



PHASE 1

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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 had been inconsistent and unpredictable financial and technical support for gender data, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) lacked specialized staff to liaise with or validate the gender data produced by ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).
- Gender data were quite limited, with baseline information available for only half of the Tier I gender-specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. Even where they could be obtained from surveys, data were not disaggregated at the district level, limiting their usability.
- Despite improvements in Uganda's data dissemination, significant barriers to accessing gender data remained. Statistics were not processed and shared in a user-friendly manner, and there was 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 has been institutionalized as a result of establishing technical working groups. Gender is mainstreamed in national statistical development plans and strategic plans that improve monitoring on progress towards gender equality.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of UBOS have been strengthened through training to produce and analyse quality gender data as well as to conduct new surveys and reprocess existing data on time-use, violence against women and girls, governance, peace and security, and other areas to close key data gaps. Meanwhile, the country has developed National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEIs) and the data available to track the SDGs has more than doubled.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Partnerships with academia and civil society have increased the dissemination of data, policy briefs and analytic reports on gender equality. User-producer dialogues are now institutionalized, including the Annual Gender Statistics Forum, and access to gender data is now easier through a dedicated gender statistics portal.

“Our hope is that cooperation and partnership will be strengthened further, so that we shall scale to higher heights and that by the end of Phase II of Women Count, the country will be able to sustainably produce gender-responsive statistics and disseminate and use these statistics for evidence-based policymaking and formulation.”

Chris Mukiza, Executive Director of UBOS.

KEY RESULTS

Since 2016, UN Women has been supporting UBOS to advance the production and use of quality, comparable and regular gender data. Key results under Phase I include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Engendering statistical frameworks has improved SDG monitoring and gender-responsive policymaking in Uganda.** Resulting from UN Women’s support and partnership with UBOS and MDAs, gender statistics are now integrated and harmonized in key national development frameworks. The third Plan for National and Statistical Development (PNSD III, 2021–2025) is facilitating more systematic tracking of gender statistics production and use to support policy formulation, programming and decision-making processes and reporting at the national and local levels. With UN Women’s support, 218 institutions comprising MDAs, higher local governments (HLGs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) prepared localized gender-responsive Strategic Plans for Statistics (SPSs) within the PNSD III framework to produce and use quality gender data for evidence-based local policymaking. It is now mandatory for all MDAs to integrate gender-specific SDG indicators and targets within their local SPSs, a requirement introduced in the PNSD III. Trained focal persons in HLGs as well as MDAs have also integrated gender equality and statistics requirements in other institutional, strategic and development plans as a prerequisite for the approval and allocation of resources, contributing to a significant increase in allocations for gender equality in the national budget.¹ The prioritization of gender statistics also led to UBOS and the United Nations Country Team, in close collaboration with UN Women, to develop a Joint Programme for Data and Statistics aligned with PNSD III and the UN

Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2021–2025) to improve SDG monitoring.

- **Improving national coordination on gender statistics has harmonized efforts within the NSS.** UBOS, with the support of UN Women, has strengthened and institutionalized multisectoral coordination through the Gender Statistics Advisory Group (GSAG), the Gender Statistics Sub Committee (GSSC), and the SDG Technical Working Group. These Committees have been the driving force in positioning gender statistics within the PNSD III, developing Uganda’s NPGEIs, spearheading the Citizen-Generated Data Guidelines, as well as in increasing the dissemination and use of gender statistics in key knowledge products. The GSAG was formally 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 statistics in the PNSD III. This signals a positive future for sustaining the critical gains in bringing different key players in the NSS together.

2. Increasing data production

- **More gender data are available to monitor the SDGs than ever before.** The ability to monitor the SDGs has significantly improved in Uganda through the adoption and revision of the National Priority Gender Equality Indicators, as a roadmap to help the Government of Uganda track progress on SDG 5 and other gender equality commitments. UBOS, with UN Women’s support, has more than doubled the number of SDG indicators with available data, from 45 in 2016 to 117 in 2021. The NPGEI indicators have been used as key monitoring and reporting tools, including in annual SDG progress reports and in PNSD III, the third National Development Plan and to inform UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks reports. More gender data have also been made

¹ Findings from an assessment of the Public Finance Management Act 2015 reveal an overall increase of national budget allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment of 87% from 2015/2016 to 2019/2020.

available through surveys, which has increased the availability of gender data reported in Uganda's Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by 150% between 2016 and 2020.

- **Ramped-up data collection has filled gaps in key areas and strengthened national commitment to regularly produce gender data.** Since the start of Women Count, UN Women has supported UBOS to conduct several key surveys, such as the National Household Survey (NHS, 2016/17, 2020/21), National Governance, Peace and Security Survey (NGPSS, 2017), the first-ever Time-Use Survey (TUS, 2017/18), the first-ever national survey on violence against women and girls (VAWG, 2020), a rapid gender assessment on the impacts of COVID-19 (RGA, 2020/21), etc. The RGA methodology and computer-assisted telephone interview model have since been adopted by the Government and applied to similar surveys to measure the impacts of COVID-19 on refugees. Based on the TUS, UBOS will develop a national satellite account to estimate the value of unpaid work and its contribution to gross domestic product. UBOS has announced that the VAWG survey will now be conducted every five years, signalling a commitment to routinely fill gender data gaps on key issues that will provide the evidence needed to inform policies.
- **Training has been standardized and has resulted in more data producers and users being able to collect and analyse gender data.** Since 2016, UN Women has guided capacity-building efforts through training on how to collect and analyse gender data to monitor and report on commitments on the SDGs and for evidence-based policymaking. Over 150 data producers and users have benefited from trainings and have used their skills to integrate gender in surveys and strategic planning. Mentoring of UBOS staff, by UN Women and the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), has resulted in improved capacity for in-depth analysis of existing data, with more than 10 policy briefs produced and their recommendations informing policy dialogues. As a result of two VAWG policy briefs and a dialogue, recommendations were made to strengthen data management systems to collect timely and quality disaggregated VAWG data, for example by tracking cases from entry to exit – a recommendation that has since been taken up by authorities. As a result of targeted training,

Justice, Law and Order Sector officials developed an Strategic Plan for Statistics that will serve as a roadmap for collecting and disseminating VAWG crime and justice data more systematically, and are currently reviewing their data collection tools to strengthen the management of VAWG data. Trained officials also acquired skills on using the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes coding system, which will help them to better align their data collection with requirements of the NDP III and related frameworks. Furthermore, UN Women established a collaboration with Statistics Sweden around the International Training Programme on gender statistics and is now a co-facilitator, which will serve to standardize the capacity-building of data producers and users on gender statistics in Uganda.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Data are fuelling policy action on key areas, including preventing VAWG and promoting women's economic empowerment.** The NPGEIs have been used to revise the Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets policy, specifically to improve the level of women's participation and benefits from public procurement. Findings from surveys undertaken by the Government, with UN Women's support, are now being used to influence key gender-responsive policies and programmes in Uganda. Findings from the RGA in 2020/21 informed the adoption of government stimulus packages worth UGX 1.3 billion (USD 363,000) to prevent VAWG. Results from the TUS are influencing discussions with Parliament to revise the Employment Act and with the Ministry of Water and Environment to extend clean water to underserved communities. Results from the VAWG survey resulted in several actions being taken, including: a call from the State Minister of Finance in charge of planning to adopt a national zero-tolerance policy on VAWG; the Equal Opportunities Commission's assessment criteria to measure performance of the MDAs now includes a gender-based violence perspective; and MDAs are now required to monitor budget allocations for VAWG prevention – a change initiated by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association is also using the VAWG survey findings to advocate for the adoption of a pending Marriage and Divorce bill.

- **Data users and producers now come together annually to stimulate exchange on how gender data can be used to drive change and hold government actors accountable.** User-producer dialogues are now institutionalized in Uganda through the Annual Gender Statistics Forum. These dialogues have provided a platform for NSS to discuss gender-related issues and disseminate key findings from surveys. One dialogue sparked debate on the policy implications of the VAWG survey, which brought to the attention of policymakers the current state of access to justice by survivors of sexual and domestic violence in Uganda and provided a platform to question the gaps in financing for GBV responses, while also triggering the aforementioned policy debate, recommendations and actions to increase timely access to justice. Such dialogues also sparked conversations on the need to develop a satellite account as a result of the TUS and produce key recommendations to produce more gender data to monitor progress on gender equality.
- **Ugandans now have increased access to gender statistics, through UBOS' new Gender Statistics Portal** which now serves as a one-stop-shop for gender statistics in Uganda. This has enabled data users to access all recent publications, with 19 initial knowledge products featured, including the NPGIEs. 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.

PLANS FOR PHASE II²

Plans for Phase II in Uganda will leverage the network of established partnerships and coordination mechanisms to address the increasing demand for disaggregated and data production and use on women's economic empowerment and violence against women and girls, and increase collaboration with policymakers and civil society to ensure that gender data are being used to inform programmes and policies in Uganda. Specific interventions include:

FIGURE 1
Measuring Progress during Phase I



Progress was due to the increased data availability of SDG gender indicators and strong use of gender data was the result of partnerships with Government, academia and civil society. In 2021, 100% of targets were met by the project.

- Supporting the development and implementation of the PNSD III (2021–2025) and gendered sectoral plans, strategies and policies, in accordance with PARIS21 recommendations on integrating gender statistics.
- Strengthening national capacity for the uptake and use of gender data for users and producers, including by training of women's rights organizations/movements and media professionals on using data for advocacy.
- Conducting the second Social Institutions Gender Index (SIGI II) and the second National Governance, Peace and Security Survey (NGPSS II).
- Reprocessing existing data to fill data gaps on VAWG, agriculture, labour force participation and employment.
- Strengthening data producers' and users' capacities to use administrative data for monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective.
- Developing key knowledge products, including the country Gender Equality Profile and thematic and regional Gender Equality Profiles for monitoring national gender equality commitments.

² Plans for Phase II may be further adjusted.