



2020

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN JORDAN

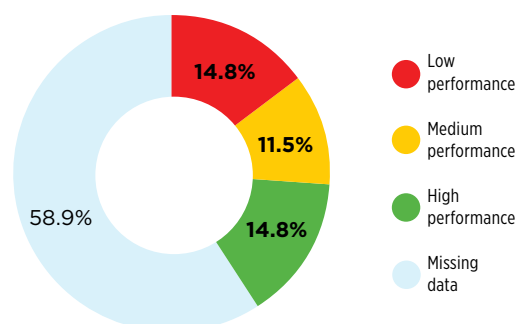
THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics in Jordan was conducted in 2019, revealing three interrelated challenges:

- Gender statistics have not been included in Jordan's national statistics legislation, or in a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). There is a lack of coordination between government institutions on statistical production, in particular when it comes to gender statistics and sex- and age-disaggregated data.
- There is also limited institutional capacity for production, research and training on gender statistics in both the national statistics office as well as line ministries. Jordan faces challenges in technically demanding areas such as measuring time-use on unpaid care and domestic work, and costing a gender-based violence survey.

FIGURE 1

How is Jordan doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#).

- There is limited analysis of statistical data, limited use of statistics by most policymakers and decision-makers and there are limited means used to disseminate data in a timely way.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Technical assistance is being provided to national stakeholders on gender statistics to ensure that data and analysis are integrated in planning documents (including the NSDS).
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the Department of Statistics (DOS) will be strengthened to map gender-related SDG indicators and analyze data on women's economic empowerment.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Gender statistics knowledge products are being produced and disseminated, including a country gender equality profile, while training is being organized for subnational stakeholders on how to use and disseminate gender statistics data.

RESULTS

In response to COVID-19, project activities have been adjusted and UN Women was able to pivot quickly to produce two key rapid gender assessments (RGAs) to inform decision-makers' responses as well as guidance on integrating an intersectional approach in RGAs. Support has included a gender review of numerous surveys and impact assessments planned by humanitarian and development partners. Additional work focused on institutionalizing gender statistics across the DOS through the established Committee and by preparing training material. Key results in 2020 include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **A National Gender Mainstreaming Policy and a National Strategy for Women were endorsed with language supporting the institutionalization of sex-disaggregated data collection.** The Gender Mainstreaming Policy seeks to ensure that all information, whether programmatic or institutional, can be analyzed from a gender perspective and can inform decision-making, planning, implementation, and reporting processes. Moreover, Women Count efforts supported the inclusion of an objective on gender statistics and SDG gender-related indicator data collection within the National Strategy for Women (NSW).

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2020



Some progress has been achieved as a result of the RGA and successfully integrating gender in the NSDS. Preparations for the country's first time use survey also took place.

- **A new Institutional Capacity-Development Committee was established to build gender mainstreaming infrastructure in DOS.** As a follow-up to the commitment of the Government of Jordan to improve gender statistics in 2019, UN Women supported DOS in establishing an Institutional Capacity-Development (ICD) Committee to build individual and institutional capacities, which has led to the creation of a national coordination mechanism defined as a critical institution for gender mainstreaming by DOS. The ICD Committee seeks to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment tools and approaches in policies and planning across DOS. At the institutional level, a Memorandum of Understanding is being negotiated with DOS for the creation of a formal coordination mechanism on gender statistics in Jordan – a key milestone expected to pave the way for highlighting gender data in the next NSDS. UN Women provided technical support to the Committee and held an introductory workshop in 2020, with the participation of 18 committee members representing the different units and departments within DOS. The workshop ensured ministry-wide understanding of the importance of developing gender statistics capacities.
- **An intersectional approach is now reflected in key strategic documents.** UN Women Jordan has conducted a gender-based review of numerous surveys and impact assessments planned by humanitarian and development partners. It also produced Guidance on the integration of gender and intersectionality in COVID-19 rapid assessments in 2020, coupled with training on integrating an intersectionality lens in

methodological approaches, from survey design to analysis. As a result, an intersectional approach has been included in the UN Socio-Economic Framework for the COVID-19 Response in Jordan, which acknowledges gender equality as an accelerator for recovery, as well as in the addendum to the NSW, which recommends adaptations to strategic outcomes and outputs to account for gendered and intersectional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Increasing data production

- **New gender data improved programming to reach vulnerable women impacted by COVID-19.** To strengthen the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women undertook a rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable women. The assessment surveyed 847 Syrian refugees and Jordanians living in refugee camps or remote communities. One of the key findings was that 78% of women who did not have enough money to meet their food needs for two days have had to borrow money or goods from other households. Moreover, 62% of already vulnerable women indicated feeling at increased risk of physical or psychological violence because of the pandemic. As a result of these findings, UN Women transitioned its humanitarian programming towards cash assistance, online dissemination of reliable and accurate health information and remote gender-based violence services. The RGA results were widely disseminated, being referenced or discussed, in key policymaking fora, such as the Inter-ministerial Committee for Women, and the Humanitarian Development Partners Forum.
- **A national RGA provided insights on gender-related effects of COVID-19, and is improving the reporting of domestic violence.** The national survey of 1,300 respondents was conducted in May 2020 by the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, with support from UN Women, and at the request of the Economic and Social Council, which advises the Government on policy matters. The analysis of the socioeconomic and health effects of COVID-19 on women and men highlighted the importance of strengthening women's health and prenatal care and the need for adequate measures to address violence against women. The findings were included in the UN's Socio-Economic Framework (SEF) that served as a roadmap to support Jordan's response to COVID-19.

- **Regional RGA data on violence against women are being considered by relevant ministries.** Following the national RGA, UN Women Jordan collected 2,394 responses for a regional RGA on Violence Against Women (VAW) across nine Arab States countries, including Jordan, to capture regional impacts. Findings include a high number of respondents who reported personally knowing someone who had experienced domestic violence (55%) and online violence (43%) against women and girls since the outbreak. The Ministry of Social Development and the National Council for Family Affairs have both noted the data on violence against women (from both the national and regional RGA).
- **A survey on COVID-19 impacts for women-led small and medium-sized businesses will inform support measures.** In June 2020, UN Women, in partnership with Business and Professional Women Amman, assessed the impact of COVID-19 on women-owned small and medium-sized businesses, with 188 respondents. The collected data will be used to provide support to women-owned and women-led businesses and business that cater to women's needs that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 in 2021, implemented through a collaboration between UN Women and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Leave No One Behind principles using gender data have been prominently included in Jordan's Common Country Assessment.** The Common Country Assessment (CCA) prepared by the UN Country Team with the support of UN Women and other agencies, is an analysis of Jordan's current development status, to identify trends, priorities and progress towards the SDGs. The updated CCA addresses gender, both as a cross-cutting and stand-alone issue. UN Women has also ensured that data on the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in camp and non-camp settings informed the analysis in the CCA. The results are being used for the UN's 5-year strategic framework (UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework) in Jordan. UN Women successfully integrated the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle, the preparation of an SDG data repository and the identification of future areas of action. For example, the creation of a National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Register is being highlighted as a key initiative to strengthen Jordan's

efforts to improve gender statistics at the national and subnational level.

- **RGA findings launched through an online event with key decision-makers are being used to update the NSW in Jordan.** An online launch event for both the national and regional RGA findings was held in January 2021 to engage participants in deeper discussions through more interactive formats. In light of the findings, the Government of Jordan recognized the need to update the NSW, which was launched on 8 March 2020, just before the pandemic. The Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) worked with UN Women to develop an Addendum in June and July of 2020, which was later published as part of the NSW, using raw data from the national RGA. The JNCW has since also been working with UN Women to align the Government's Executive Programme for 2021–2024, which will be published in 2021, with the NSW.

PLANS FOR 2021*

- Continuing providing support to the ICD Committee at DOS to improve gender statistics in Jordan, including through the rollout of trainings;
- Conducting training on gender statistics, time use surveys and economic indicators;
- Supporting the JNCW in conducting a study on costing violence against women, in partnership with UNFPA;
- Implementing an inter-agency Rapid Impact Assessment of COVID-19, in partnership with ILO and UNFPA;
- Developing a Country Gender Equality Profile (GCEP).

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