PHASE 1

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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 demand by stakeholders for data-driven decision-making were hampering the generation of gender statistics in Kenya.

- Very few data were disaggregated by sex, age, wealth quintile or region, among others, which undermined the extent to which data could inform the implementation and monitoring of gender-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other national priorities.

- Insufficient training and awareness were some of the main factors behind the inadequate demand for and use of gender statistics in Kenya.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination within the national statistics system (NSS) has been strengthened between ministries, departments and agencies through the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics

Technical Committee (IAGSTC). National plans and frameworks that govern the production of statistics now integrate gender as a key priority, including the third Medium-Term Plan, and a Gender Sector Statistics Plan within the country's national statistical development strategy.

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) have been strengthened to produce quality gender statistics, including Census and surveys such as on time use. As a result, gender-sensitive SDG monitoring has improved.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The availability of data, evidence, research and analysis on gender equality has substantially improved as a result of capacity-building and gender statistics knowledge products developed and disseminated through partnerships with academia and civil society organizations (CSOs). Grants to academic and research institutions have bolstered student gender research and CSOs have been supported to engage in gender statistics dialogues with data producers. County data have also been more widely used to inform critical policies.

"One of our biggest achievements was the establishment of the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee. We introduced new methodologies to work out, through best international practices, so we are able to ensure that whatever data we are producing, we will find a good use for all of the stakeholders."

Macdonald Odubho, Director-General, KNBS

KEY RESULTS

Since 2018, UN Women has made significant strides in building a strong foundation to improve the way gender data are produced and used. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender statistics are now recognized as a key priority in Kenya's national development plans and laws.** Before Women Count, there was a lack of data-driven decision-making and gender was not prioritized in national development planning. But UN Women's advocacy and partnership with KNBS and the State Department for Gender Affairs (SDFG) has driven several firsts, including the Gender Sector Statistics Plan (GSSP). It was launched in 2020 as part of the Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KSDS) to strengthen Kenya's capacities on gender statistics and to guide the coordination of the NSS, particularly on achieving the SDGs and implementing the third Medium-Term Plan (MTP III) for 2018–2022. Gender data have been mainstreamed in MTP III, which has enabled the Government to track progress on gender equality and women's empowerment commitments in Kenya's Vision 2030. And following the enactment of the Statistics Act in 2019, KNBS has been supported by UN Women to conduct a review of its regulations to strengthen policy and legal mechanisms and to mainstream gender across various statistical areas, including agriculture, poverty, population, education, employment, etc.

- **Gender data are better coordinated resulting in increased collaboration by different data communities as a result of the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee.** Established in 2018 and co-chaired by KNBS and the SDFG, the IAGSTC has been a transformative mechanism for improving the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics in Kenya. It has been instrumental for building partnerships between data users and producers, including by bringing Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to the table for the first time. The IAGSTC has provided a valuable platform to cross-pollinate ideas across sectors and contributed to breaking data siloes within the NSS, fostering strong engagement and ownership, particularly among CSOs and line ministries. This has improved the production and use of quality gender data, building statistical capacity and informing sectoral management on policy decisions.

- **The Government's investments on gender equality are now being tracked.** In 2018, the National Treasury approved an update of the Standard Chart of Accounts to include specific coding on gender equality and women's empowerment, nutrition, sanitation and child protection. This will enable Kenya to track and report on SDG indicator 5.c.1 (to measure budget allocations for gender equality) and to make these data publicly available.

2. Increasing data production

- **Kenya's ability to monitor gender-related SDGs has improved as a result of more gender data.** Increased data collection and analysis has helped fill many gender data gaps across the SDGs. For example, the first-ever Time-Use Survey (TUS) in 2021 collected the data needed to track SDG 5.4.1 on unpaid care work; the Comprehensive Poverty Report provided a baseline for measuring multidimensional poverty for women and has enabled Kenya to adequately report on SDG 1. The 2020 and 2021 Kenya Economic Survey included the first-ever chapter on gender equality, providing new data on women's economic empowerment, political leadership and social protection which will be produced annually and used to inform budget preparation in the country. The Women Empowerment Index (WEI) produced under the project has enabled the NSS to report on targets under SDG 5, at both the national and county level. Reprocessing existing data has also yielded new insights on women's economic empowerment to improve SDG monitoring, with analysis of 2019 Census data resulting in a Gender Dimensions

Monograph that helped identify new data needed to measure gender inequality and a specific report on tracking gender equality in mobile phone ownership (SDG 5.b.1). As a result, Kenya's gender-related SDG data increased from 26% in 2015 to 44% in 2021,[1] along with availability of 62% of Kenya's gender-specific SDG National Indicators Framework (2020) and 53% of the national Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (MSGIs, 2021).

- **There is now presidential commitment to produce more and better data on gender-based violence.** At the opening ceremony of the Generation Equality Forum in Paris in 2021, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta underscored his commitment to ending violence against women (VAW), including by building a strong data and evidence base to inform policies and programmes. In particular, he committed to an enhanced "gender-based violence module in the upcoming 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) to strengthen the utilization of gender statistics and inform the design and scale and evaluation of FGM and gender-based violence programmes." UN Women has provided technical support for the module.

- **Capacity-building has yielded better-quality gender data being produced that responds to the needs of data users.** Data disaggregation has steadily increased, supported by training for KNBS to improve the quality of data sets in the 2021 TUS and 2022 KDHS to monitor the SDG commitment to leave no one behind. Application of these new skills can also be seen in the substantive contributions by the SDFG and the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) on the development of tools for specific surveys, for example in their advocacy for WEI recommendations to be considered in the development of the KNBS 2022 questionnaire and manual. In addition, the SDGA and KNBS were able to reach consensus for the first time on the 2022 KDHS VAW questionnaire, which will generate indicators up to the county level.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Data on women's economic empowerment have informed policy action.** The findings of the first-ever Time-Use Survey (TUS) in 2021 are contributing to the development of Kenya's first-ever national care policy and the inclusion of care work as a priority in the next MTP IV (2023–2027), and the creation of the

country's first-ever satellite national account to measure the value of unpaid care work. With technical support from UN Women and in collaboration with the University of Nairobi (UoN), TUS and qualitative data analysis will be undertaken to develop policy recommendations on ways to support unpaid care and domestic work. The SDGA will use the results of the TUS, satellite account and these policy recommendations for advocacy and capacity-development at national and county levels. New data on women's access to finance resulted in the revision of the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC)'s gender policy pledge to mobilize 1 billion Kenyan Shillings (USD 10 million) to support women farmers. County Gender Data Sheets have ushered in new laws in Kitui county to inform the design of its gender policy, increase women's economic empowerment and ensure that all development actions by the county take gender into account, including in resource-allocation within 2nd-generation County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and in the development of 3rd-generation CIDPs (2022–2027). County gender data also directly informed decision-making on the supply of contraceptives in Kirinyaga County.

- **Reporting on commitments has improved and more CSOs are using gender data to hold the Government accountable.** Reporting for the 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR), Beijing Platform for Action +25 report and the 9th CEDAW periodic report have all improved as a result of having more SDG data available than ever before. Building on the partnership initiated in 2019, UN Women and GROOTS Kenya have convened women's rights organizations annually during Africa Statistics Week to encourage the use of data for advocacy to accelerate progress on gender equality. CSOs even produced and used citizen-generated data to contribute to a CSO VNR on the SDGs. This partnering to drive uptake and use of gender data among CSOs has resulted in their growing demand for gender statistics. Several national reports were published on the implementation of the SDGs from a gender perspective and/or providing data on the status of women, men, girls and boys in the country, including the SDG Gender Factsheet and the rapid gender assessment (RGA) on COVID-19. These provided the evidence needed to shape the design of targeted gender interventions for the new UN Cooperation Framework with Government of Kenya (2022–2027).

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1 SDG Gender Fact Sheet 2021

- **Catalytic partnerships with data users have bolstered gender data analysis and research in Kenya.** Over 500 data users have strengthened their capacities for the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics. They include university students, national and county-level public officials, women's rights organizations and CSOs. The skills gained by UoN student grantees peer reviewed manuscripts which further analysed existing survey data and made policy recommendations on women's health, VAW and women's economic empowerment were published in a 2021 research compendium, Gender Statistics for Evidence-Based Policies. These recommendations are also being used by SDFG in its assessment of MTP III as well as to inform various policies at national and county levels.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[2]

Phase II plans in Kenya will focus on strengthening and expanding partnerships within the NSS to ensure greater coordination on gender statistics, increase data production on women's economic empowerment and violence against women, and scale up efforts to improve data accessibility by creating gender data portals and collaborating with policymakers to ensure that data are used to inform policies and programmes. Specific interventions include:

- Revising the existing National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) and GSSP 2019–2023.

- Including unpaid care and domestic work in the 4th Medium-Term Plan of Vision 2030, developing a national care policy and setting up a satellite account.

- Mobilizing financial resources for gender data and statistics at the country level through expanded partnerships with other UN agencies, the private sector, donors and CSOs.

- Scaling up data collection and reprocessing by conducting four surveys, namely: TUS data analysis and reporting, the Social Institutions and Gender survey, the 2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey, and the Inequality Study.

- Assessing administrative data systems from a sustainable development perspective and developing improvement plans.

- Supporting capacity-building of CSOs on citizen-generated data (CGD) and supporting the revision of the NSDS to include work on CGD.

- Convening high-level dialogues to sensitize data users on available data and encourage their uptake.

- Formalizing partnerships with academia, research institutions, parliamentarians and media to promote the use of gender data for policymaking.

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2 Plans for Phase II may be further adjusted.