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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN TANZANIA

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics in the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania hereafter) was conducted in 2018, revealing three interrelated challenges:

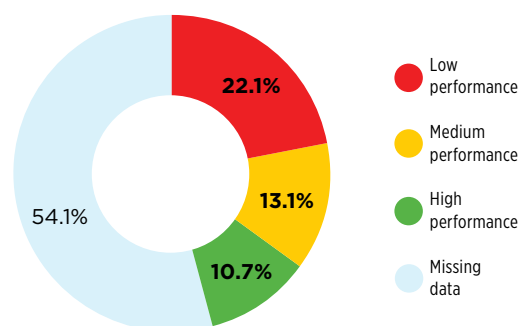
- Neither Tanzania's national gender and development strategies nor its statistical plans explicitly seek to improve the production and use of gender data.
- Despite existing capacity within the national statistical system (NSS) to generate gender data to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other gender equality commitments, fewer than 30% of the gender-specific SDG indicators are fully available, and few have additional disaggregation, beyond sex.
- There is no one-stop-shop or comprehensive source for Tanzania's latest gender data, featuring both quantitative and qualitative information. User-producer forums on gender statistics are not regularly or systematically organized.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Gender statistics are being integrated in monitoring of national and sectoral strategies and plans. The institutional capacities of key statistical actors and inter-agency

FIGURE 1

How is Tanzania doing on gender data in 2020?



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

coordination mechanisms are being strengthened as a result of the establishment of gender statistics working groups.

- **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) are being strengthened. New quality data on unpaid care work, social norms and institutions are being produced, while existing gender data in censuses, surveys and routine data systems are being

reprocessed to fill gender data gaps to improve SDG monitoring.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Support to OCGS and the NBS to develop a centralized and responsive online database hosting national-level gender statistics is improving monitoring of global and national commitments, including on social norms and institutions. The capacities of users are being strengthened to conduct gender data analysis, while reports, profiles and booklets on gender across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being regularly produced to improve the use of gender statistics.

RESULTS

In response to COVID-19, UN Women supported the NSS to produce new gender data on the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on women and girls in order to inform government responses. Moreover, building on the progress achieved in 2019, the institutionalized statistics units established under Women Count prepared and validated national development strategies to include gender-related SDG indicators in monitoring frameworks and to implement research such as on the impacts of COVID-19 on women and men. User-producer dialogues have also increased the demand for gender statistics in Tanzania and Zanzibar. Key results in 2020 include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender statistics are mainstreamed in the Zanzibar Strategy for the Development of Statistics (ZSDS).** UN Women supported OCGS in preparing a detailed Gender Statistics Strategy as part of the ZSDS in 2019, which was finalized in 2020. The Strategy highlights the importance of sex-disaggregated data for policymaking, planning and decision-making. Through four goals, the ZSDS seeks to improve data availability while strengthening the institutional capacity of the Zanzibar statistical system and with the end goal to fuel future gender-responsive policymaking. The ZSDS will be launched in 2021 with support from the African Development Bank.
- **Institutional gender statistics mechanisms are improving data quality and gender dimensions in government plans.** UN Women's support for institutionalizing the Gender Statistics Technical Working Groups (GS-TWGs) in both Zanzibar and the Mainland has improved the availability and use of gender data for a better policy environment for gender statistics. Concretely, these committees

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2020



Progress was driven by strengthening coordination mechanisms, integrating gender in national development plans in the Mainland and in Zanzibar, and by developing gender-responsive indices.

advocated in various fora for the use of sex-disaggregated data to inform policies and programmes. The availability of gender data for SDG indicators and the capacities of data producers have increased steadily. Latest, reprocessed data from Zanzibar's Household and Budget Survey (HBS) 2017/2018 have led to new insights and improved the quality of gender statistics, and are included in government plans, such as Tanzania's third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III) and Zanzibar's fourth Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA IV).

- **Gender data have enriched SDG monitoring and development strategies.** The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, finalized in 2019, was adopted for the Mainland and Zanzibar in 2020, paving the way for the inclusion of 26 (out of 54) gender-related SDG indicators in the new FYDP III and the MKUZA IV as well as within their monitoring frameworks, both expected to be launched in 2021. This is institutionalizing the generation of critical gender data by OCGS, NBS and sectoral ministries to influence future policymaking.

2. Increasing data production

- **A rapid gender assessment (RGA) provided a snapshot of the impacts of COVID-19 on women and fostered regional discussions.** The study, based on a desk review, measured the gendered effects of the pandemic on women and girls in Tanzania, noting that women and girls were most affected by: gender-based violence (with increases in child marriage and female genital mutilation in particular), work-life balance in the health sector, small business in urban areas, cross-border trade, and the increased burden of care work. Since its validation, the report

has become a key reference document for finalizing Tanzania's COVID-19 response plan and drafting the Country Gender Equality Profile.

- **The new National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has allowed for more accurate measurement of women's poverty.** The national MPI enables Tanzanian decision-makers to prepare a pragmatic, needs-based policy response to alleviating poverty across the country. Through 15 indicators, the MPI can determine whether or not a household is poor based on more criteria, such as access to health and education. NBS, with support from UN Women and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), compiled the MPI by reprocessing HBS data from 2017/2018, disaggregated by sex. This disaggregation is invaluable in assessing the true extent of poverty among Tanzanian women and will be instrumental for developing relevant policies.
- **Training and joint production of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) enhanced NBS and OCGS' ability to conduct the SIGI survey.** UN Women, in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), supported the NBS and OCGS in the design, data collection and analysis of the first-ever SIGI survey on social norms and harmful practices related to gender. Leading up to the successful creation of the SIGI, 80 officials, enumerators, quality-control supervisors and senior managers of the NBS and OCGS were trained in three workshops on gender-sensitive data collection and compiling gender statistics for the SIGI and related indicators. The SIGI reduces gender data gaps to improve reporting on gender-related commitments (such as for CEDAW, the Voluntary National Review, and Beijing+25). Moreover, its joint implementation has significantly enhanced NBS' and OCGS' capacities for future data production.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Gender statistics collected through the Household Budget Survey (HBS) informed policy planning and decisions in Zanzibar.** UN Women supported the 2019/2020 HBS in Zanzibar, which included a time use module. Along with the 2017/2018 HBS supported by UN Women, the survey data were used to revise the minimum salary of government employees, benefitting women, many of whom are in low-level positions. The HBS findings were also used to target the allocation of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), a government poverty reduction

strategy where beneficiaries receive cash transfers to increase their income and livelihood. The data helped identify poorer women who are the majority of recipients covered under the Fund.

- **The Zanzibar SDG Gender Indicators Report strengthened reporting.** Following data reprocessing and the finalization of Zanzibar's Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, OCGS, with support from UN Women, published the Zanzibar SDG Gender Indicators Report in early 2021. During the report development, 30 data users from sectoral ministries and civil society organizations (CSOs) learned how to compile relevant data for SDG reporting and to identify and present key gender-related challenges in their respective sectors. Building on existing and new data sets, additional data disaggregation led to the production of 35 gender-related SDG Tier I and II indicators now being included in the report.
- **A newly launched OCGS Action Plan on Gender Statistics facilitated policy dialogue on the future of gender statistics in Zanzibar.** UN Women supported OCGS in the preparation of an Action Plan on Gender Statistics that will guide future dialogue on gender statistics in Zanzibar. Launched by the Chief Statistician of Zanzibar during a user-producer dialogue for Africa Statistics Week in November 2020, the Action Plan generated new interest in the use of gender statistics among the 74 participants and showcased data users' needs, including for citizen-generated data and time use data. The plan focuses on three key issues – migration, marriage and divorce registration, and crime – that will inform the monitoring of MKUZA III and the SDGs.

PLANS FOR 2021*

- Continuing strengthening gender statistics mechanisms in the Mainland and in Zanzibar;
- Supporting the finalization and launch of the FYDP III;
- Completing ongoing surveys and reports, such as the Social Institution and Gender Index and the time-use survey reports;
- Reprocessing female genital mutilation data for research on the role of men for gender equality;
- Publishing gender data factsheets on different gender issues.

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