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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN KENYA

THE ISSUE

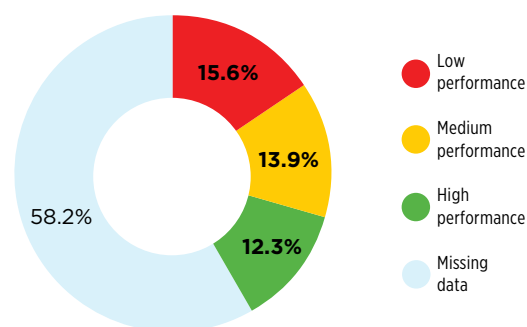
A national assessment on gender statistics in Kenya, conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Lack of trust, siloed data communities and limited push for data-driven decision-making have hampered the generation of gender statistics in Kenya.
- Very few data are disaggregated by sex, age, wealth quintile or region, among others, which undermines the extent to which data can inform the implementation and monitoring of gender-related SDGs.
- Insufficient training and awareness are the main factors behind inadequate demand for and use of gender statistics in Kenya.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination within the national statistics system (NSS) is being improved through the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics and ministries, departments and agencies. Selected counties will be supported to systematically integrate gender statistics into national and county planning documents.

FIGURE 1
How is Kenya doing on gender data in 2020?

Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#)

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) are being strengthened and quality data on unpaid care work, access to decent work and census data is being produced to improve SDG monitoring. Existing data will be reprocessed to produce gender-related SDG indicators, and routine data collection tools will be reviewed and improved.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** County gender data sheets, a women’s empowerment index and other gender statistics knowledge products have been developed and disseminated. Research grants have bolstered student research on gender data and civil society organizations (CSOs) are being supported to engage in gender statistics dialogues with data producers.

RESULTS

To respond to COVID-19-related challenges, the programme conducted a rapid gender assessment (RGA) to inform emergency responses on COVID-19. RGA data on gender-based violence is being cited by government policymakers. Building on the partnerships strengthened in 2019, results in 2020 focused on supporting KNBS to produce its gender strategies, plans and reports; preparing the time use survey; and fostering partnerships with academia and civil society. Key results in 2020 include:

Creating an enabling environment

- **The first *Gender Sector Statistics Plan (GSSP)* was approved to strengthen gender statistics in Kenya’s NSS.** The GSSP, launched in 2020, is geared towards addressing the data gaps between what is currently produced/available and the data that is required to inform policy, advocacy, accountability, and other priority development issues. UN Women supported KNBS in its efforts to produce quality and relevant gender statistics through the GSSP, which is part of the Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KSDS). The GSSP seeks to strengthen Kenya’s capacity in gender statistics and guide the coordination of the Kenyan NSS particularly on achieving the SDGs and implementing the third Medium-Term Plan (MTP III). It aims to facilitate evidence-based policy formulation, planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation for the national strategy in the period 2019–2023.
- **Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee (IAGSTC) facilitated the continuous improvement of gender statistics.** The IAGSTC is pivotal for coordination and consultation on gender statistics in Kenya. During its two meetings held in 2020, the Committee consulted and validated methodological approaches for data production, such as for the time use survey that was postponed to 2021. IAGSTC’s continuous involvement in implementation and monitoring of the project activities resulted in increased ownership and accountability for achieved results.

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2020



Progress in Kenya is the result of a strong coordination mechanism, leading to strong overall programmatic impact, including a new Gender Sector Statistics Plan, Women’s Empowerment Index, tracking of gender-related spending, and preparations for the country’s first time use survey.

2. Increasing data production

- **Kenya’s COVID-19 rapid gender assessment provided key data to guide the formulation of gender-sensitive, evidence-based policy responses.** UN Women, in partnership with the Government of Kenya, UNFPA, OXFAM and CARE, conducted the survey in August-September 2020 to understand the gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls in Kenya. The data were analyzed by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research (KIPPRA) and published in a report in December. The RGA provided policy and decision-makers with reliable evidence and information to design appropriate interventions to address the needs of the population and to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. The survey included questions about gender-based violence, with 35% of respondents citing sexual violence as the most prevalent form during the pandemic, followed by child marriage (25%) and physical violence (17%). Both the Minister of Gender and the Council of Governors (COG) have since cited this data in speeches. A popular version of the report was also produced, filled with visually appealing infographics to increase uptake.
- **New tools and reports strengthened Kenya’s ability to monitor gender-related SDGs.** UN Women supported KNBS to produce new or updated tools to monitor women’s empowerment, violence against women, and women’s multidimensional poverty. The Women Empowerment Index (WEI), prepared in partnership with KNBS and UNICEF, is a major milestone as the first comprehensive and systematic measure of women’s and girls’ empowerment in Kenya. It will enable KNBS to report on women’s empowerment

targets under SDG 5. After noting that the WEI's violence against women data were sourced from the 2014 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), technical and financial resources have since been put in place by UN Women for a gender-based violence module of the upcoming 2021 KDHS to be reviewed, followed by a full-fledged violence against women survey from 2023 onwards. Meanwhile, the new *Comprehensive Poverty Report* provided a baseline for measuring multidimensional poverty for women and will enable Kenya to adequately report on SDG 1.2.

- **Gender allocation and spending will be easier to track.** With UN Women's technical and financial support, the National Treasury approved proposals on including gender, children and climate change programmes among those tracked for allocations and expenditures in the updated Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA), which were peer-reviewed by the International Monetary Fund in 2019. In 2020, the National Treasury approved the capacity development and transition plan to the new SCOA. A training of trainers was also carried out. This will enable Kenya to report on SDG indicator 5.c.1.¹
- **Gender indicators adopted by KNBS inform policy-making and SDG monitoring.** Following the UN Women-supported Kenya Population and Housing Census conducted by KNBS in 2019, KNBS adopted new indicators that reflect a selected SDG minimum set of gender indicators as well as the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa (MSGIA) in 2020. The new gender indicators will fuel the production of a Gender Statistics Monograph as part of the Census analysis in 2021.
- **The 2020 Kenya Economic Survey now includes the first-ever chapter on gender equality.** This was achieved through UN Women's support and multisectoral collaboration. The chapter provides new data on gender and women's economic empowerment, political leadership and social protection, which can be used to improve advocacy and influence policymaking. Moreover, the 2021 Economic survey will also include a gender chapter, a further demonstration of KNBS's commitment to showcasing gender data.
- **More than 100 data users and KNBS field personnel/enumerators now know effective tools and methodologies to conduct time-use surveys and how to write better analytical reports.** Ahead of the time-use

survey to be rolled out in 2021, UN Women supported KNBS in preparing tools and methodologies through a training on data collection according to international standards, including on the International Classification on Time Use Surveys (ICATUS). KNBS staff also learned how to write Census-based analytical reports at a dedicated workshop. KNBS's increased capacities enabled two pilot surveys to be designed. The surveys will enable more accurate measurement of women's contribution to the economy and help Kenya develop policies that reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Excelling student grantees were selected to join prestigious programmes at KIPPRA and the University of Iceland (UoI) and a research compendium is being produced to showcase key policy recommendations.** Following the 2019 Women Count collaboration with the University of Nairobi (UoN), two grantees were selected to join the Young Professionals Programme, KIPPRA's flagship programme for young researchers. KIPPRA will mentor the grantees for one year to enhance their technical competence in evidence-based policy processes, introduce economic analysis tools, and build research capabilities. Additionally, two grantees were nominated to join the UoI's Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (GEST), which promotes research on gender quality and women's empowerment in fragile and middle-income countries. UN Women also extended the partnership with the UoN to produce a compendium of 15 peer-reviewed student gender research papers, showcasing their data and policy recommendations (publication forthcoming).
- **UN Women's partnership with GROOTS Kenya expanded to boost the dissemination of gender statistics.** Building on the partnership initiated in 2019, UN Women expanded its collaboration with GROOTS Kenya through a partnership agreement in 2020, to increase dissemination of gender data, including the WEI, the Comprehensive Poverty Report, and the COVID-19 RGA. The dissemination activities were able to reach multiple stakeholders, such as academics, CSOs, government policymakers, including County Gender Directors. This partnership has helped drive demand for the use of gender statistics in county annual plans, budgets and implementation reports by county and sectoral departments. The

¹ Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

social media campaign was able to generate 147 million impressions while receiving 3,595 engagements from 364 participants on Twitter. Facebook engagement reached 7,596 people. The Facebook statistics were disaggregated by gender and age, and the most engaged audience was aged 25-34 years, with 56.6% of those reached being men.

- **The launch of the WEIs garnered significant and positive media and social media coverage.** Realized in collaboration with strategic partners and stakeholders, key messages and WEI data were turned into a variety of information and communication products that were customized and repackaged – such as infographics and a popular version for diverse audiences, including media, industry actors and the general public. Several articles were published in mainstream media, including an editorial in a leading regional news outlet. Social media were actively used, before, during and post-launch. As of March 2021, social media posts about the WEI generated 46,808 impressions and 683 engagements according to Country Office analytics. The production of user-friendly information packs from the gender data products was key, as was the strategic dissemination of these products to and by pre-identified stakeholders. These included the Gender Sector Working Group, KNBS, UNICEF, the State Department for Gender, the Council of Governors, county

governments, the National Gender and Equality Commission, the SDG Forum and GROOTS Kenya. Stakeholder involvement in development, planning and dissemination also ensured their ownership.

PLANS FOR 2021*

- Continue support to the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee in the provision of oversight during the implementation of Women Count in Kenya.
- Provide technical assistance to KNBS, including on the Kenya Statistics Act Regulation, metadata sheets for 34 SDG indicators, and the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2021.
- Implement the time use survey.
- Develop an inequality index to complement the Census 2019 analytical reports, in partnership with UNICEF.
- Publish the University of Nairobi compendium of student research papers.
- Disseminate and conduct advocacy on gender data knowledge products, in partnership with GROOTS Kenya.

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