



PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN MOROCCO

THE ISSUE

A national assessment of gender statistics in Morocco, conducted in 2019, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Morocco's fragmented statistical system lacked coordination, as several institutions oversaw the production of gender-disaggregated statistics and sensitive data – including the High Commission for Planning (HCP), ministries, independent observatories and the national bank.
- Irregular production of gender data, including on violence against women and girls and women's economic empowerment, were challenges that were partly the result of the HCP's lack of financial capacity.
- Gender statistics producers and users lacked skills and human resources, while vocational training and capacity-building remained limited.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Stakeholders have been engaged and trainings conducted to advocate for statistics reform, with recommendations developed to improve the legal, political and institutional environment for the production and use of gender statistics.
- **Increasing data production:** National and regional statistics producers have developed their capacities to generate gender-sensitive statistics, in keeping with international norms and standards. Financial and technical support has been provided for the production and analysis of gender data on violence against women (VAW) and women's economic empowerment.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** User-producer dialogues have been held, increasing accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics. The national statistical office was supported to produce infographics and user-friendly gender-data-related documents for uptake and use in advocacy, plans and policymaking.

“UN Women is a partner that demonstrated flexibility and adaptability [...]. During the pandemic, it was crucial to have a survey measuring the impact of COVID-19 on households’ lives, so the reactivity and ability of the programme to adapt its tools and workplan to meet the priorities of the HCP was of great added value. [...] [T]he partnership with UN Women is diverse and rich as it enables [us] to aim for different activities, in relation to statistics i) production, ii) dissemination, and iii) facilitating a favourable environment [...] to inform and influence the political sphere and decision-makers.”

Hasnae Fdhil, Head of Cooperation and Communication, HCP

KEY RESULTS

Since 2018, UN Women has been supporting the HCP in advancing the production and use of gender statistics across Morocco. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Improved coordination in Morocco enables the inclusion of gender data in the national development strategy as well as its national plan for women’s economic empowerment.** Morocco has experienced a drastic political shift in recent years, presenting policymakers and HCP with the opportunity to strategically position gender and statistics in key strategies guiding Morocco’s action until 2035. UN Women supported HCP in coordinating with key data producers and users to use gender statistics, including the VAW survey data, in the formulation of Morocco’s New Development Model (NMD). It aims to upgrade the national statistical system to improve access to information and identifies women’s economic empowerment as one of the key strategic levers for change. UN Women successfully advocated for HCP to become part of the Inter-agency Steering Committee of Morocco’s National Integrated Plan on Women’s Economic Empowerment (Maroc-Attamkine), which mentions the importance of Morocco’s statistical system integrating gender and periodically collecting sex-disaggregated statistics as a factor that enabled the policy’s very development. The National Plan also includes gender analysis prepared by UN Women and HCP and specifies as one of the goals of its action plan, the need to create a statistical database on women entrepreneurs. The increasing recognition of HCP as the custodian for gender statistics is contributing to its objective to become a pioneer for gender statistics in the Middle East and Northern Africa region.

- **UN Women has generated momentum on revising the outdated statistics bill to pave the way for improved gender statistics governance in Morocco.**

UN Women conducted a national assessment on gender statistics in 2019 emphasizing the need to revise Morocco’s 1968-dated Statistics Bill and reform the gender statistics governance structure through the inclusion of a gender perspective in the existing national coordination mechanism. UN Women supported HCP in drafting an amendment proposal based on extensive consultations and international best practices. During the political shifts experienced in Morocco during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women and HCP have been advocating for the inclusion of the amendment in the draft Statistical Bill, whose approval is expected upon implementation of the NMD and the new government plan. Once passed, the revised bill will be ground-breaking for strengthening coordination, promotion and use of high quality, comparable and reliable gender data.

2. Increasing data production

- **Gender data production improves monitoring of the SDGs from a gender perspective.** The Government of Morocco is continuously producing gender data to inform the monitoring and reporting of SDG 5 and other gender-specific indicators. UN Women’s support to HCP in the implementation of the second national prevalence survey on VAW resulted in the updated production of data on SDG indicator 5.2.1, contributing to Morocco’s ability to generate at least 52.3% of its 109 gender-related SDG indicators. This will further increase, given the Government’s interest in advancing its household satellite account, for which analysis was concluded in 2021. Moreover, the planned time-use survey (TUS), to be launched

in 2022/2023, will inform the production of data on SDG indicator 5.4.1.

- **Training strengthens data producers' capacity to fill critical data gaps on violence against women.** In preparation for the violence against women survey in 2019, UN Women together with HCP conducted a series of trainings aimed at improving HCP's capacities to design the survey, collect VAW data and estimate VAW-associated costs. Attended by HCP statisticians, executive engineers and regional managers as well as the civil society organization (CSO) Moroccan Association for Women's Rights (AMDF), the produced VAW data responded to information needs at a grass-roots level and fuelled advocacy for a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence. Similarly, the training on VAW costing, conducted in partnership with the National University of Ireland, led to the first-ever estimation of the social and of the economic costs of VAW in Morocco.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Gender data spur policy advocacy and action on violence against women.** Following the 2019 VAW survey, for which civil society 'listeners' were actively engaged in data collection and subsequent dissemination, the HCP, UN Women and CSOs, advocated for the findings to inform policies and national plans. As a result, the Government of Morocco identified gender-based violence as a critical obstacle in the NMD in 2021 and called for the need to implement a zero-tolerance policy against all forms of gender-based violence for the first time.¹ The data further informed the annual national report on the status of women and Morocco's reporting on progress on gender equality in its Voluntary National Review 2020. Moreover, at least 30 Moroccan CSOs used the data in their advocacy for special measures to protect women during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The first-ever analysis of the costs associated with VAW is informing national plans on women's economic empowerment.** Analysis of the 2019 VAW survey resulted in the production of the first-ever social and economic costing study of gender-based violence incidents. The findings revealed that domestic violence is the costliest form of violence, with an

FIGURE 1
Measuring Progress during Phase I



Progress was fuelled by increased collaboration between key actors to improve legal, political and institutional environments, highlighting women's economic empowerment as a priority for the production and use of gender statistics. In 2021, 100% of targets were met by the project.

annual price tag of USD 313 million. The estimates, a first both for Morocco and the Arab States region, informed the National Integrated Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment (Maroc-Attamkine).

- Regular user-producer dialogues have increased stakeholder understanding of the relevance of gender data and positioned HCP as the custodian of gender statistics in Morocco. HCP is increasingly recognized as the nodal agency for gender statistics through its efforts on gender data, particularly its work to arrange dialogues to engage data users at large-scale events. Debates on the VAW survey and rapid gender assessment (RGA) on COVID-19 findings enabled HCP, line ministries and CSOs to collectively understand the uses, needs and relevance of gender statistics. HCP is being consulted and is now a welcomed contributor on steering committees to advance policy decisions with the required data, informing both national development plans (such as the NMD and Maroc-Attamkine) but also the preparation of more localized strategic development plans at the regional/provincial-level, ensuring that a gender perspective is applied in these plans which are now required under Morocco's decentralization process.

¹ See Statement 1.3 on page 129: Promote and develop a deeper understanding of the values of equality and parity and a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of violence and discrimination against women. https://www.csmd.ma/documents/CSMD_Report_EN.pdf

PLANS FOR PHASE II²

Plans for Women Count Phase II will include: further strengthening the partnership with HCP; advocating for the adoption of the revised statistics bill; scaling up data collection on unpaid care and domestic work in response to Maroc-Attamkine needs; and increasing collaboration with civil society and academia to bolster gender data use to fuel advocacy. Specific interventions include:

- Building capacities for national and regional data producers and users, focusing on monitoring the SDGs and implementing the NMD.
- Organizing awareness-raising initiatives for the amendment of the statistics bill.
- Supporting the production and analysis of gender data on time use and reprocessing VAW data.
- Guiding academia and research institutions in developing research papers on women's economic empowerment to inform policymakers and increase data use.

² Plans for Phase II may be further adjusted as the project document is being finalized.