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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN NEPAL

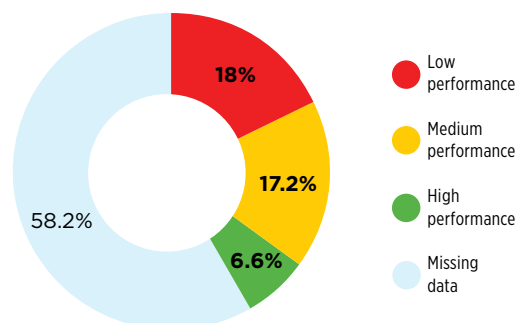
THE ISSUE

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

- Despite political will to monitor gender equality and women's empowerment commitments, gender statistics are weak or lacking in Nepal. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) does not specifically mention gender statistics. Due to ever-increasing demands for data and recent reforms, the mandate to produce statistics has been extended to several institutions, rendering the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) less effective as a leader and coordinator.
- Nepal lacks mechanisms to monitor many SDG targets, with data available for only 37% of all gender-related global indicators. Most data are

FIGURE 1

How is Nepal doing on gender data in 2020?

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

extracted from national censuses and surveys, which are undertaken only every 5 or 10 years, limiting their effectiveness.

- Data accessibility is a key challenge for non-governmental users, with many stakeholders relying on personal and informal contacts to access gender data. When data are available, they are not always used effectively.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Partnership with the CBS is strengthened to improve coordination around the production and use of gender statistics in the national statistical system.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the CBS are strengthened to produce quality data on violence against women and gender identity in the 2021 Census round.
- **Improving data use accessibility and use:** User-producer dialogues are bringing together government, civil society organizations and development partners to understand the needs of data users and producers.

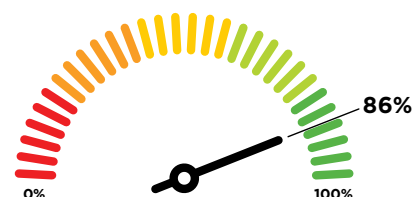
RESULTS

In response to COVID-19-related challenges, and using remote data-collection techniques, UN Women conducted a rapid gender assessment (RGA) on the socio-economic effects of the pandemic on both women and men as part of a broader regional survey. After delayed inception and in the concluding year of the Women Count Nepal project, UN Women focused its 2020 support on building CBS's gender statistics capacities in one core statistical process: the development of a manual on the inclusion of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and GESI responsive advocacy and communication material. Key results in 2020 include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Partnership between UN Women and CBS strengthened to ensure that gender statistics is prioritized in Nepal.** As a result of the partnership established between UN Women and CBS, strengthening gender data will remain an area of priority for Nepal's NSS. The partnership was instrumental for the inclusion of GESI in the planned 2021 Census and it has helped fuel interest in developing an analytical report on gender and social diversity after the Census. A formal acknowledgment letter was received from CBS commending UN Women on the results achieved

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2020



With a significantly reduced scope, Nepal delivered key results, including an RGA with an intersectional approach and the production of a gender equality and social inclusion manual that used to train 55,000 Census staff and enumerators.

under the project, the quality of partnership, and the inclusive process that engaged a wide range of partners and operationalized the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. Building on the existing partnership, UN Women will continue to support CBS in the implementation, analysis and dissemination of the Census as well as in broader efforts to improve gender statistics in Nepal. The partnership will also continue to guide efforts to produce a prevalence survey on violence against women in 2021.

2. Increasing data production

- **New gender data provided early and regionally comparative results of the impact of COVID-19 on women and men in Nepal.** Under the leadership of the Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC), in April 2020, UN Women Nepal jointly with the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific administered an RGA, which received more than 8,000 responses in Nepal and fed into a broader regional report. Among other things, it found in Nepal that 68% of informal women workers had lost their job or worked fewer hours, compared to 72% of women (and 59% of men) in formal employment. Findings informed UN Women Nepal's programme intervention on COVID-19 response in 2021.
- **More than 55,000 Census Supervisors, Enumerators and Government officials are learning how to incorporate gender equality and social inclusion within the 2021 Census, thanks to a new GESI manual.** UN Women supported CBS in the inclusion of a GESI perspective in the Census Enumeration and Supervision Manual and also completed a GESI Manual that illustrates how to collect sensitive

GESI data. It includes a comprehensive definition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+) groups that was elaborated during a 2019 workshop. This manual and related material are being used to train 9,265 supervisors, 43,277 enumerators, and 1,957 government staff on the GESI components of the NPHC 2021.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Gender data enabled the development of Nepal's first Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP).** The CGEP will be a pivotal resource for policymakers and gender equality advocates in Nepal. UN Women supported the inclusion of key statistics on Nepal's gender equality commitments to produce the Gender Equality in Numbers document, for CGEP's Statistical Annex. A total of 43 UN Women partners¹, consulted during the data-collection phase in early 2020, were instrumental in sharpening the research questions and framing pertinent issues under each thematic area. Once published and disseminated, the CGEP will allow a better national understanding of progress towards Nepal's international, regional and national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. It will equally support the design of interventions to tackle gender inequalities and discrimination that are grounded in local realities and that reflect the needs of girls, women, boys, men, and those who are gender non-conforming.
- **An advocacy and communication strategy and inclusive audiovisual materials are promoting broad public participation to provide data in the upcoming NPHC 2021.** After organizing a Census data user-producer stakeholder consultation in September 2020, UN Women developed a GESI advocacy and communication strategy to ensure the meaningful engagement of decision-makers and other stakeholders – in all stages of the census. The consultation included CBS data producers as well as data users from relevant ministries and civil society networks representing ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ communities. A range of advocacy and communications materials were developed – including documentaries, audio and video public service announcements, posters and brochures aimed at encouraging the public to provide more

accurate data during the survey enumeration. The products are planned to be disseminated in August and September across the country using the 11 most-spoken local languages, with closed-captioned videos to reach people with disabilities. The engendered census will generate data for 58 SDG indicators disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity that are needed for gender-responsive policymaking and for SDG monitoring and making progress on gender equality in Nepal.

FUTURE GENDER STATISTICS PLANS

As a result of the mid-term review conducted in 2019, the Nepal Women Count project was closed in December 2020 with the partnership agreement concluding in December 2021. UN Women's support on gender statistics has provided a significant push in the country to prioritize gender data. Building on the initial gains of the Women Count project and to continue the effort to produce quality and comparable data, and to promote the use, in 2021, UN Women Nepal will continue to support activities to provide gender-related data for informed decision-making to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, in the following ways:

- As a member of the Violence against Women Survey Steering Committee and Technical Community, and under the leadership of MoWCSC, UN Women will jointly conduct the Violence against Women prevalence survey with UNFPA in 2021, subject to availability of funds;
- Continue providing technical support and training for CBS in the conduct, analysis and dissemination of the findings of the engendered NPHC 2021;
- Support CBS to prepare a time use survey, including by developing a survey protocol, training, organizing user-producer dialogues, forming a steering and technical committee and mobilizing resources;
- Conduct dedicated research on violence against the LGTBIQ+ community in Nepal;
- Reprocess the Nepal Labour Force Survey 2019 and the National Economic Survey 2018 to develop an analytical paper on women's contribution to the national economy.

¹ including civil society organizations, academics, UN agencies, development partners, ministries and agencies