisticians involved in producing and disseminating gender-related data. UN Women will also offer support to the NSO to develop a media action plan on gender statistics. This initiative will be further documented for possible replication in other countries.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Statisticians called for gender data to be widely used to realize the SDGs.** In cooperation with the UNECE and the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland, UN Women co-organized a Workshop on Gender Statistics: Finding and Filling Gaps in Gender Statistics for SDG Monitoring, held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, in 13-14 May 2019, where over 30 participants from NSOs and UN agencies in 13 countries gained new skills in assessing the needs for gender statistics. The workshop underscored the crucial need for regular, two-way, targeted communication tailored specifically with policymakers to improve the availability and use of gender statistics. UN Women aims to fulfill this need through facilitating more user-producer dialogues in the region.

- **Increasing commitment to improving statistical literacy in the region.** As a member of the UNECE Task Force on Communicating Gender Statistics, UN Women is supporting the development of a guidance note on "Maintaining the impartiality when communicating gender statistics." As a result of UN Women's engagement in this process, it was agreed that UN Women will lead a session on statistical literacy for the 2020 Work Session providing an important opportunity to showcase support to countries.
- **Data Hackathon encouraged Georgian youth to actively raised awareness on gender data.** UN Women organized a Data Hackathon on the sidelines of the Regional Conference on Gender Statistics in July in Tbilisi, Georgia. The winners of the Hackathon developed advocacy tools aimed at presenting gender data in an innovative manner to help raise awareness on issues such as child marriage, distribution of housework in the family, and women's activity in rural areas.
- **UN Women partnered with American University in Central Asia to improve statistical literacy of media students in the Kyrgyz Republic.** This partnership resulted from UN Women's participation at DataCon 2019 -the first Central Asian regional conference on open data, organized by the CSO School of Data and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in May 2019. UN Women, AUCA and the NSO of the Kyrgyz Republic will integrate a gender data training into journalism curriculum, piloting an e-learning course on gender data use for media informed by the Gender Statistics Curriculum developed by SIAP.

PLANS FOR 2020*

- Conducting regional gender assessment on the impact of COVID-19;
- Providing technical support to Georgia and Albania to conduct time-use surveys;
- Partnering with regional coordination mechanisms on data for the SDGs, namely the UNECE Steering Committee on Gender Statistics, to organize joint events and develop guidance notes on communicating gender statistics.
- Supporting non-pathfinder countries to modernize their access and dissemination of gender statistics through tools such as data portals, e-publications, social media infographics, etc.

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