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IN BRIEF:

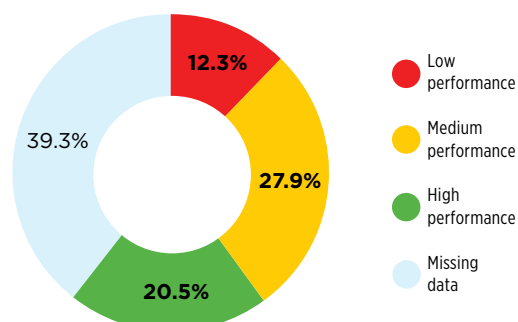
MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN COLOMBIA

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics conducted in 2019 in Colombia revealed three interrelated 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 in 2020?



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 Council for Women’s Equality (CPEM) is improving. A coordination mechanism will also be established to facilitate exchanges between key actors in the NSS to better mainstream gender in national policies and legal frameworks.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of DANE are being strengthened and quality data on time-use, political participation and security are 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 are being produced and widely disseminated to track progress towards gender equality and inform public policies, as a part of broader and substantive support to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of key public policies.

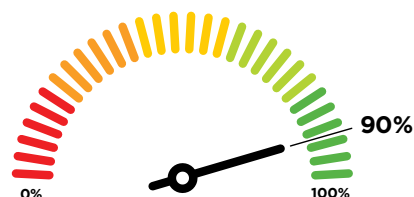
RESULTS

As a response to the pandemic, UN Women in Colombia conducted a rapid gender assessment (RGA) on the impacts of COVID-19 on women and men. Additionally, UN Women produced the first Country Gender Equality Profile as a key input to inform the National Gender Policy. Support in 2020 also focused on institutionalizing coordination mechanisms within the NSS and through the National Colombian Women’s Observatory, producing gender-sensitive indicators to effectively measure the SDGs, and training NSS staff to produce and analyze gender data. Key results in 2020 include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **New Technical Advisory Committee paves the way to institutionalize a coordination mechanism on gender statistics.** UN Women supported DANE, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to institutionalize a gender and intersectional approach in the NSS. This

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2020



Significant progress was achieved as a result of building strong partnerships with the NSO and the gender machinery, institutionalizing coordination mechanisms within the NSS, by producing gender-sensitive SDG indicators and by training NSS staff to produce and analyse gender data.

is being further promoted through a newly created network of ‘gender champions’, consisting of experts with extensive knowledge on gender and intersectionality, to accompany the six specialized subgroups that comprise the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Statistical System (CASEN).

2. Increasing data production

- **Significant progress was achieved on producing data for gender-related SDGs.** UN Women, in partnership with ECLAC and the World Bank, supported DANE and CPEM in strengthening the Colombian Women’s Observatory to effectively measure the SDGs, by defining and producing the first national set of 99 gender-sensitive indicators. In addition, the latest DANE barometer – a tool to measure progress on SDG indicators – reflects significant improvement on gender equality.
- **The RGA informed socioeconomic policy responses on the impact of COVID-19 on women and men, including justifying a social-welfare programme.** In partnership with CPEM, UN Women conducted an RGA in November 2020 that revealed that most Colombians saw decreased income, lost jobs and lost businesses amid the pandemic, with women faring worse than men. The findings helped justify and extend existing social welfare programmes – such as the Formal Employment Support Programme, which offers differential subsidies (50% for women versus 40% for men) and the Public Employment Service, which has placed 300,000 women in formal employment during the pandemic, while underlining the need to support women’s

entrepreneurship and formalization. The findings also contributed to structuring a pilot project for Women's Entrepreneurship with prioritized funding from the national tax system for projects that reach rural women. Building on the success of the RGA, UN Women, in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, is developing a second RGA in 2021 focused on the needs of people with disabilities.

- **Nearly 50 data users and producers now have detailed knowledge of how to better produce, analyze and use gender statistics.** DANE and CPEM, with support from UN Women and ECLAC, conducted an intensive 60-hour training on producing gender indicators and gender statistics. Between November and December 2020 20 data producers and 29 data users increased their ability to produce, analyze and use gender statistics, and designed individual strategies for how to integrate gender and intersectional approaches in their work. The National Planning Department (DPN), DANE and two local Women's Secretariats have also started sensitizing their peers on the importance of a gender-sensitive approach to data. The most active participants in the first edition of the training will be selected as gender champions to continue incorporating gender and intersectional approaches within the CASEN. This training will be replicated in 2021 after positive feedback from this first round.
- **Gender dimensions were strengthened in key statistical projects in Colombia.** UN Women promoted the inclusion of a gender perspective in key statistical projects of the NSS, including the Economic Census and the Multipurpose Cadaster. Following initial workshops in 2019, a methodological guide was produced in 2020 on the "Gender perspective in field interventions for the Multipurpose Cadaster". The publication guides the collection and production of data on access, tenure and use of land to inform policymakers about the barriers to owning land faced by women in Colombia. Importantly, the incorporation of a gender perspective is one of the main commitments made by the Government of Colombia in the Peace Accord with the FARC guerrilla group on rural reform.
- **Joint analysis of time-use data increased DANE's capacities and enabled the early release of partial time use survey results.** UN Women supported DANE in preparing two surveys, the time use survey and the second Coexistence and Citizen Security Survey. During the analysis, UN Women supported

DANE to strength staff capacities to integrate a gender perspective in survey design and results analysis to inform future surveys. An analysis of data from the time-use survey (2016/2017) resulted in a [special publication](#) in 2020, that is now available to inform decision-making. The analysis informed the [third National Survey on Time-Use](#), for which data collection began in August 2020. Given the need for information during the most critical months of the COVID-19 pandemic, DANE developed a preliminary bulletin with partial results that revealed that women were shouldering more than twice as many hours of unpaid work as men (8 hours vs. 3).

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Colombia produces and launches the country's first Gender Equality Profile, with significant media interest.** *Women and Men: Gender Gaps in Colombia*, the country's first gender statistical profile was published by DANE, CPEM and UN Women in November 2020 at an event opened by Vice-President Martha Lucía Ramírez – a clear demonstration of the strong and high-level support of the national Government. The launch was livestreamed on Facebook, garnering more than 25,000 views and 1,239 interactions. The report had 87,300 downloads within a month of its release. To amplify the dissemination of the launch event, as well as the results of the publication, an alliance was established with the national newspaper *El Espectador*. Also, the event was covered in at least 47 national, regional, and local media reports, as a result of strong media outreach and the buy-in of the event moderator, a leading journalist.
- **Four partnerships enabled the production and dissemination of 11 knowledge products.** UN Women consolidated four key strategic partnerships with DANE, CPEM, ECLAC, and the University of Nariño to promote knowledge-sharing and methodologies to strengthen the NSS and monitor the SDGs. The partnerships resulted in 11 knowledge products to enhance the accessibility and use of gender statistics, including three books, four statistical newsletters and four infographics to promote the analysis and use of data from a gender-sensitive and intersectional perspective. The paper "[Time for care: inequality figures](#)" was launched in July at an event with 170 participants. The results of several of these knowledge products are expected to inform the development of the National Care Policy and the National Gender Policy, both of which will be finalized in 2021.

- **UN Women strengthened five Women’s Observatories to increase data availability and improve monitoring.** The Women’s observatories are a mechanism that facilitates the access, analysis and use of gender statistics to monitor national and subnational commitments to gender equality. UN Women’s partnership with the network of observatories at the national and subnational level increased coordination on gender affairs across Colombia. As an example, the subnational observatory in Nariño produced and used infographics and figures amid the COVID-19 pandemic, launched a radio show and a public participation forum, and supported applied research on gender statistics, all with the goal to encourage dialogue and evidence-based decision-making on gender equality.

PLANS FOR 2021*

- Implementing the second training on “gender statistics and indicators”;
- Supporting data production, the global and national report on SDG indicators 5.1.1 and 5.4.1, and providing technical assistance for the preparation of Colombia’s third Voluntary National Review on the SDGs;

- Developing interoperable indicators for the Integrated Information System on Gender Violence;
- Conducting a second dedicated RGA on the characteristics and needs of the people with disabilities;
- Developing the operational framework of the Gender Atlas for the geospatial analysis of issues such as economic empowerment and care work;
- Providing guidance on the design of the new national gender policy and the first district care system in Bogotá as well as the national evaluation system led by the National Planning Department;
- Producing knowledge products to guide decision-making, including a Situational analysis of people with disabilities, and an analysis of the Quality-of-Life National Survey from a gender perspective;
- Continuing the institutionalization of gender statistics within the UN and UN Women in Colombia by incorporating gender statistics as a core function and in new projects and programmes.

* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.