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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN UGANDA

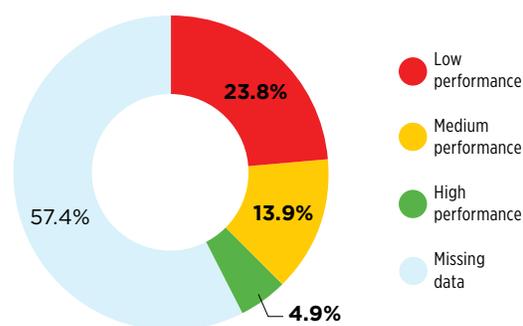
THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics was conducted in 2016, revealing three interrelated challenges:

- There has been inconsistent and unpredictable financial and technical support for gender data, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) lacks specialized staff to liaise with or validate gender data produced by ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).
- Gender data are quite limited, with baseline information available for only half of the SDG indicators in Tier I. Even where they can be obtained from surveys, data are not disaggregated at the district level, limiting their usability.
- Despite improvements in Uganda's data dissemination, significant barriers to accessing gender data

FIGURE 1

How is Uganda doing on gender data in 2020?

Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#)

remain. Statistics are not processed and shared in a user-friendly manner, and there is a lack of institutional, financial and technical capacity to validate and widely disseminate data online.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** National coordination on gender statistics is improving as a result of establishing technical working groups. Gender is also being mainstreamed in national development plans and statistical development plans to improve monitoring progress on gender equality.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the UBOS have been strengthened to produce and analyse quality data on time-use, violence against women and girls, and governance, peace and security, to close key data gaps.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** A partnership with the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) has increased the dissemination of data, policy briefs and analytic reports on gender equality. User-producer dialogues are being institutionalized, including the Annual Gender Statistics Forum, and tailor-made trainings on gender statistics are being provided for data users and producers.

RESULTS

Following the pandemic, UN Women extended technical support for the production of a rapid gender assessment (RGA) to inform evidence-based emergency responses. Building on progress in 2019, UN Women actively supported UBOS on updating the third Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD III), data production, monitoring of gender-related SDG indicators, distributing knowledge products through a web-based data platform and training data users on standard statistical methodologies and tools. Key results in 2020 include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Improved integration and harmonization of gender statistics in normative frameworks through the PNSD III, resulting in increased commitments and accountability.** The third PNSD 2021-2025 is now aligned (timeframe and priorities) with the national development plan III, programme implementation action plans and the United Nations Sustainable

FIGURE 2
Measuring Progress in 2020



Significant progress in Uganda is due to improved integration and harmonization of gender statistics in normative frameworks, data availability for SDG indicators, and dissemination of key knowledge products through a web-based data platform.

Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). As a result, the UN system in Uganda is currently planning to develop a joint programme on statistics. Gender data will be generated continuously at all levels. The integration of gender perspectives in these national statistics planning documents will facilitate more systematic tracking of gender statistics production and use to support policy formulation, programming and decision-making processes and reporting.

- **The national coordination mechanism guided gender data production, dialogues and the PNSD III.** UN Women supported UBOS in implementing 30 multi-sectoral coordination meetings with the now-institutionalized Gender Statistics Advisory Committee (GSAG) and the Gender Statistics Sub Committee (GSSC). They guided the positioning of gender statistics in the preparation of the PNSD III, in two surveys in 2020¹ and for two user-producer dialogues. The GSAG was acknowledged by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development for its pivotal role in promoting gender statistics in the NSS as the custodian of gender in the PNSD III. Working together on 25 knowledge products has increased appreciation of gender statistics, harmonized efforts and triggered multisectoral collaboration among members of the GSAG and GSSC.
- **Monitoring and reporting on the SDGs has improved.** UN Women and UBOS supported MDAs in identifying data to monitor and report on 28 additional gender-specific SDG indicators, which . The updated SDG indicator matrix was used in Uganda's

¹ The RGA as well as the violence against women and girls/children/family survey (VAC/VAW/Family).

second Voluntary National Review (VNR) and an SDG Factsheet in 2020. In addition, it is now mandatory for all MDAs to integrate gender-specific SDG indicators and targets within their local Strategic Plans for Statistics, a requirement introduced in the PNSD III. As of 2020, 30 institutions have integrated gender statistics with SDG targets, while all others have initiated the drafting process. All MDAs are required to localize gender-related SDG monitoring, which will bring the number reporting on the SDGs to 135, once all strategic plans are concluded.

2. Increasing data production

- **More than 120 field staff and data managers from 13 institutions have improved their capacity to produce gender-based violence (GBV) statistics and developed systems to harmonize their data.** Through three trainings, UN Women supported UBOS and EPRC in strengthening administrative data-collection mechanisms and harmonizing management systems. Between September and November 2020, 83 field staff and facilitators from UBOS learned the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of gathering prevalence data for the VAWG/VAC/Family survey through two trainings. In November, 41 data management personnel from 13 institutions in the justice, law and order sector improved their capacities to produce and use GBV administrative data to close gender data gaps. The training resulted in a needs assessment of the six core data-producing institutions in the justice sector, which found that available GBV information sources were not comparable. In response, action is being taken to streamline and harmonize data-collection systems on GBV by developing a Crime and Criminal Justice Management Information System that retrospectively tracks GBV and other offences from the moment they are reported to police to their conclusion in the justice system.
- **Uganda's National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEIs) have produced 77% of the minimum set of gender-related SDGs and been integrated into government reporting tools.** This is a result of UN Women's support to UBOS in reprocessing data for the NPGEIs. They have already been used in key monitoring and reporting tools, including the VNR, PNSD III and the UNSDCF. These data have further been used to report on Uganda's international
- **commitments, such as under CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Maputo Protocol.** The NPGEIs have also been integrated into the Government Annual Performance Review reporting framework, periodic assessments by the Ministry of Local Government, and MoFPED's Programme-Based Budgeting framework. The NPGEIs have also been uploaded on the [Gender statistics portal](#), launched at the fourth Annual gender Statistics Forum (AGSF IV 2020) 2020.
- **New gender data informed about the gendered effects of COVID-19 with RGA methodology having become pivotal for additional studies.** UN Women, in partnership with UNFPA and UBOS, conducted a [RGAs](#) in late 2020. The results provided decision-makers with evidence to design appropriate interventions that address the current needs of the population and influence policy and practice to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The RGA will be complemented by a qualitative study to be by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and UNFPA to include survivor experiences and coping mechanisms in 2021. Moreover, the RGA methodology has been adopted in similar studies² in Uganda.
- **Data from the ongoing VAWG/VAC/Family survey bolstered four reports on violence against women, girls and children.** UN Women worked closely with UBOS, UNFPA, UNICEF and MGLSD to spearhead the design, implementation and analysis of the VAWG/VAC/Family Survey. Building on the data produced, four reports are being finalized on the survey, VAW, VAC and older women in Uganda. The key recommendation is to undertake the Social Institutions Gender Index (SIGI II) to further complement the survey data for evidence building to address the VAWG and VAC.
- **Guidelines for Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) enable data from Uganda's National Statistics System to be complemented by non-traditional sources.** Uganda developed and approved the CGD to support the compilation of data from non-traditional sources, such as from CSOs and the private sector that form part of the NSS. Harnessing CGD is a strategic step towards increasing gender data generation and its use in reaching women and girls.

² Two RGAs on the impact of floods on women, men, girls and boys, in both the Pakwach and Kasese districts, and the Inter-Agency/Inter-Sectoral Rapid Gender Analysis to Assess the Impact Of COVID-19 on Refugee and Host Communities in Uganda (November 2020).

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Ugandans now have increased access to gender statistics, through UBOS' new Gender Statistics Portal.** In response to the increased availability of gender data, UBOS launched a web-based portal for gender statistics publications, with support from UN Women, at the 4th Annual Gender Statistics Forum (AGSF IV). This one-stop-shop for gender statistics in Uganda enables data users to access all recent publications, with 19 initial knowledge products featured, including the NPGEIs. The portal is a huge milestone for increasing the availability of gender statistics for evidence-based decision-making and the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Uganda.
- **Policy briefs strengthen policymaking to confront gender-based violence.** Through UN Women's continued partnership with EPRC, five additional policy briefs were produced (for a total of 10), focusing on GBV and budget allocations. Published at a user-producer dialogue workshop during the 16 Days of Activism in November, three policy briefs analysed access to justice for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking while two highlighted the need for revised budget allocations to ensure financing for gender equality and were shared at the ASGF IV. The GBV briefs further informed policy dialogue on financing for GBV prevention.
- **User-producer dialogues increased the dissemination of gender statistics knowledge products and the awareness of policymakers.** Knowledge products on gender statistics were shared with 248 participants at two user-producer dialogues, at the AGSF IV and the Joint Policy Dialogue on evidence-building and financing for GBV. The debate generated recommendations for improved evidence-based policy, programming, monitoring and evaluation and reporting of government performance on gender equality and

the SDGs. It also made policymakers aware of the need to invest in data and research and a strengthened data-management system. The recommendations were well-received, especially given the need to improve timely access to justice for survivors of GBV during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions around adequately capturing gender data will inform future data collection and are partially addressed in surveys completed in 2021.

PLANS FOR 2021*

- Supporting the revision of the UBOS Act 1998 to integrate gender and equity;
- Finalizing and publishing surveys and reports on gender statistics, such as the nation-wide, integrated VAW/VAC/Family report, the RGA, and the National Governance, Peace and Security survey (NGPSS II);
- Concluding analysis of election data, administrative data and reprocessing of existing data to monitor gender-related SDG indicators, to be published on the web-based gender data portal;
- Conducting a validation meeting to finalize and disseminate the RGA;
- Providing support in the development of CGD;
- Conducting a baseline survey on land ownership to establish the proportion of land owned by women;
- Updating the administrative data-collection methodology and operationalize the tools for harmonized data collection for the Department for Refugees and Disaster Management;
- Conducting training on gender statistics for data users and producers;
- Holding the Annual Gender Statistics Forum during Statistics Week and arrange an Advocacy Symposium.

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