



2020

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IN BRIEF:

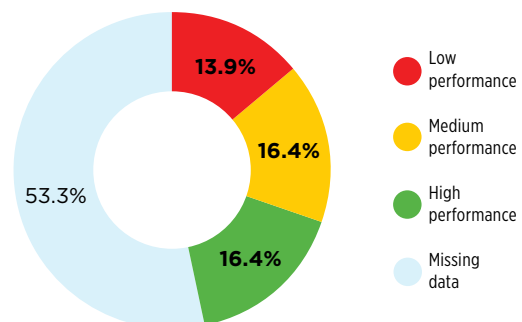
MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN MOROCCO

THE ISSUE

A national assessment of gender statistics in Morocco, conducted in 2019, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Morocco’s fragmented statistical system lacks coordination, as several institutions are in charge of producing gender-disaggregated statistics and sensitive data – including the High Commission for Planning (HCP), ministries, independent observatories and the national bank.
- Irregular production of gender data, including related to violence against women and girls and women’s economic empowerment, are challenges that are partly the result of the HCP’s lack of financial capacity.

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



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

- Gender statistics producers and users lack skills and human resources, while vocational training and capacity-building remains limited.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Efforts include engaging stakeholders and training to advocate for reform, and developing recommendations to improve the legal, political, and institutional environment for the production and use of gender statistics.
- **Increasing data production:** Training is being delivered to increase the capacities of national and regional statistics producers to generate gender-sensitive statistics, in keeping with international norms and standards. Financial and technical support is being provided for the production and analysis of gender statistics, particularly on violence against women and girls and women’s economic empowerment.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** User-producer dialogues are being held to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics. The national statistical office is also being supported to produce infographics and user-friendly gender-data-related documents.

RESULTS

As a response to COVID-19, the activities planned in Morocco were restructured so that in-person trainings were held virtually, and the gendered impacts of COVID-19 were measured through three surveys to inform Morocco’s emergency responses. Furthermore, UN Women focused its support to HCP on advancing coordination mechanisms, including making significant progress on amending the Statistics Bill, reporting and disseminating survey results on violence against women, as well as the first-ever violence against women costing estimates. Key results in 2020 include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **A legal framework in Morocco’s Statistics Bill was revised to pave the way for strengthened governance of gender statistics.** In a national assessment on gender statistics conducted in 2019, UN Women and HCP highlighted the need to revise Morocco’s 1968-dated Statistics Bill to reform the governance of the existing coordination mechanism, and add a gender perspective. In 2020, UN Women drafted a gender-sensitive amendment to draft law N. 109-14, reflecting international best practices on the

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2020



Progress is due to increased appreciation of the need to improve systems, including through a draft amendment of the country’s Statistics Bill, which now includes gender statistics, as well as critical statistical activities, such as the three COVID-19 surveys and the first-ever costing estimates of violence against women.

integration of gender in the NSS and advocated for its approval by HCP. The revised legal framework for gender statistics is expected to be included in the draft Statistics Bill, whose approval is currently on hold due to COVID-19 priorities. Once passed, the bill will reform the governance of gender statistics, a move that will be ground-breaking for the promotion of gender statistics in Morocco.

- **UN Women formed a partnership with the European Union (EU) to jointly strengthen gender statistics in Morocco.** This partnership, worth EUR 700,000 (USD 835,275) to be initiated in 2021, allows the progress achieved under the Women Count project to be furthered, notably by developing gender analyses of existing surveys, producing gender-sensitive relevant indicators and statistics, as well as by facilitating the use and dissemination of gender statistics.

2. Increasing data production

- **New gender data was generated to inform Morocco’s emergency responses to COVID-19.** UN Women supported the implementation of three rapid gender assessment (RGAs) in Morocco. HCP was supported in implementing two surveys measuring the gendered impact of the pandemic on Moroccan households during lockdown and the social, economic and psychological effects of the pandemic post-lockdown between April and June of 2020. UN Women Morocco also took part in an Arab State regional survey and report that assessed the effects of the pandemic on gender equality and violence against women. Subsequently, UN Women, in partnership

with UNICEF, WHO, FAO, UNFPA and UNDP, started designing a new comprehensive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in Morocco, that will cover a much larger sample (10,000 households). The new survey will ensure better representation and regional coverage, and provide more detailed analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on households, enabling the localization of SDG indicators. The results of this new survey will be available in 2021. For future RGAs, UN Women also trained 10 HCP staff on the inclusion of a gender dimension in the survey design and the analysis of gender data.

- **Morocco's first-ever analysis of the economic costs of violence against women is informing advocacy and driving a new zero-tolerance government policy.** After building the capacities of data producers in 2019, UN Women supported HCP in producing estimates of the costs of gender-based violence in 2020, broken down by type (conjugal, family, in places of study, workplaces and public places), and by form (physical, sexual or psychological) to provide detailed information on the extent of violence and the resulting economic costs. The findings highlight that domestic violence is the costliest form of violence – estimated at 1.98 billion Moroccan Dirham (USD 222 million) – with healthcare expenses accounting for most of the direct costs, and lost income due to missed work (paid or domestic) making up almost all indirect costs. The estimates – a first not only in Morocco but across the Arab States – were widely covered in Moroccan media and will enrich ongoing advocacy initiatives and have helped fuel the Government's call for a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence.¹

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Policymakers identified gender-based violence as a critical obstacle after a report on the Violence against Women and Girls survey was disseminated.** Supporting HCP's ambitions to strengthen gender statistics and the availability of comprehensive reports in Morocco, UN Women published and disseminated the country's first synthesized report on violence against women based on gender data produced in 2019 covering new topics such as cyberviolence and the reproduction of violence and its impact on children, as well as the region's first costing of

gender-based violence. The preliminary report's findings were included in the National Integrated Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment launched in 2020, as well as the New Development Model launched in 2021, with both identifying gender-based violence as a critical obstacle to tackle and call for a zero-tolerance policy. Moreover, at least 30 Moroccan civil society organizations have used the data directly in their advocacy for special measures to protect women during the pandemic.

- **Moroccans have a better understanding of the pivotal role of gender statistics for policymaking thanks to a series of infographics and videos.** Complementing the production and analysis of gender data, UN Women produced easy-to-understand infographics, videos and an online quiz to disseminate the results of the RGAs and violence against women reports and surveys produced together with HCP. In parallel, eight staff members of HCP's communication department learned how to disseminate gender statistics to reinforce the preparation of infographics and videos. The findings were widely covered by national and subnational media. Meanwhile, civil society organizations used this advocacy material to further disseminate RGA data on the impacts of COVID-19, the findings of the violence against women report, and the costing of violence study, thereby contributing to awareness-raising.
- **More than 350 data users and producers are now more aware of the critical role of gender statistics to achieving gender equality, as a result of two user-producer dialogues.** Firstly, during World Statistics Day in October, more than 200 of Morocco's most prominent statistics users and producers² discussed ways to facilitate a more favorable environment for the development, integration and use of gender statistics, based on the violence against women survey results. This debate enabled HCP and different stakeholders present to collectively understand the uses, needs and relevance of gender statistics. Secondly, a user-producer dialogue organized during 16 Days of Activism in November discussed the critical role of gender statistics for understanding violence against women in general, and during times of crisis in particular,

¹ National Integrated Plan for Women economic empowerment (Government endorsed in July 2020)

² Such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development, High Authority for Audiovisual Communication, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry

based on the RGA and violence reports. The dialogue was initiated by keynote speakers³ advocating for more violence against women data. The discussion among 150 participants built momentum for gender statistics across Morocco and increased awareness among data users and producers on data needs in order to contribute to ending violence against women. These efforts resulted in a better understanding and readiness from HCP to further discussions to adopt the draft Statistics Law in the coming years.

PLANS FOR 2021*

- Developing regional trainings targeting HCP executives on gender statistics;

- Organizing advocacy initiatives to raise awareness for the reform of the Statistical Bill;
- Continue supporting HCP in measuring the impact of COVID-19 on Moroccan households, developing a satellite account of households, and analyzing social norms and gender relations in Moroccan households;
- Developing an online platform displaying results from the employment survey and its multimedia content;
- Finalizing and launching communication products, including animated videos on violence against women and COVID-19.

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

³ Including: P. Mikos, Head of the European delegation in Morocco, Driss El Yazami, former President of the National Council of Human Rights, and Ouadih Dada Editor-in Chief and news presenter of 2M.