FINAL ANNUAL REPORT

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

MOVING THE NEEDLE ON GENDER DATA

UN WOMEN | WOMEN COUNT

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REPORTING PERIOD
August 2016 – December 2021

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AfDB	African Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AUD	Australian dollars
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
CEGS	Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics
CGD	Citizen-generated data
CGEP	Country Gender Equality Profiles
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil society organization
DANE	Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (National Administrative Department of Statistics, Colombia)
EUR	Euros
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Generation Equality Forum
GSS	Gender Statistics Strategies
ILO	International Labour Organization
INEGI	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico)
ISSEA	Subregional Institute for Statistics and Applied Economy
ISWGHS	Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MDA	Ministries, departments and agencies
MLE	Monitoring, learning and evaluation
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NDP	National Development Plans
NPGEI	National Priority Gender Equality Indicators
NSDS	National Strategies for the Development of Statistics

NSO	National statistical office
NSS	National statistical system
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
PRESS	Partner Report on Support for Statistics
RGA	Rapid gender assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEK	Swedish krona
SIAP	Statistical Institute of Asia-Pacific
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SPC	The Pacific Community
TSMP	Tanzania Statistical Master Plan
TUS	Time-use survey
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USD	United States Dollars
VAW	Violence against women
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VND	Vietnamese Dong
WHO	World Health Organization
Women Count	Making Every Woman and Girl Count
XAF	Central African Francs

CONTENTS

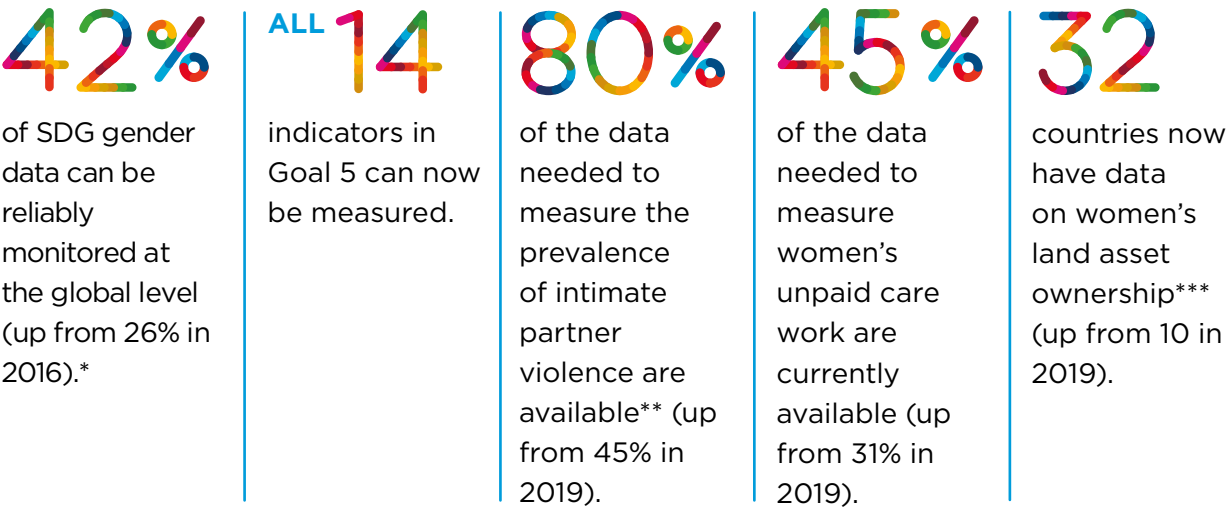# AT A GLANCE: MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

THE ISSUE

Data and statistics are indispensable tools for devising evidence-based policies and programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment, assessing their impact and promoting accountability.

With 17 goals, 169 targets and 231 indicators (of which 51 are gender-specific), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a historic global commitment to achieving gender equality by 2030. The challenges for gender-responsive monitoring of the SDGs are daunting; however, there has been some progress since the "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" (hereafter referred to as 'Women Count') programme began in 2016.

Currently, 21 of the 51 indicators can be reliably monitored at the global level (an increase of 8 since 2016). Established methodologies exist for the other 30 indicators but country coverage is insufficient to allow for global monitoring. As of 2022, there are no remaining Tier III indicators.

In the 2030 Agenda, localization and adequate monitoring of SDG targets are critical to ensure that policies and programmes are implemented, and progress is tracked. The SDGs Gender Snapshot 2021 reveals that globally only 1 of the 18 indicators under Goal 5 is close to the 2030 target. Only 2 of the 18 indicators have sufficient data to assess progress over time across all regions and in 6 out of 18 indicators, global data remain insufficient to assess current levels. Without significant technical and financial investments to support national statistical systems (NSSs) to produce and use gender data, there will be substantial gaps in our ability to adequately inform and monitor the gender responsiveness of COVID-19 recovery and implementation of the SDGs.

Since 2016, some progress has been made; however, bold action is needed to fill gender data gaps:

42% of SDG gender data can be reliably monitored at the global level (up from 26% in 2016).*

ALL 14 indicators in Goal 5 can now be measured.

80% of the data needed to measure the prevalence of intimate partner violence are available** (up from 45% in 2019).

45% of the data needed to measure women's unpaid care work are currently available (up from 31% in 2019).

32 countries now have data on women's land asset ownership*** (up from 10 in 2019).

Source: Figures are updated based on UN Women's calculations as of June 2022, using the United Nations Statistics Division's estimates, available at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/. Notes: *The percentage for 2022 was calculated using over 70+ gender-specific and gender-related indicators, while 2016 was calculated using only 54 gender-specific indicators.
** This only pertains to data availability for SDG indicator 5.2.1.
***Data availability was calculated using new modelled estimates.

UN WOMEN'S STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

Building on UN Women's unique normative, policy, programmatic and coordination mandates, Women Count aims to address three distinct but interrelated challenges:

- Weak policy space, as well as legal and financial environments to produce and use gender statistics at the national level
- Technical challenges within national statistical systems that limit the production of gender data and statistics
- Lack of access and limited capacity among users to analyse gender statistics to inform policies.

Actions needed to address these challenges are country-specific but fall under three broad categories:

Creating an enabling environment: Promoting a supportive policy environment to address institutional and financial constraints, and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production and use of gender statistics.

Increasing data production: Supporting efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics, including building the technical capacity of NSSs, and providing financial support for data collection to monitor the SDGs and other national and international commitments.

Improving data accessibility and use: Promoting greater access to and analysis of data by users, including through open access platforms, dissemination tools, user-producer dialogues, and strengthened capacities of all relevant actors to use gender statistics in policy, programmes and advocacy.

HOW WOMEN COUNT WORKS

Key to the success of Women Count is coordination among international agencies and other actors at all levels, including through joint programming and active knowledge-sharing.

A joined-up approach at national, regional and global levels not only prevents duplication but ensures that support is cost-effective and provided when and where it is needed. Between 2016 and 2021, activities included:

- **Partnerships at the country level:** Following an independent country selection exercise in 2017, 12 pathfinder countries were chosen for direct implementation of projects, in partnership with national statistical offices and in coordination with other actors.
- **Regional technical support:** Regional projects provide policy and programmatic support to pathfinder countries to implement Women Count as well as on-demand technical and financial support to other countries. These projects help dismantle barriers to the regular production of gender statistics; support national plans to monitor the SDGs; and promote South-South cooperation and sharing of best

practices. Regional projects are being implemented in Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, East and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa.

- **Global policy support and SDG monitoring:** The global project provided programmatic and technical advice to national and regional Women Count projects; developed guidance on the production of more relevant and disaggregated gender statistics; monitored the SDGs through methodological work, data compilation and dissemination; and supported countries to improve data availability on unpaid care and domestic work, among other thematic areas.

Additional projects under the Women Count programme included the Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI), and the Joint Programme on Strengthening Methodologies and Measurement and Building National Capacities for Violence against Women Data (Joint Programme on VAW Data), implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO).

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

Strengthening statistical capacity to effectively monitor the SDGs requires well-coordinated and well-funded actions at national, regional and global levels.

- **Country level:** Activities in pathfinder countries focused on strengthening institutional mechanisms, supporting data production, promoting greater access to data, and fostering a strong culture of user-producer dialogue and collaboration. UN Women partnered with all stakeholders to support the development, financing and implementation of participatory plans for monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective.
- **Regional level:** Regional dialogue and coordination were supported by establishing partnerships with United Nations regional commissions and other relevant regional and subregional institutions.
- **Global level:** Work took place through existing mechanisms to improve coordination and strengthen relationships with important players to integrate gender perspectives in global statistics programmes, national statistics strategies and other relevant policies. Global advocacy, outreach and communication also helped generate support for gender statistics.

Phase I donors

Women Count is a USD 44.4 million multi-stakeholder comprehensive global strategy. The programme was generously supported by the Governments of Australia (AUD 6.5 million), France (EUR 1.5 million), Ireland (EUR 1.7 million), Mexico (USD 1.3 million), Sweden (SEK 80 million), 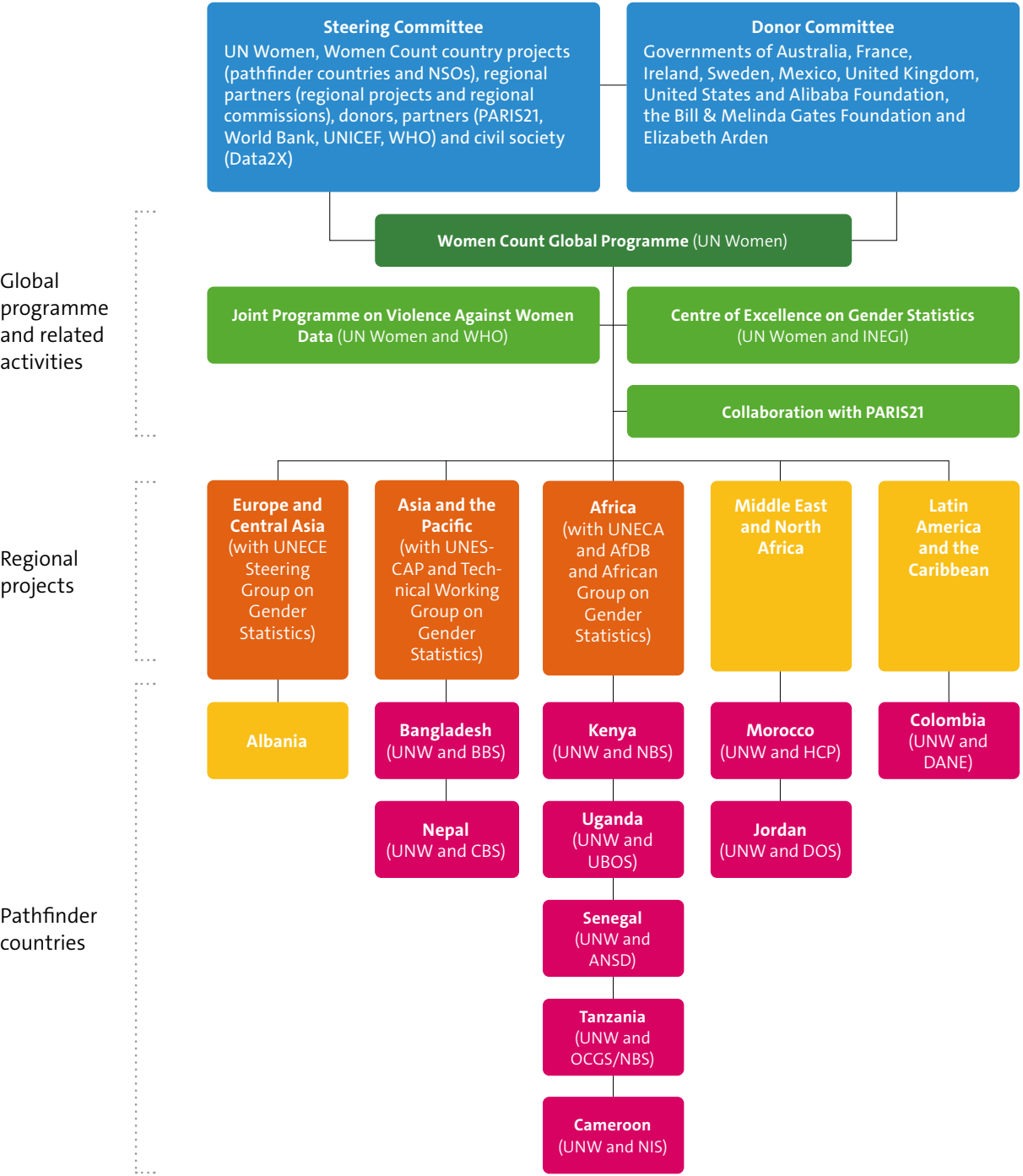the United Kingdom (GBP 6 million) and the United States of America (USD 2.5 million). It has also benefited from the support of Alwaleed Philanthropies (USD 1.75 million), the Alibaba Foundation (USD 760,000), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (USD 10.6 million) and Elizabeth Arden (USD 700,000). In addition, the programme has benefited from UN Women core contributions and the contributions of various UN agencies and other multi-partner funds (USD 2.5 million) to implement activities, including those related to COVID-19.

As key partners of Women Count, each donor is a member of the Donor Committee and the Steering Committee (see Figure 1). As the executive mechanism, the Donor Committee reviews and approves budgets, endorses all major changes to the programme, and promotes the programme more broadly to encourage new partners to join. As a coordination and monitoring mechanism, the Steering Committee's role is to help review progress, guide implementation and ensure coordination with other actors. An additional way that UN Women works with current partners is through open lines of communication and cross-fertilization with relevant projects and programmes they support.

Opportunities for engagement

Interested in getting involved? Contact gender.data@unwomen.org or visit www.data.unwomen.org to learn more.

FIGURE 1.

Governance structure of Women Count

Note: The Albania country project was supported through the regional project for Europe and Central Asia. The Sierra Leone project was initially dropped in Phase I initially as a result of UN Reform.

WOMEN COUNT TIMELINE

PROGRAMME START

2016 INCEPTION PHASE

Women Count launched at the UN General Assembly.

First meeting of Women Count partners in Helsinki, Finland to decide workplan.

USD 5.2 million secured from the Governments of Australia and Ireland.

2017 PLANNING PHASE

First meetings of the Steering Committee and Donor Committee

12 Pathfinder countries selected.

USD 13.8 million secured from the Governments of Mexico and the United States and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

2019 MID-TERM REVIEW PHASE

Mid-term review took stock of progress and determined programme's path forward

Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics and Women Count Data Hub launched

Four new pathfinder country projects[3] and one regional project[4] kicked off

2018 IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

USD 21 million mobilized from the Governments of Sweden, the United Kingdom and Ireland, and from Alwaleed Philanthropies, the Alibaba Foundation and Elizabeth Arden

Methodological work completed for three SDG 5 indicators, and data collection began

Five pathfinder country projects[1], three regional projects[2] and three global partnerships kicked off

PHASE II >>

2020 COVID-19 RESPONSE PHASE

No-cost extension until 31 December 2021 approved by Donor Committee

71 Rapid Gender Assessment surveys conducted to provide the latest data on the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls

USD 5.5 million mobilized, including from Australia for new data projects on COVID-19 in the Pacific, and on violence against women from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

2021 FINAL PHASE

Phase I project closure underway

Women Count Phase II developed and approved

USD 10.3 million mobilized for Phase II, from returning Phase I donors Sweden and Ireland

End-line evaluation of Phase I commenced

PROGRAMME END

1 Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania
2 Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, and Europe and Central Asia
3 Cameroon, Colombia, Jordan and Senegal
4 West and Central Africa

1 HOW FAR HAVE WE COME AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Launched in 2016, Making Every Woman and Girl Count (Women Count), was built on the premise that sustainable improvements in how gender data are demanded, created and used require interventions along the data value chain, including planning and coordination, capacity-development, production and analysis, as well as facilitating access to data for all stakeholders. Only then will the production of gender data result in effective use and reuse to inform interventions that lead to better lives for women and girls.

REFLECTING ON PHASE I: A POSITIVE IMPACT ON GENDER DATA

Through the Women Count programme, UN Women has supported 73 countries (10 pathfinder and 63 non-pathfinder countries) to implement gender statistics initiatives, with impressive results.

Gender data are now recognized as a critical leaver to drive change

Before Women Count, monitoring the SDGs and national policies from a gender perspective posed a massive challenge: countries were able to regularly collect data for only 2 out of 14 gender-related SDG 5 indicators; the lack of a global framework meant that national statistics laws and policies did not specify the planning, coordination, production and use of gender statistics; lack of trust and siloed communities resulted in fragmented statistical systems; and limited technical and financial resources hampered the production and use of gender statistics. Through the Women Count programme's holistic approach, Phase I has laid the critical groundwork to equip countries with the tools to build robust national gender statistical systems. Improved coordination of gender statistics and increased stakeholder engagement across government, civil society and academia have resulted in several advances, including critical policies to improve women's economic empowerment in **Kenya** and **Colombia**,

system-wide action on gender data at the regional level within the Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and robust domestic investment in gender statistics, such as in **Cameroon** and **Sierra Leone**. The production and use of gender statistics has increasingly become a core priority of governments, as evidenced by the request in 2020 of the UN Statistical Commission to adopt and integrate a gender perspective into all its agenda items and the strong country-level demand for support received by UN Women for Phase II of the programme (see Section 2.1).

Global SDG monitoring has significantly improved and more data on violence against women and unpaid care work are now available across countries

In 2016, technical and financial challenges limited the effective and efficient production of gender statistics, resulting in critical data gaps, such as on violence against women and unpaid care and domestic work. The Women Count programme forged strong partnerships, supported 37 national household surveys and supported 17 countries to reprocess existing data,

including for further disaggregation. As a result, the programme contributed to an increase in the available data to monitor the gender-specific SDGs from 26 to 42% and has catalysed the formulation of several policies to achieve gender equality. UN Women's innovative data response to COVID-19 shed a critical light on the pandemic's impact on women and girls, leading to prompt policy responses by countries. Catalytic partnerships with UN agencies have also fuelled action to fill gender data gaps on key areas, including poverty, the gender and environment nexus, and asset ownership (see Section 2.2).

More gender data are accessible and used to inform evidence-based policies and fuel advocacy

In 2016, where data are available, they were not readily accessible or shared in user-friendly formats, impeding their analysis or use to inform evidence-based advocacy in decision-making. When gender data are not used to inform policy and advocacy, this leads to low demand, which in turn reduces the incentive to produce it. Through Women Count, UN Women has spurred data-driven policy action for women and girls, with data on women's economic empowerment being used to inform policies on women's economic empowerment,

such as in **Bangladesh**, **Colombia** and **Kenya**. Improved data on violence against women catalysed advocacy and legal change in **Albania, Georgia, Morocco** and **Uganda**. Since its launch in 2019, the Women Count Data Hub has become the go-to resource for SDG monitoring, data and analysis on COVID-19, gathering over 1 million page views from 224 countries and territories (see Section 2.3).

UN Women has learned valuable lessons to inform the second phase of Women Count

The last five years have yielded valuable lessons about which interventions to strengthen national gender statistics systems yield the greatest results to achieve transformative and lasting change. Monitoring gender data use and effectiveness has emerged as a top consideration that should be incorporated into all phases of decision-making related to data collection, analysis and dissemination. Another key lesson is that countries have different capacities and needs on gender statistics and therefore require support that is tailored to their specific contexts. Lastly, the success of Phase I was a direct result of catalytic partnerships for change that led to greater synergy, more effective interventions and prevented duplication (see Chapter 3).

LOOKING AHEAD TO PHASE II: SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM

Sustaining these important gains and continuing to strengthen investments in gender data will further contribute to global efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

Persistent data gaps, challenges and new threats

Despite the progress achieved, challenges to improving the quality and use of gender statistics persist. Unless bold investments to fill these gaps are made and progress is accelerated, our ability to monitor progress towards achieving the gender equality commitments of the 2030 Agenda will remain impaired and the global community risks failing to achieve SDG 5.

New opportunities can pave the way for a sustainable future for gender data

There are significant opportunities today, compared to five years ago when the Women Count programme

was first developed. First, gender data ecosystems at all levels have expanded significantly, and far more players are now interested in supporting, producing and using gender statistics. Second, the process of modernizing statistical systems, including automating processes and developing tools and methodologies, is providing a fertile opportunity to strengthen the production and use of gender statistics by national statistical systems.

Furthermore, the Generation Equality Forums (GEF) convened by UN Women has emphasized the centrality of gender data and finely disaggregated statistics to deliver on the GEF Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality. The strong global commitments that resulted from the Forums provide a unique opportunity over the next five years to improve gender data to drive progress on the ambitious goals of the Action Coalitions and Compact. Women Count Phase II can play a critical role in providing the data needed to implement the GEF-related data commitments, while ensuring that relevant and timely data are produced regularly to monitor their impact.

MAKING WOMEN AND GIRLS VISIBLE THROUGH BETTER GENDER DATA

Making women and girls in all their diversity more visible involves leading the way to collect and use disaggregated gender data to inform policies, including in new areas and in areas where gender analysis has been absent, or an afterthought.

UN Women has been moving the needle to set standards and approaches to increase both the quality and quantity of gender data available on gender and the environment, violence against women and girls, and women's economic empowerment.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

THE ISSUE

Although data production on women's economic contributions has improved, better evidence is needed on gender and poverty, unpaid care work, women's employment, asset ownership and financial inclusion.

Only **45%** of the data needed to measure women's unpaid care work are currently available.[1]

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

THE ISSUE

Gender-based violence data are patchy, due to low reporting and challenges in surveying survivors. Although data production has improved, gaps remain.

80% of the data needed to measure VAW by an intimate partner (SDG indicator 5.2.1.) are available.[2]

OUR SOLUTIONS

Catalytic partnerships to fill critical data gaps.

UN Women has led pioneering methodological work in collaboration with the FAO, ILO, UNDP, UN-Habitat and World Bank to fill critical data gaps on WEE. As a result, the first-ever global estimates on poverty by sex and age are now published regularly to report on progress towards SDG 1, and more data are available to understand gender inequality in slums, barriers to women's labour force participation and women's ownership of agricultural land to inform policy choices and improve SDG monitoring. UN Women has also supported 10 countries to collect data on women's unpaid care and domestic work through time-use surveys, which are being used to drive concrete care policies in Bangladesh, Colombia, Kenya and Uganda. UN Women will build on these efforts in Phase II to improve the collection and use of data on women's unpaid care and domestic work, asset ownership and social norms to better understand barriers to women's economic empowerment and drive concrete SDG monitoring and policy action.

OUR SOLUTIONS

Data-driven advocacy to fuel policy change.

Improved data on violence against women have been used to catalyse advocacy and legal change. UN Women has supported 9 countries to collect new and nationally representative VAW prevalence data, as well as by using administrative data and other sources. It has also led ground-breaking studies to estimate the national cost of gender-based violence in Jamaica, Jordan and Morocco. UN Women's experience shows that when there are targeted efforts to include data users at all stages of data collection, from survey design to dissemination, the resulting data are more likely to be used. Uganda's VAW survey findings were cited in policy briefs and dialogues that resulted in changes to require ministries, departments and agencies to monitor their budget allocations for VAW prevention, and also led to a call by the Minister of Finance for a national zero-tolerance policy on VAW. In Phase II, UN Women will have a more targeted approach to monitor how data are being used to address VAW and other key areas.

IMPACT STORY

"If you ask a homemaker what she does, she will invariably say 'I don't do anything'," says Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), a Bangladeshi civil society organization that works on security and rights for women and girls, among other issues. *"We want to change that narrative to redefine what we mean by 'work' to include the work women do in their homes."* Through the Women Count programme, UN Women supported the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) to design and roll out the country's first-ever time-use survey. The data will enable Bangladesh to monitor progress on SDG 5.4.1 for the first time and equip policymakers with the evidence needed to reduce burdens on women, such as through childcare policies (see full story here).

IMPACT STORY

Morocco's 2020 VAW costing study put a USD 313 million price tag on its annual cost to survivors. This data point is now cited in the country's 2020 National Integrated Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment as well as the New Development Model launched in 2021 — both of which identify VAW as a critical obstacle and call for a zero-tolerance policy. The costing analysis was based on Morocco's earlier national VAW study supported by Women Count, whose civil society 'listeners' also fuelled subsequent advocacy and service improvements. "When users know the data, as they participated in data collection, they are more willing to trust these data," says Najat Razi, President of the Moroccan Association for Women's Rights (see full story here).

1 Based on UN Women's calculations, as of June 2022 using UNSD estimates at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/.

2 ibid.

GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

THE ISSUE

The links between gender and the environment are misunderstood and gaps in data availability impede progress assessments.

Only **20%** of the data needed to measure gender-environment-related SDGs are available.[3]

OUR SOLUTIONS

Better measurement, good data and evidence.

UN Women together with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UN Environment (UNEP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have pioneered significant methodological work that is enabling countries across Asia and the Pacific to fill these critical data gaps. The world's first nationally representative survey on gender and the environment has been rolled out in Mongolia and in select disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh. Findings reveal large gender differences in numerous environmental indicators, ranging from land ownership to preparedness and vulnerability to disasters, and are shaping national development plans. Furthermore, UN Women led the global call for more gender data on the environment at CSW66, which is highlighted as an urgent priority in the Agreed Conclusions. Under Phase II, UN Women will build on these efforts and scale up data-driven action to urgently address the gaps in gender and the environment data.

IMPACT STORY

When Quang Tri Province, in central Viet Nam, suffered its worst flooding in decades in October 2020, many families were devastated. Among them was Tran Thi Quyt, a blind 60-year-old and the main breadwinner for her family of four people with disabilities. She lost all her poultry and income. Thanks to a gender assessment, and new disaggregated data on vulnerable groups, UN Women was able to provide emergency cash grants of VND 4 million to 315 vulnerable and flood-affected women-headed households to rebuild their livelihoods. Quyt used the grant to buy livestock, seeds and fertilizer: "I will use the money earned from selling the pigs and vegetables to build a new room for my elder son..." Such initiatives helping women forestall the impacts of environmental disasters and climate change can be scaled up and targeted when there is proper data driving them (see full story here).

COVID-19

THE ISSUE

The pandemic sparked an urgent need for gender data to understand the differential impacts of COVID-19, to inform the policy measures needed to build back better.

Women were **1.6** times more likely to receive government relief in countries where targeted gender-responsive policies exist.[4]

OUR SOLUTIONS

Harnessing innovation to collect data in times of crisis.

In the wake of the pandemic, Women Count moved quickly to employ innovative methods to support 65 countries to remotely collect data through rapid gender assessments (RGAs) on COVID-19 socioeconomic impacts. Another 13 RGAs on VAW revealed that half of women had experienced, or knew someone who had experienced, VAW since the pandemic. UN Women and UNDP also developed the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker,[5] which has been used to monitor how women's needs are being met by pandemic policy responses. UN Women's experience has shown that using new methodologies to collect data during crises is critical to informing policy responses. RGAs have since been used as effective tools providing timely data to shape gender-responsive humanitarian efforts in post-earthquake Haiti and more recently in war-torn Ukraine. In Phase II, UN Women will commission a second round of RGAs to assess the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

IMPACT STORY

Chile's COVID-19 RGA revealed that 77% of women versus 60% of men had experienced psychological, mental or emotional impacts due to the pandemic; and that time spent caring for children, cooking and cleaning had increased for 54% for women versus just 38% for men. Such data contributed to integrating women's mental health in an existing health platform, the creation of a subsidy to support working caregivers, and a new programme to support women entrepreneurs. Claudia González, from Chile's Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, says having fast, real and up-to-date gender data was fundamental, "Being able to understand to what degree the crisis was impacting women helped us to effectively have an informed voice and be able to argue the need for a public policy (or not)." (see full story here).

For more information on data production and uses, see Chapter 2; for more details on Phase II plans, see Chapter 5.

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3 UN Women. 2021. Women and the Environment: An Asia-Pacific Snapshot.

4 UN Women. 2021. Women and Girls Left Behind: Glaring Gaps in Pandemic Responses.
5 Women Count provided partial financial support.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS (2016-2021)

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Governing the production and use of gender statistics is now more efficient and participatory across countries

73

COUNTRIES have been supported to improve gender statistics.

18

COUNTRIES have included gender data as a strategic priority in national strategies, plans and legal frameworks.

22

COUNTRIES have improved coordination within the NSS.

INCREASING DATA PRODUCTION

More and better gender data are now available to monitor the SDGs

OVER

7000

DATA USERS AND PRODUCERS are equipped with skills needed to produce and use gender data as a result of training.

42%

**OF DATA** required to monitor progress on gender in the SDGs are now available, up from 26% in 2016.

37

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS have been supported to fill critical gender data gaps, for example on violence against women (8) and time use (12).

MORE DATA on poverty (SDG 1), labour force participation (SDG 8), gender and slums (SDG 11) and the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls are now available as a result of forging key partnerships with UN agencies and national statistics offices.

IMPROVING DATA ACCESS AND USE

Gender data are now more accessible and used to inform policies, programmes and advocacy globally

GENDER DATA has been used to inform **20+** policies and/or programmes to spur action on ending violence against women, women's economic empowerment and COVID-19 responses etc.

THE WOMEN COUNT DATA HUB has enabled greater access to gender data globally, with over **1 MILLION** unique page views from **232** countries and territories.

OVER **200** knowledge products produced, building a strong knowledge base on using and producing gender data to highlight gaps in achieving gender equality.

WOMEN COUNT PROGRESS DASHBOARD: MEASURING PHASE I RESULTS

OVERALL PROGRESS OF WOMEN COUNT

🟥	0 - 19%
🟧	20 - 39%
🟨	40 - 59%
🟩	60 - 79%
🟢	80 - 100%
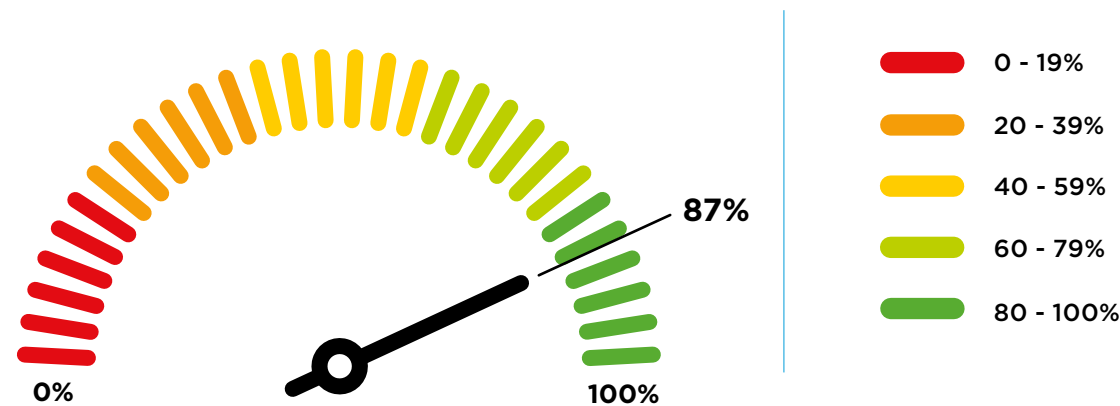
Programme implementation across the Women Count programme has been strong, with 87% of all outcome and output targets achieved. This was especially the case in 2021, with 100% of targets met by the programme across all country, regional and global projects (see Annex XVI).

ABOUT THE PROGRESS DASHBOARD

The Women Count progress dashboard shows achievements against each outcome and output indicator for global, regional and country projects in Phase I.

To determine levels of achievement, the following methodology is used:

A (achieved): If the 2021 target is achieved

B (not achieved): I): If the target for 2021 is NOT achieved

C (on track/some progress): If the 2021 was not met, but work started in 2021 and significant progress towards the target is reported

D (not started/applicable): I): If a target was achieved previously or a target is planned for subsequent years, and work has NOT started in 2021 (this category is excluded from the final calculation of 2021 achievements).

Hence, the computation for project performance is calculated as:

$$\text{Percentage of outcome and output targets achieved or on track in 2021} = \frac{100 \times (A + B)}{A + B + C}$$

And computation for overall programme performance is calculated as:

$$\text{Average overall targets achieved or on track in 2021} = \frac{100 \times (2018E+2019E+2020E+2021E)}{4 \text{ (\# of years of project impl)}}$$

A full detailed list of indicators, baselines and targets for global, regional and country projects is provided in Annex XVI.

GLOBAL PROJECT

Progress was driven by strong global technical support, including oversight and implementation of surveys, partnerships with UN agencies and increasing accessibility of gender data (see Annex II).
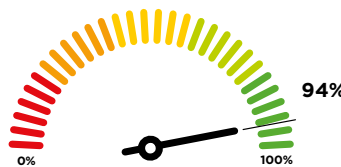
REGIONAL PROJECTS

Asia and the Pacific

Strengthening regional partnerships on gender statistics (including with ESCAP, FAO, ILO, IUCN, SIAP, SPC and UNEP), led to increased data availability to monitor SDGs and influenced global advances in gender and the environment (see Annex III).

### Europe and Central Asia

Progress was driven by improved regional coordination, supporting NSOs to increase production, access and use of gender data for advocacy and policy action and strengthened SDGs monitoring and reporting (see Annex V).

Africa

Progress was driven by improved regional coordination, harmonized gender indicators, expansion to new sources of gender data and increased literacy of gender data producers and users (see Annex IV).

COUNTRY PROJECTS

Bangladesh

64%
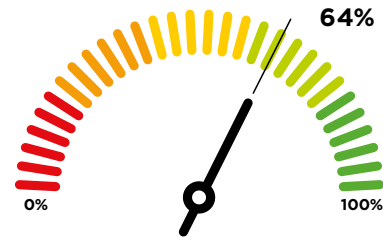
Progress in Bangladesh was driven by the increased coordination and more and better gender data being produced, such as on time use (see Annex X).
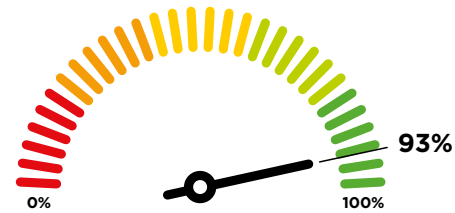
Cameroon

93%

Progress was the result of strong government commitment and investment in gender data, improved coordination, strengthened normative framework and increased data production and accessibility (see Annex XIII).

Colombia

97%

Progress was the result of continued and improved coordination between key national partners, leading to greater national ownership and prioritization of gender data in development plans and policies (see Annex XII).

Kenya

91%
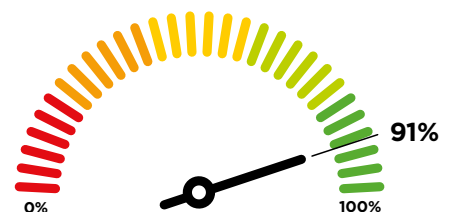
Progress was the result of enhanced technical capacities of the NSO and gender ministry to produce and use quality data. Participation of civil society organizations and academia accelerated the access and use of gender data to inform policies (see Annex VI).

Morocco

85%

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 (see Annex XI).
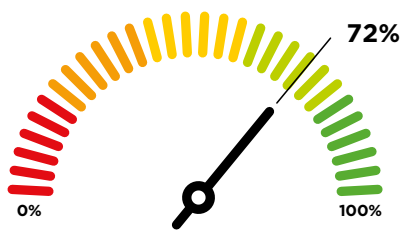
Nepal

72%

A strengthened national coordination mechanism was instrumental in filling gender data gaps and advocacy improved awareness of the power of gender data to produce lasting change (see Annex IX).
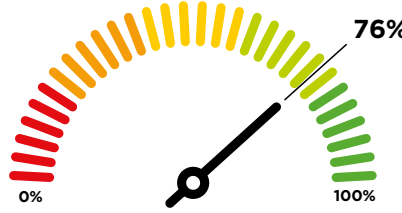
Senegal

76%

Progress was the result of improved technical capacity to conduct surveys – such as a time-use and violence against women – and to improve monitoring of the SDGs from a gender perspective (see Annex XV).

Uganda

92%
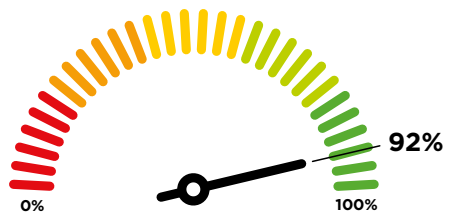
Progress was due to the increased data availability of SDG gender indicators and strong use of gender data was the result of partnerships with Government, academia and civil society (see Annex VII).

United Republic of Tanzania

98%

Progress was driven by institutional strengthening of NSOs, enhanced coordination mechanisms and increased gender data availability, leading to improved reporting and advocacy for policy changes (see Annex VIII).

Jordan

77%

Progress was the result of strengthened partnerships and the improved technical capacities of the NSO, enabling the first-ever economic costing of violence against women and effective use of gender data (see Annex XIV).

2 RESULTS

This section presents an analysis of results across country, regional and global projects for Phase I, during the reporting period from August 2016 - December 2021.
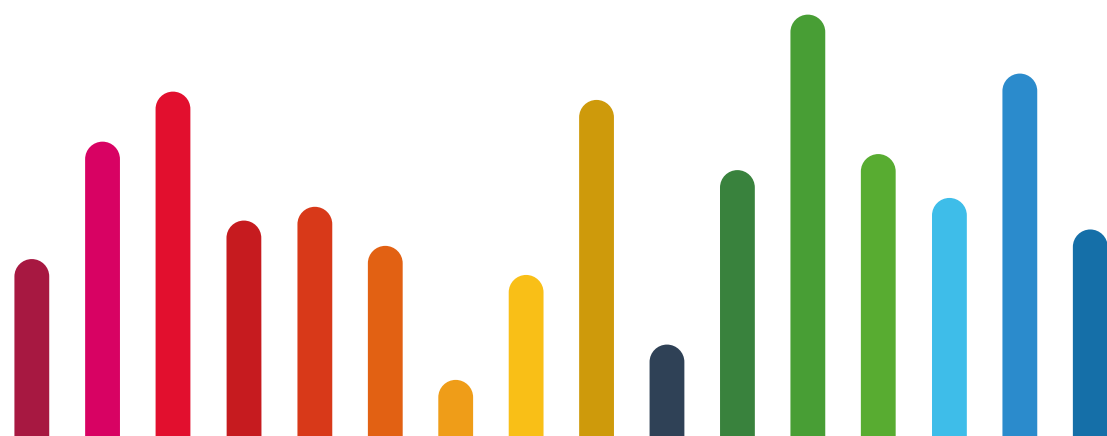
2.1 OUTCOME 1: CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome 1 aims to help countries instil a supportive and well-coordinated policy environment for gender statistics. During Phase I, Women Count achieved this by supporting 73 countries to ensure that interventions addressed institutional bottlenecks and responded to governments' needs. Combined with advocacy at national, regional and global levels, this approach has generated greater ownership and demand from governments to improve gender data long-term.

Governments have prioritized gender data in national strategies for statistics and development plans, signalling a sustainable future

Gender statistics are now explicitly integrated in the national planning policies of 18 countries. The National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) is the statistical blueprint to address the data requirements of National Development Plans (NDPs). Women Count supported countries to integrate gender statistics and indicators in NDPs and a corresponding gender perspective in NSDSs, building an enabling policy environment for inclusive data-driven decision-making. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, the Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) now explicitly includes gender data action and financing plans; the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children mandates relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) to produce sex-disaggregated data on violence against women (VAW) to support victims; and armed with the knowledge that the TSMP will now deliver the necessary gender data for benchmarking and monitoring, MDAs have included more gender targets in the country's Five-Year Development Plan 2021–2026.

Countries are more equipped to integrate gender in their NSDS. As a result of UN Women's partnership with PARIS21, NSDS Guidelines were developed, including a gender module that will enable countries to integrate a gender perspective in all phases of the NSDS cycle (see partner spotlight). Using the guidelines, in 2021 the **Maldives** made gender responsiveness one of the guiding principles of its NSDS and is now better placed to address the gender inequalities that are hampering progress towards the SDGs. **Georgia** also adopted its first-ever 2021–2023 Strategy on Gender Statistics to address the increased demand for high-quality gender statistics, strengthen coordination and financing, improve access and dissemination and boost the use of data for evidence-driven action and policymaking. Building on the guidelines, **Senegal** now has a gender chapter in its NSDS and gender data are now mainstreamed for the first time in all chapters of the country's Economic and Social Situation report, one of the most used products of the NSO.

The Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics is being used as an important advocacy and planning tool to promote the use of gender statistics for policymaking in the Pacific, contributing to at least 11 countries creating enabling environments for improved gender data since its adoption: **Fiji** assessed its gender data gaps and developed plans to fill them; **Palau** established National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEI) as a first step towards a centralized gender data repository; and **Tonga and Micronesia** established coordination mechanisms using the steps outlined in the Roadmap.

Minimum sets of gender indicators are key planning tools to help monitor the SDGs. Jordan's set of 67 gender-related SDG indicators, adopted in 2021, are collected regularly in a repository to help inform policy decisions and will be reflected in the action plan for Jordan's National Strategy for Women. **Uganda**'s NPGEI, adopted in 2016 and updated annually since, were used to revise the country's Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets policy in 2021 to improve women's participation and benefits from public procurement. Building on UN Women's support, the Government of **Viet Nam** now publishes its NPGEI periodically and has actively encouraged its use by policymakers.

More countries have increased national investments in gender data after participating in the Women Count programme. As a response to the national assessment conducted by UN Women in **Sierra Leone**, Statistics Sierra Leone together with the Ministry of Gender, committed USD 3 million to fund a Women Count project starting in 2022. The Government of **Bangladesh** is investing USD 100,000 of its own funding in an upcoming VAW prevalence survey; the Government of **Cameroon** has allocated USD 728,000 to finance gender statistics activities and reforms; and the Government of **Colombia** is co-investing USD 320,000 in its first VAW survey. In **Kenya**, the Government contributed USD 150,000 towards training enumerators and data cleaning of the 2021 time-use survey (TUS).

Improving national and regional coordination has led to increased coherence and global action on gender data

Bringing together different players in NSSs and across regions has yielded more coordinated action. As of 2021, 22 countries had created institutional mechanisms for the coordination of gender statistics bringing new stakeholders to the table. In **Bangladesh**, the first

Inter-Ministerial Coordination Mechanism on gender statistics supported the development of the time-use survey rolled out in 2021, preparations for the upcoming satellite account on unpaid care work and the upcoming VAW prevalence survey. The mechanism has remained vibrant and continued its work, even after the conclusion of the Women Count project, demonstrating sustainability. Moreover, having the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs as a member prompted plans to develop a national programme on unpaid care work, for which the committee may play a critical coordinating role. In **Kenya**, the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee has also provided a valuable platform to cross-pollinate ideas and helped break data siloes within the NSS.

Inter-agency collaboration spurred collective UN action on gender data and strengthened gender mainstreaming. Successful examples include the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)'s Committee on Statistics mainstreaming gender across all of its workstreams and guidance developed by UN Women that prompted the Conference of European Statisticians in 2021 to ask its members to include a minimum set of survey questions on measuring the gendered impacts of COVID-19 in their data collection. UN Women also contributed to the Inter-agency and Expert Groups on Gender Statistics and SDG Indicators, the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, and the UN Geospatial Network – all of which are mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission to increase coordination in international statistical activities. UN Women's participation and contribution to the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS), as co-chair with the World Bank, was critical to positioning gender statistics as one of the group's core areas of work.

BOX 1

WHAT WORKED FOR WOMEN COUNT COUNTRIES TO CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER DATA ECOSYSTEM?

To properly and sustainably tackle the challenges that hinder the production and use of gender data required targeted efforts to address the root of the issue: planning and coordination within the NSS and financing for gender statistics. Based on Phase I experiences, there are several key factors that have contributed to enabling countries to create a gender data ecosystem: engendering national development strategies lays a critical foundation for gender data production and use and is imperative as a first step in creating an enabling environment. Active engagement is critical at all stages – from the design to the adoption of national plans, strategies, laws and policies. Generating government buy-in and ownership from the start is also critical to sustain interest and investment. Another critical element is improving national coordination within the NSS, as well as with broader regional or global bodies, which can help promote participation, ownership and trust, but also prevent the duplication of efforts and encourage organizations to prioritize gender statistics in their work. Yet, we have also learned from Phase I that despite these efforts, domestic and international financing for gender statistics is key to sustainability but remains a critical stumbling block that was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, more efforts are required in this area.

COLLABORATION WITH PARIS21 TO MAINSTREAM GENDER IN NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (NSDS)

"Our three-year collaboration with UN Women has been catalytic. Our partner countries have a deeper understanding of the importance of mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems. Building on Women Count, we mainstreamed gender in our own organizational strategy, as well as in many of our tools, guidelines and approaches." **—Johannes Jütting, Executive Head, PARIS21**

PARIS21 and UN Women have jointly endeavoured to strengthen statistical systems to produce high-quality gender data that are timely and aligned with national priorities and the 2030 Agenda. To this end, PARIS21 implemented four major activities between 2018 and 2021:

- **Improving the coordination and planning of gender statistics** by developing an assessment framework and integrating a gender perspective in statistical strategies.
- **Improving the dissemination and communication of gender statistics** through media engagement, data visualization trainings and user-producer dialogues.
- **Reporting on the use of gender data (and its value)** by analysing citizens' use in national newspaper archives, and policymakers' use in national policies and plans.
- **Reporting financial resources for gender statistics** through a special issue of the 2018 Partner Report on Support to Statistics, and annual updates for 2019 and beyond.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Improved coordination and planning of gender statistics

- **Strategic guidance paved the way for comprehensive gender statistics assessments.** PARIS21 developed a Framework and Implementation Guidelines for Assessing Gender Statistics, enabling countries to evaluate their data and capacity gaps in gender statistics. Building on insights from the assessment pilots, a gender module has been integrated in the PARIS21 NSDS Guidelines.

- **Gender has been mainstreamed in national statistical strategies and plans in nine countries.** PARIS21 supported nine pilot countries to conduct gender statistics assessments, with findings leveraged to develop new, country owned NSDSs in Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Lesotho, the Maldives and Senegal, as well as dedicated Gender Statistics Strategies (GSS) in Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay, and strategic frameworks in Kyrgyzstan and Egypt. In Paraguay, the GSS has allowed the NSO to cost activities linked to gender data production and dissemination, and to design a concrete action plan to engage partners in resource mobilization.

- **User-producer dialogues with civil society organizations (CSOs) have increased the use of citizen-generated data.** Working with pilot countries to enhance gender statistics has opened doors for new solutions and forms of engagement. User-producer dialogues have provided a platform for CSOs to voice concerns around data gaps in the Maldives, leading the NSO to develop a data inventory with data produced by CSOs to enhance the availability of intersectional data. In Paraguay, the NSO has institutionalized regular dialogues with CSOs to review progress against their GSS and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Improved communication and dissemination of gender statistics

- **Skills for communicating gender statistics have been strengthened across NSSs.** PARIS21 and UN Women launched two e-learning courses on communicating gender statistics for journalists and national statisticians. With over 2,000 registered participants, including from media, academia, CSOs and government agencies, the courses have reached a broader audience than anticipated. PARIS21 also used the e-learning curriculum to provide in-person and hybrid trainings. In the Philippines, introductory modules have improved awareness of gender statistics among local government units for example: the Mayor of Samal reported that the training enabled the local government to identify the limitations of basic services that disproportionately affect local women and girls.

- **Data visualization tools built the capacities of 100 data users.** PARIS21 developed an open online gender module for the PARIS21 Data Visualization Toolkit, which served as the basis for national training sessions in Namibia, Paraguay and Peru for more than 100 statisticians and journalists. The module includes presentations and trainer guides on the unique issues related to gender data visualization, as well as exercises that guide participants to use Excel and Tableau Public to create engaging gender data visual products that will be published on the NSO's media channels.

- **A trainer network is built to snowball capacity-building on gender data communication.** PARIS21 consolidated existing training courses on gender data communication and visualization and prepared a training-of-trainers package. The training, delivered in partnership with Gender Data Network, built the communication skills of gender data focal points in NSOs and line ministries, communication officers and journalists in 12 countries, which improved storytelling skills using official gender data.

Reporting on the use of gender data (and its value)

- **The monitoring of gender data use in policy documents has been strengthened.** PARIS21 prepared a methodology for monitoring of the use of gender statistics in national plans and policies by measuring references to and critical engagement with statistical concepts in key national plans, as well as in newspaper and media coverage. Findings will be included in the PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor and inform future work on advancing gender data use and impact.

Reporting on financial resources for gender statistics

- **Reporting on financing gender data has been institutionalized at PARIS21.** PARIS21's annual flagship Partner Report on Support for Statistics (PRESS) has become a leading information source on gender data financing that is regularly featured in partner reports, including Data2X and the Bern Network's Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data. The 2020 edition of PRESS revealed that only 11% of funding for data during the pandemic included a gender dimension, a figure which has been regularly used to advocate for closing the funding gap for gender statistics such as during the launch of the Bern Network Clearinghouse during the World Data Forum 2021.

2.2 OUTCOME 2:
INCREASING DATA PRODUCTION

Outcome 2 aims to increase the production of quality gender statistics to address gaps and improve monitoring and reporting on gender equality commitments, including the SDGs. In Phase I, Women Count achieved this by supporting data collection through surveys, reprocessing existing data and increasing the skills of statisticians to produce and use gender data.

More gender-related SDG data are available than ever

Global SDG monitoring improved thanks to coordinated efforts to produce new data, particularly to monitor SDG 5. Overall, the availability of data on 51 gender-related SDG indicators increased from 26% in 2016 to 42% to date. SDG indicators on legal frameworks (5.1.1), women in local governments (5.5.1b) and gender-responsive budgeting (5.c.1), which were all Tier III indicators in 2016, are now measurable, with 94 countries reporting data on indicator 5.1.1, 152 countries on 5.5.1b and 100 countries on 5.c.1.

Data availability on women's unpaid care and domestic work (SDG indicator 5.4.1) increased from 31% in 2019 to 45% to date. Contributing to this result, Women Count supported 37 household surveys, including 12 on time use. In 2021, **Colombia**'s TUS revealed that 60% of women contribute to unpaid care and domestic work activities and have higher poverty rates than men due to lack of employment, aggravated by higher time poverty. The data were used to inform the country's National Care Policy. Similarly, **Kenya** was supported to conduct its first-ever TUS in 2021 and the results are contributing to the development of a national care policy roadmap, as well as to the inclusion of care work as a priority in the country's next Medium-Term Plan IV (2023–2027). **Bangladesh, Kenya** and **Senegal**, which all conducted a TUS in 2021, are preparing to produce satellite accounts to calculate the value of unpaid care and domestic work (see Section 3.1 for more use cases).

Data to measure SDG indicator 5.2.1 on intimate partner violence increased from 45% in 2019 to 80% in 2022. While this increase is mainly due to new modelled estimates, since 2016, Women Count has supported 8 countries to conduct VAW surveys. Through the Joint Programme on VAW data, an additional 8 countries were supported to implement VAW prevalence surveys (see partner spotlight). **Uganda**'s 2020 VAW Survey, which included a novel blend of a quantitative survey and a qualitative study revealed a lifetime prevalence rate of 56% for physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner as well as complex factors impacting on women's lives, including their health and economic security. The studies spurred a call from the Minister of Finance to adopt a national zero-tolerance policy and are being used by the Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association to push for the adoption of a pending Marriage and Divorce Bill. They were used to inform policy recommendations to strengthen data management systems to collect timely and quality disaggregated VAW data, which have been taken up by authorities. The findings have also prompted UBOS to commit to conducting a VAW survey every five years.

Ground-breaking methodological work was undertaken on gender and environment, to address a critical field where gender data are weakest. Work with partners such as the UNEP, UNESCAP and the IUCN resulted in new indicators and a model questionnaire, while data integration techniques and geospatial analysis has generated empirical evidence on the connections between climate change and gender.

Using the model questionnaire on gender and the environment, **Bangladesh** and **Mongolia** were supported to implement surveys in 2021, with plans to do the same in **Samoa**, **Solomon Islands** and **Tonga** in 2022. Findings in **Mongolia** reveal large gender differences in land ownership, preparedness and vulnerability to disasters, which the NSO will use as crucial inputs to the country's National Development Plan, to monitor SDG progress and develop disaster and risk-reduction plans and policies.

Reprocessing existing data with greater disaggregation has improved data for marginalized women and girls. Women Count has supported 17 countries to mine existing survey data to provide more detailed information about inequality and disadvantages experienced by women and girls and shed light on data gaps. Using reprocessed Household Budget Survey data, **Tanzania**'s new Multidimensional Poverty Index now more accurately measures women's poverty, allowing for more targeted poverty reduction policies. In **Asia-Pacific**, 10 ASEAN Member States were supported to reprocess existing data with a gender lens and identify those groups lagging furthest behind for each of the SDGs in the ASEAN Gender Outlook. The findings are already being used to shape future regional strategies, such as the ASEAN's Complementarity Initiative and ASEAN Cares and informing the ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Disaster management 2021-2025.

Catalytic partnerships have resulted in new gender data produced. UN Women partnered with UN agencies to reprocess large-scale surveys — such as Living Standard Measurement Surveys (with the World Bank), Labour Force Surveys (with the International Labour Organization) and Demographic and Health Surveys (with UN-Habitat) — to produce new gender-specific data on: gender and poverty, the impact marriage and children on female labour market participation and gender inequality in slums, respectively. Moreover, working with the Food and Agriculture Organization, 32 countries now have data on women's ownership of agricultural land (SDG indicator 5.a.1), after integrating land-ownership modules in their agricultural censuses or surveys.

Harnessing innovative approaches and non-official data sources has helped fill urgent data gaps. In East and Southern Africa, guidelines on administrative and citizen-generated data (CGD), were produced, which hold the potential to strengthen and harmonize gender data production. The CGD guidelines were approved for national use in **Uganda**, and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data have incorporated them in their work. In **Asia and the Pacific**, big data and geographic information systems were used alongside official data sources to help CSOs and service-providers better target their online strategies to reach women who are seeking information, services and support in response to experiencing violence during lockdown and inform critical discussions on climate change using geospatial data.

More gender-related SDG data are available than ever

Training and capacity-building for data users and producers is instrumental in strengthening how gender data are produced and used for advocacy and decision-making. Between 2016 and 2021, over 7,000 data producers and users were trained on a variety of skills related to gender statistics, resulting in more statisticians being equipped to produce gender data. With increased capacities, the National Statistics Committee of **Kazakhstan** redesigned the 2022 VAW prevalence survey methodology and tools to provide updated information on intimate partner violence and produce data on new forms of non-partner violence, including sexual harassment.

Partnering with training institutes to develop curricula on gender statistics has led to capacity-building being institutionalized. In **Cameroon,** the Subregional Institute for Statistics and Applied Economy (ISSEA) — which trains producers from the statistical offices of six Central African countries — has introduced a gender statistics course that is mandatory for graduation, as a result of gender statistics seminars provided at ISSEA under Women Count since 2019. In **Asia and the Pacific**, Women Count teamed up with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and UNESCAP to create e-learning materials for a virtual gender statistics

training in 2021 and a training certification system, the first of its kind for SIAP. The Gender Statistics Training Curriculum developed by UN Women and SIAP, which includes a module on communicating gender data, has been integrated in the course work for journalism degrees in at least 13 universities. In **Kyrgyzstan**

for example, the American University of Central Asia adapted the Training Curriculum to develop a course on communicating gender statistics for university lecturers. These efforts are critical steps towards sustainable capacity-building on gender data.

BOX 2:

WHAT WORKED FOR WOMEN COUNT TO FILL CRITICAL GENDER DATA GAPS TO IMPROVE MONITORING OF THE SDGS?

Women Count's approach to support countries to increase data on challenging areas through supporting surveys, reprocessing of existing sources, improving administrative sources, and producing methodological guidance has been a key factor. Catalytic UN partnerships and participation in inter-agency fora have resulted in better use of existing survey databases and have influenced others to do more. Institutionalizing training and capacity-development for data producers and users has also been critical to build the pipeline but also to increase data literacy and use. While there has been significant progress, there are some areas that require improvement: adequate monitoring of how the skills acquired in trainings are being used — specifically on the policy uses of gender data — are still a challenge that Women Count plans to address more systematically in Phase II.

2.3 OUTCOME 3:
IMPROVING DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND USE

Outcome 3 aims to make gender statistics more accessible and used by governments, civil society, academia and other key stakeholders to inform research, advocacy, policies and programmes. During Phase I, Women Count achieved this by supporting countries to use gender data to shape policy discourse by organizing user-producer dialogues, producing and disseminating knowledge products and developing gender data portals.

Globally, Women Count has spurred data-driven policy action for women and girls

Gender data are used to inform policies that promote women's economic empowerment. Uganda's TUS contributed to the adoption of energy-efficient cooking technologies in certain districts, and sparked discussions with Parliament to revise the Employment Act, as well as with the Ministry of Water and Environment to extend clean water to underserved communities. **Tanzania**'s time-use data were used to revise the minimum salary of government employees and to better target poor women for coverage under the Tanzania Social Action Fund. Meanwhile in **Jordan**, an analytical paper on women and men in agriculture revealing that 52% of rural women are employed in agriculture informed Ministry of Agriculture programming, with a new output on promoting social inclusion for youth and women in green agricultural skills in the National Agricultural Development Strategy 2020–2025.

Improved data on violence against women have catalysed advocacy and legal change. Morocco's first-ever costing of violence against women and girls, based on data from its 2019 VAW survey, put the cost at 2.85 billion Moroccan Dirham (USD 313 million). Subsequently, Morocco's 2020 National Integrated Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment identified VAW as a critical obstacle (objective 3.2) and the New Development Model launched in 2021 called for a zero-tolerance policy. Similarly, **Jordan** conducted a VAW costing survey in 2021 (to be released in 2022), the results of which are expected to fuel legal and policy reforms — such as a law

criminalizing VAW in all settings — and lead to a more effective allocation of State resources.

More countries have used rapid gender assessment (RGA) data to inform critical gender-responsive policies and recovery plans to build back better. In **Colombia**, RGA data on the needs of persons with disabilities are being used by the Presidential Council for the Participation of Persons with Disabilities and relevant ministries to update the National Public Policy on Disability. In **Albania**, the RGA findings and advocacy supported discussions with Parliament and line ministries that increased by 15% the target of women beneficiaries for government subsidies and support packages, specifically to reach self-employed women farmers, job-seekers and women-led small businesses.

Robust gender data compilation and analysis have ensured that global normative processes are gender-responsive and data-driven

Governments are using more gender data to track progress on gender equality commitments. Gender data are being increasingly cited in over 25 annual national reports on SDG progress, in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), as well as in periodic reports on the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Given that VNRs play a key role in SDG monitoring, they can be leveraged to catalyse and create a critical mass of gender data and statistics. The Gender Snapshot, which UN Women produces in partnership with UNSD yearly

since 2019, tracks global progress on gender-related SDGs. In Phase II, the Snapshot will be expanded to country and regional levels.

Since 2016, 28 countries produced Country Gender Equality Profiles (CGEPs) or Women and Men booklets, which are feeding into local and national policies and planning. **Cameroon**'s first CGEP was used by the Ministry of Economy and Planning to inform the 2022 Finance Bill adopted by Parliament in 2021, which includes an annex on the gender-related challenges it will address. Cameroon's CGEP is also being used by the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family to review and update the country's National Gender Policy. Women and Men: Gender gaps in Colombia, which reveals the intersecting experiences of diverse and disadvantaged groups of women, is being used to track progress on the SDGs and to inform an update of **Colombia**'s National Public Policy on Gender Equality. In **Albania,** data from the Women and Men in Albania, 2020 edition were used to inform the new National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2030.

More gender data are now accessible to the public and can be used for SDG monitoring, reporting and analysis as a result of national and global gender data portals. Since the Women Count Data Hub was launched in September 2019, the global audience has been expanding, with more than 1.1 million total page views from 232 countries and territories and several stories getting media and social media traction (see Chapter 3). The Hub's functionality also expanded in 2021, with new dashboards visualizing COVID-19 RGAs, VAW and emerging data. A recent corporate evaluation of UN Women's policy advocacy work revealed that, out of all UN Women's knowledge portals, the Data Hub was the most frequently used, both publicly and internally. National portals have also increased access in **Belarus**, **Cameroon**, **Morocco**, **Tanzania** and **Uganda**.

FIGURE 2.
New data and resources

Are we on track to achieve gender equality by 2030? Find out here https://data.unwomen.org/features are-we-track-achieve-gender-equality-2030

Visit the East and Southern Africa gender statistics resource hub here: https://data.unwomen.org/resources east-and-southern-africa-gender-statistics-resource-hub

BOX 3:

WHAT WORKED FOR WOMEN COUNT TO SCALE UP DATA ACCESS AND USE GLOBALLY?

Women Count's experience has shown that there are several measures that can be undertaken to increase data access and use: partnering with governments, CSOs and other organizations is an effective way to set standards, promote ownership and the use of data. Involving data users and producers at all stages — in the planning, design, conduct, analysis and use of survey data — is essential for greater uptake. Supporting governments to use gender data to take stock of progress on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, and to report on global and national commitments has enabled governments to identify gaps and trigger gender-responsive policies and programmes that address them. Making gender data accessible to all and put into context also encourages their broader use and reuse. Despite these efforts, data use is still not done intentionally nor monitored systematically to capture how data have been influential in informing policy discourse. Dedicated data use strategies need to be designed along with data collection plans to identify the key potential policy uses of the data produced from the onset. This has the potential to encourage policymakers to more concretely identify their specific data needs and hence increase usage. In Phase II, Women Count will scale-up efforts on improving data use, including implementing measures to systematically monitor how data have been used to inform policies and programmes across countries.

VOICES OF OUR PARTNERS

Gogita Todradze

Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia

"During the last several years, important projects were implemented with the technical and financial support of UN Women, with a very successful and productive partnership. [...] Significant progress was made regarding filling gender data gaps and ... Geostat had tangible results regarding improving access and use of data."

Macdonald Odubho

Director-General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

"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."

Juan Daniel Oviedo

Director General, National Administrative Department of Statistics, Colombia

"Through the Women Count project, UN Women has made it possible for DANE to build a strategic alliance with [the Presidential Council for Women's Equity] to ensure that the gender statistics produced are used to inform the design of inclusive policies. For example, new data and analysis produced on women's time spent on unpaid care in Colombia are already being used by [the National Planning Department] and [the Council] to inform the design of the Government's new care policy."

Marie-Thérèse Abena Ondoa

Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family, Cameroon

"Thanks to UN Women, the Government has improved the quality of its CSW and CEDAW reports with more data. Also, the structural transformation of the gender statistics environment in the country, driven by the Women Count project, has given us the opportunity to really highlight the work the Government is doing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in Cameroon."

Makoto Shimizu

Deputy Director, United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

"'Our partnership with UN Women resulted in the creation of the Training Curriculum on Gender Statistics in 2020, lead by the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training, within the Asia-Pacific Network for Statistical Training Institutes. [...] Building the capacity of trainers has been essential to ensure institutionalization of the training and sustainability of the initiative.[...]."

Alé Nar Diop

General Manager, National Agency of Statistics and Demography, Senegal

"Women Count has made it possible to stimulate the systematic consideration of gender-specific data in the production of data in Senegal."

Hasnae Fdhil

Head of Cooperation and Communication, High Commission for Planning, Morocco

" [...] The 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."

Mashud Alam

Director of the Demography and Health Wing, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

"We now have more people trained on gender statistics with support from UN Women's Women Count project, so in the future we can generate more gender-specific data more efficiently."

Fatouma Sissoko

Gender Statistician, UNECA

"The collaboration with UN Women has been of immeasurable contribution to the effective implementation of the African Programme on Gender Statistics [...]."

Salma Nims

Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission for Women

"The RGA was an important document that provided data at the time that we could refer to, use and build on for conclusions and for our own arguments. ... that's why rapid assessments with analysis are so important, with recommendations and looking at the structural reasons behind them, that will really impact change."

JOINT PROGRAMME ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA

"The [UN Women-WHO] Joint Programme on VAW data has been a fruitful collaboration that has worked successfully by harnessing the comparative advantages of both [organizations] in bringing together the public health […] and gender expertise and networks […]. We have been very pleased to work together with UN Women on this programme." **—Avni Amin, Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research, WHO**

UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO) are implementing the global Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data (2018-2022) with funding from the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. It seeks to ensure that quality, comparable data on different forms of VAW are collected to address national data gaps, to inform and shape prevention and response strategies, and to meet policy and reporting commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs.

The programme focuses on three areas:

- **Strengthening methodologies** for measuring VAW
- **Strengthening regional and national capacities** on VAW data collection and use, initially in the Arab States and Eastern and Southern Africa regions
- Enhancing **data use** to influence policies and programmes.

LINKAGES WITH WOMEN COUNT:

- Providing technical assistance and quality assurance on VAW data collection, primarily through prevalence surveys implemented in pathfinder countries, including Morocco, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.
- Contributing data on five SDG indicators shared on the Women Count Data Hub.
- Collaborating in advocacy for national partners to commit resources to prevalence studies and to strengthen administrative data systems.
- Working on the Rapid Gender Assessments (RGAs) on the impact of COVID-19 on VAW and an evidence-based technical guidance on phone-based data collection on VAW.

- Working with the Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to develop the statistical framework for measuring femicide, which was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2022.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Methodological developments

- **New tools are addressing critical data gaps.** Methodological improvements in complex areas, such as measuring psychological/emotional intimate partner violence, resulted in a revision of the WHO's Multi-country Study instrument and of the Demographic and Health Survey module on domestic violence. A dedicated module was piloted on intimate partner violence against older women, as well as a scoping review of violence against women with disabilities.

- **The first global, regional and national estimates of intimate partner violence and global and regional estimates of non-partner sexual violence are improving SDG monitoring.** By reprocessing existing VAW prevalence surveys and studies, the first estimates on intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence in the SDG era have been made available on a user-friendly online platform, as a way to track progress and fuel advocacy.

- **Guidance to strengthen the collection, analysis and use of VAW administrative data is filling a critical gap,** transforming the way institutions collect, analyse and use VAW data to inform the provision of services and evidence-based policies and responses.

- **The first-ever statistical framework on femicide/feminicide paves the way for improved measurement.** The framework for measuring the gender-related killings of women and girls, prepared with UNODC, was endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission. The framework will help generate a more complete picture of their prevalence and improve the availability of disaggregated data on criminal justice responses, which could enhance access to justice and yield more targeted policies.

Capacity-building

- **Strengthened capacities yield quality and comparable VAW data.** Women's machineries and NSOs in 21 countries in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa have strengthened their skills and crafted recommendations on conducting VAW prevalence surveys.

- **Enhanced quality and comparability of VAW data improves SDG monitoring and spurs policy action.** UN Women supported 8 countries to collect VAW data, which have been used for monitoring SDG indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 across countries. In Jamaica, survey data supported the development of a National Strategic Action Plan against GBV 2017–2027.

- **Regional networking strengthens expertise on VAW data.** Regional networks of experts were established in East and Southern Africa and Arab States and expanded to ensure the sustainability of capacities and resources for VAW prevalence surveys. The network has engaged in cross-country collaboration and technical assistance.

Data use

- **Data on VAW during the pandemic were produced, and related policies were tracked.** VAW data informed the UN Secretary-General's commitments under the political engagement strategy aimed at mobilizing commitments and actions to end VAW during the pandemic. A rapid assessment provided valuable data on the impacts of the pandemic on service-provision to women survivors of violence in 49 countries. Global advocacy based on this assessment resulted in States prioritizing emergency responses during the pandemic to address VAW, and strengthen services, as analysed in the UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker.

- **Global access to VAW data has improved.** Country data on ending VAW measures, including laws, policies and programming, have been updated in the UN Global Database on Violence against Women to further enhance data use. Key available data were used to inform the development of the indicator framework to monitor the commitments of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence.

PLANS FOR 2022

- Publishing methodological briefs with the new developed set of questions and the policy paper series on data availability and collection on violence against specific groups of women.
- Developing regional training curriculums alongside local research institutes and academia.
- Updating WHO's safety and ethical recommendations for in-person and remote research on VAW and of the UNSD Guidelines on VAW Statistics.
- Global consultations on a globally agreed definition of online VAW and publication of a framing methodology with recommendations.
- Strengthening engagement of key partners in the two focus regions through VAW prevalence survey courses, producing country case studies and regional network meetings to ensure sustained capacities.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON GENDER STATISTICS

"We believe that without data, many gender problems cannot be really seen so we need to make them visible through producing gender data. We have undertaken a close partnership with UN Women regarding the establishment of the CEGS. We hope this will eventually grow to promote gender statistics within the context of the SDGs." **—Julio Santaella, former president, INEGI**

Based in Mexico City, the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) contributes to the strategic efforts of UN Women and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) to strengthen gender statistics through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, research and innovation on key thematic areas such as unpaid care work, forms of violence against women and geospatial analysis. Its three main goals are:

- to facilitate **access to technical expertise** by establishing multidisciplinary networks, connecting gender statistics users and producers in areas such as violence against women data and geospatial analysis
- to serve as a **knowledge hub** for best practices and innovations in gender statistics, through the development of a digital repository
- to act as an **innovation lab** to conduct research on emerging and cutting-edge issues related to gender statistics.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Providing technical expertise

- **New research to standardize measurement of the gender-related killings of women and girls** informed the production of the first-ever statistical framework on femicide that was endorsed at the 53rd session of the UN Statistical Commission.
- **New methodologies are improving the measurement of the time dedicated to care.** CEGS commissioned research studies on new techniques and methodologies to improve the harmonization of time-use surveys were used to inform a methodological study undertaken in Mexico to improve the measurement of 'supervisory care' in time-use surveys, as recognized in the report of the UN Secretary-General on Gender Statistics at the 53rd Statistical Commission.
- **Roster of experts strengthens research on femicide/feminicide.** A multi-disciplinary expert network, formed together with the Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice, strengthened the formulation of the statistical framework on femicide/feminicide.

Knowledge hub

- **The CEGS's data repository improves access to, and the dissemination of, innovative research papers on gender statistics.** The database makes available concept papers, emerging methodologies and policy memos on violence against women, unpaid care and domestic work, and geospatial analysis to inform both national and global policy dialogues and advocacy efforts, such as the measurement of unpaid care and domestic work.
- **Care mapping aims to improve access to services for underserved groups.** A CEGS study on improving time-use survey questions in Mexico analysed the distribution and concentration of the main population groups receiving care (children, the elderly and people with disabilities) and the availability and accessibility of care services. The findings that have been shared with United Nations Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) for replication to allow for the construction of a national care map, where municipal care services are visualized and the different types of services counted, with tools to identify which areas would most benefit from localizing care services.

Innovation lab

- **Analysis of geospatial factors and gender data reveal interdependencies.** The CEGS prepared five research papers on a methodological framework for the analysis of geospatial and gender data and to correlate geospatial and economic data, which was piloted in Mexico. The findings are expected to support the design of integrated programmes and policies and improve monitoring of gender-specific SDG indicators.
- **The production of gender data on the impacts of COVID-19 sparked new research.** CEGS supported the implementation of three rapid gender assessments in Mexico, Chile and Colombia. The findings informed several gender-focused policies and government responses in both Chile and Colombia.

FUTURE PLANS

An evaluation of the CEGS in 2020 highlighted its importance in advancing methodological work on gender and human rights and in geospatial research. The strong alliance with INEGI has strengthened research on gender and geospatial analysis which is identified as a topic with enormous potential. The recommendations have informed the CEGS's Strategic Plan (2021 – 2023) and the collaboration agreement with INEGI. Building on work in Phase I, the CEGS will:

- map areas of innovative research in gender statistics; connect partners and disseminate research to consolidate networks of specialists; identify emerging issues; and promote methodologies and cutting-edge technology
- participate in technical assistance committees and global, regional and national groups
- develop guidelines to implement and pilot the statistical framework for measuring femicide/feminicide
- document and disseminate the experiences and best practices of studies on gender and geospatial analysis on economic empowerment and its relationship with care systems
- conduct further research on the impacts of COVID-19 on the lives of women and girls.

3 STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY FOR GENDER DATA

Strong, consistent and diversified financial commitments drove Women Count implementation

Thanks to continued support from diverse partners, the programme managed to secure a total of USD 44.4 million between 2016 and 2021 (see Table 1). Predictable multi-year funding has allowed UN Women to plan adequately, operate more efficiently, retain and strengthen the technical capacities of UN Women offices to meet the rising demand for support on gender statistics.

The infusion of a modest but important allocation of core resources by UN Women, and an increasing mobilization of resources at country and regional levels, have also been key to the programme growth. In Phase I, five countries and three regions successfully mobilized a total of USD 1.7 million (both core and non-core resources). In **Cameroon**, USD 200,000 was secured from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support gender statistics for gender-responsive budgeting, in addition to UN Women's core contribution of USD 50,000 to produce a study about women in markets. In **Uganda**, USD 250,000 was contributed by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office under the Spotlight Initiative to support the survey on the prevalence of violence against women and girls, children and the family and strengthening administrative data systems.

Using the framework of its Women Count project, UN Women **Morocco** secured EUR 700,000 (USD 829,000) from the European Union to improve the capacity of its national statistical office to produce gender statistics and conduct gender analysis on rural women's economic empowerment. Additionally, as a result of the Women Count programme's work on RGAs, several new partnerships were established in 2020, creating greater synergies with several UN agencies and resulting in USD 4 million in new funding to support COVID-19-related data collection being spearheaded by UN Women.

A call for sustainable financing for gender data

While resource mobilization efforts during Phase I have been unprecedented in scale, gender statistics remain underfunded. The 2021 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) found a stagnant trend in financing for gender data and statistics projects from Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors, with little change in funding after a significant boost around 2015. However, funding increased for projects with a focus on gender data, like Women Count, driven largely by bilateral donors and, most recently, private foundations. Of the top five donors in gender statistics, four are Women Count partners – Sweden (15 per cent), the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (6 per cent), the United Kingdom (6 per cent), and Australia (4 per cent).

In Phase II, resource mobilization efforts will expand to encourage a more sustainable stream of resources at all levels, in a coordinated manner. To equip UN Women Regional and Country Offices with the necessary resources and skills to mobilize funds, a dedicated resource mobilization and advocacy toolkit is being developed. An advocacy strategy (externally and internally facing) will be developed to increase the visibility of UN Women's achievements through this programme. It will include specific donor visibility and recognition guidelines to better standardize the approach across the programme and ensure that donors and partners are recognized for their contribution to those shared results.

Equally important will be to tap into the Generation Equality Forum and Action Coalitions, which will be leveraged to drive investments in gender data. The Action Coalitions have outlined the imperative for gender data in their blueprints which are critically needed to deliver on the Action Coalitions (see data spotlight in the Global Acceleration Plan).

TABLE 1:
Summary of contributions received and expected, by donors, per year

| Donor	Value of contributions as per agreement*	Contributions received in 2016	Contributions received in 2017	Contributions received in 2018	Contributions received in 2019	Contributions received in 2020	Contributions received in 2021	Contributions received in 2022	Total contributions received (as of May 2022)	Main area of work supported
Australia	4,835,485	2,120,755	1,566,584	1,148,146					4,835,485	Non-earmarked, fully flexible (with strategic interests in Asia and the Pacific)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	10,656,529	-	3,000,000	4,000,728	3,000,000		655,801		10,656,529	Global Policy Support project, Kenya, Tanzania and Nepal project
Ireland	1,780,084	163,043	296,209	752,798	272,305	295,729			1,780,084	Non-earmarked
Mexico	1,300,000	-	440,000		430,000	430,000			1,300,000	Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS)
United States	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	-	-				2,500,000	Global Policy Support Project
United Kingdom	7,966,176	-	-	4,047,581	1,930,502	990,753	997,340		7,966,176	"65% to the Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data and remaining 35% non-earmarked"
Sweden	8,642,885	-	-	4,412,089	3,075,661	1,155,135			8,642,885	Non-earmarked, fully flexible
Elizabeth Arden	700,000	-	-	375,000	325,000				700,000	Non-earmarked, fully flexible
Alwaleed Philanthropies**	1,750,000	-	-	500,000	1,250,000				1,750,000	Non-earmarked (with strategic interests to support Jordan, Morocco and Senegal projects, and some support for the Global Policy Support project)
Alibaba Foundation	760,000	-	-	380,000	380,000				760,000	Non-earmarked, fully flexible
Agence de Développement Française***	1,733,577						896,523	837,054	1,733,577	Senegal project
Other Non-Core Resources****	1,289,464	-	-	30,000	200,000	788,975	270,489		1,289,464	Projects in West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon and Colombia
Core Resources	442,871				120,000	60,000	262,871		442,871	Projects in Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, Tanzania and Cameroon
Total	**44,357,071**	**2,283,798**	**7,802,793**	**15,646,342**	**10,983,468**	**3,720,592**	**3,083,025**	**837,054**	**44,357,071**	

*values are in USD
**Total value of contribution agreement reduced by USD 750,000 per donor's request
***Donor agreement signed in 2021
****Other includes resources secured from other programmes and pooled funding sources.

FIGURE 3.
Expenditures per project*
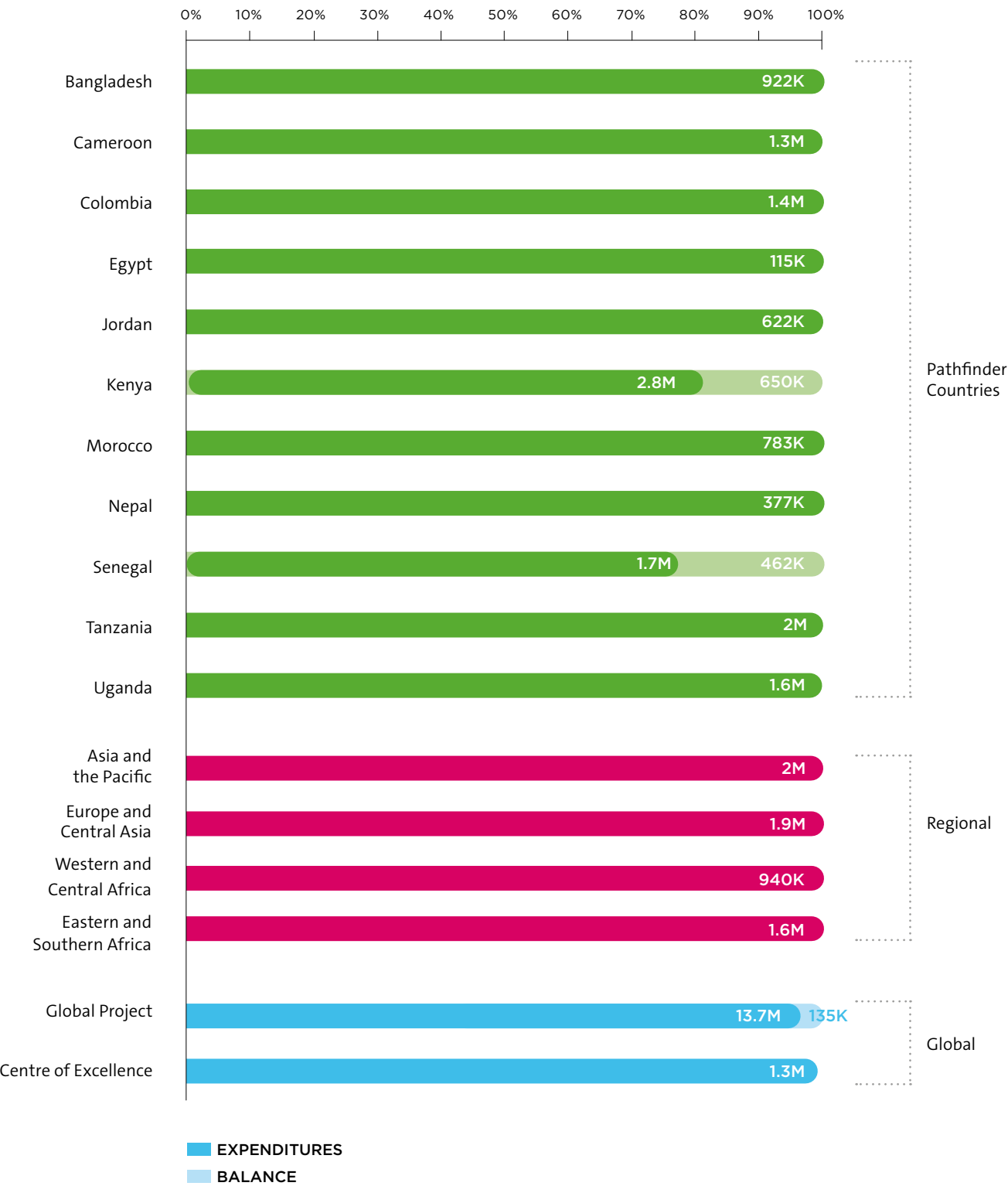
Note: *Figures are in USD. Includes contributions from signed agreements between donors and UN Women headquarters plus the contribution from Agence de Développement Française (AFD) signed between the Government of France and UN Women Senegal and the contribution from the Government of Mexico for the CEGS.

Targeted advocacy and outreach strengthened the global call for action on gender data

Communication and advocacy are critical to achieving programme successes. Over the course of Phase I, UN Women: used social media as well as mainstream media articles and newsletters to reach stakeholders; leveraged partnerships with media to expand visibility; and organized and participated in more than 300 advocacy events, workshops and roundtable discussions worldwide, including during key global events.

The Generation Equality Forum called for sustainable financing for gender data. At the Mexico City Gender Equality Forum in March 2021, UN Women organized a special session on data availability for the Action Coalitions to learn from existing innovative solutions for producing and using gender data to fill gaps and drive policy change. It also set the stage for what a data and accountability agenda should look like, while underlining the need for advocacy and investment in gender data. An op-ed by Sarah Hendriks, Director of the Policy, Programme & Intergovernmental Division, was published on Devex, and was the most-read piece on gender data, with 29,000 reads.

At the Paris Forum in June 2021, UN Women organized a high-level event on gender data innovations and solutions, featuring key partners, including those highlighting how UN Women's RGAs have driven national responses. The event was highly successful, being the second most-attended high-level event, and the thirteenth most-attended at the Forum overall.

Gender statistics are now part of the conversation at the UN World Data Forum. In the lead-up to the World Data Forum, UN Women was invited to join the SDG World Tour as part of the Road to Bern campaign, with high-level video messages shared on social media. UN Women's Deputy Executive Director Åsa Regnér delivered a powerful message on the importance of achieving Goal 5 on gender equality, which was then used for the campaign. During the World Data Forum, UN Women was involved in multiple events, highlighting key data solutions, such as the RGAs and the Counted and Visible Toolkit. Among them was an interactive gameshow organized by UN Women, which used polling tools to engage the audience on different views and ensure that the topic of gender data was part of the conversation.

Active media engagement enhanced visibility of Women Count

A report on violence against women during COVID-19 was amplified by media coverage. Based on a 13 country RGA survey, UN Women released the report Measuring the shadow pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19 in November 2021 to coincide with the 16 Days of Activism campaign to end VAW. The report was highlighted in the UN Secretary-General's statement for the commemoration of the International Day to End Violence against Women. More than 50 news outlets covered the report, including the New York Times and Washington Post, and it has been cited in at least 10 academic journals, including BMJ Global Health. Moreover, the report was mentioned more than 1,400 times on Twitter, generating 56 million impressions. A Google Ads campaign reached more than 96,000 impressions, with nearly 12,000 clicks of the report.

Partnerships with Devex and BBC expanded the reach of gender data. UN Women and Devex created a Focus Area on Gender Data that received more than 160,000 online visitors; produced 51 pieces of content, including op-eds, blogs and articles; and shared 12 newsletters with 1.4 million people. Moreover, social media outreach under the partnership generated over 8.5 million impressions. RGA findings were also used by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to shed light on women's unpaid work during the pandemic through the BBC's 100 Women initiative. As a result of the partnership, UN Women developed a data brief, "Whose time to care: Unpaid care and domestic work during COVID-19",. The BBC also used the RGA data for an article, "Coronavirus and gender: More chores for women set back gains in equality", which was translated into 10 languages, reaching some 1 million readers. The data were also replicated by CNBC, CNN and other international and regional news outlets, including data on mothers' exodus from the workforce picked up by the Wall Street Journal.

4 MONITORING, LEARNING AND EVALUATING RESULTS

Monitoring, learning and evaluation (MLE) is a key component of the programme. The Phase I MLE plan included three key objectives: 1) measuring effectiveness, 2) learning through diversity of experiences and 3) monitoring sustainability.

Monitoring and measuring effectiveness

UN Women has continuously sought ways to improve monitoring and reporting over the last five years. Reviews and monitoring of progress against results (quarterly, annual and mid-term reviews) were regularly conducted jointly with stakeholders and donors, as defined in the monitoring, learning and evaluation (MLE) plan. In 2021, the following key activities were undertaken:

• A consolidated results summary was developed and will be shared following internal review and quality assurance.

• Three formal donor committee meetings were held in 2021 to provide updates on the programme implementation, as well as several ad-hoc meetings and consultations with donors and partners to inform the design of Phase II.

• The programme's end-term evaluation was commissioned, and key preliminary findings are included below. The evaluation report is expected to be disseminated in Fall 2022.

Important lessons learned from Phase I

Drawing on UN Women's corporate evaluation of flagship initiatives, the programme's Mid-Term Review (MTR), case studies and Phase II consultations, lessons from Phase I include:

What worked well?

• **Timing and positioning:** One of the most important factors for the programme's success was UN Women's timing and positioning, which helped

identify and articulate a comparative advantage in gender statistics for UN Women.

• **Calibrated approaches:** Women Count followed an incremental approach to rolling out the programme, based on the experience of pathfinder countries, which enabled constant calibration and improvements based on what worked and what didn't.

• **Alignment with global best practices:** Selecting pathfinder countries and supporting non-pathfinder countries to implement capacity-building activities across the data value chain proved to be an effective and efficient approach and led to several high-impact results.

• **Successful programmatic pivots:** The programme's shift amid COVID-19 to produce RGAs and other pandemic-specific gender data, is an example of its adaptable setup and the trust and flexibility of its donors.

• **Partnerships boost success:** Partners encouraged others to increase their focus on gender statistics, expanding reach and impact. Phase II will build on and deepen important areas of work initiated in Phase I (see Section 2.1).

• **Effective donor engagement:** Adequate, multi-year and flexible funding was key. Donor support in recruiting an HQ-based team for global policy support and regional advisers for direct technical support helped guide implementing countries and regions.

• **Dedicated advocacy strategy:** Women Count's dedicated advocacy strategy was instrumental in bringing stakeholders to the table for resource mobilization.

What were the challenges to address in Phase II?

• **Results vary:** Despite achieving its overall objectives, performance and results varied across countries and regions, due to barriers such as lengthy national decision-making processes, weak capacities and external risks beyond the programme's control. Therefore, a statistical capacity maturity model approach coupled with national demand for gender data were used to select Phase II implementing countries and projects.

• **Demand outstrips supply:** Increased demand for technical and financial support on gender data far outstrips current supply. This is particularly important amid COVID-19, as national statistical systems face budget cuts.

• **Human resource constraints:** The absence of regional statistics specialists in the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and human resource constraints also affected project implementation at the country level, and the ability of the CEGS to achieve all its objectives. In Phase II, the CEGS will continue under a LAC regional project.

• **Global efforts were more visible:** While the programme had a communication, outreach and advocacy strategy, these efforts were more visible at the HQ level than at regional and country levels, due to a lack of specialized staff and context-specific strategies.

• **Greater focus needed on data use:** Improving the use of gender data should be intentional. Communicating and disseminating gender data should remain a priority in Phase II.

End-line evaluation paves the way for a second phase

The preliminary findings of the evaluation align with MTR findings. A tentative summary is provided below (pending report finalization):

• **Relevance:** Women Count's design and approach met the needs and priorities identified in gender assessments of NSSs and NSDS, leading to national ownership, inclusivity and mutual accountability for delivering results. The implementation strategy was appropriate since it targeted the entire NSS and covered the full data cycle while simultaneously addressing existing barriers to the efficient production, dissemination and use of quality gender data and statistics.

• **Coherence:** Women Count was well aligned with other global initiatives, agreements and best practices on gender statistics. As a good practice, the programme developed and/or adapted standardized methodologies and technical support tools to produce gender-related SDG indicators to address gender data gaps. This included developing NSDS guidelines alongside PARIS21, providing technical support to NSOs to localize surveys on gender-related issues, and reprocessing existing data to produce gender-related SDG indicators and other data.

• **Effectiveness:** The programme achieved an average of 87% of outcome and output targets, delivering high-quality results and informing/influencing at least 26 policies and programmes.

• **Efficiency:** Women Count's governance structure, management and coordination were participatory and provided timely communication flow to ensure transparency and accountability towards partners and donors. Though there was equitable allocation of financial resources to implementing countries and regions, limited financial resources didn't allow for scaling-up. The programme's governance mechanism should also allow for more frequent exchanges and interactions with recipient countries.

• **Impact:** The programme achieved commendable results on Outcomes 1 and 2, although less on Outcome 3. The impact of the programme was visibly felt at two levels: a) its contribution to increased data availability for SDG monitoring and b) providing data to inform the COVID-19 response. However, the use of data (Outcome 3) was only systematically reported by most projects in the last two years of the programme, partly in response to MTR recommendations. In addition, despite producing several high-quality data products, these were not always well disseminated, communicated and accessible, limiting their broader use and impact. In Phase II, a data and knowledge management strategy to improve monitoring and communication on data use, with means of verification, should be developed and rigorously implemented by UN Women and its partners.

• **Sustainability:** It is too early to measure Women Count's sustainability and key indicators of its Results Framework were not designed to do so. The progress made and results achieved at national, regional and global levels can be cause for optimism. However, in Phase II, key principles and measures of programme sustainability need to be developed and reported regularly as part of the Results Framework.

5 PLANS FOR WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

Through Phase I of the Women Count Programme, UN Women has laid critical groundwork and equipped countries with the tools needed to build robust national gender statistical systems. Sustaining these important gains will further contribute to global efforts to ensure that all women and girls are counted and visible.

Building on Phase I, Phase II aims to scale up data-driven action guided by a more decentralized approach working more closely with partner governments, international agencies and other actors including civil society organizations and academia at country, regional and global levels. Implemented between January 2022 and December 2025, the programme will serve as the main programmatic tool for implementing Outcome 6 of UN Women's new Strategic Plan 2022–2025. The programme's approach will remain focused on the same three outcome areas: i) Creating an enabling environment; ii) Increasing the production of gender data, and iii) Improving data accessibility and use.

Key changes include:

- **Decentralized approach:** Responding to the increasing country-level demand on advancing gender statistics, Phase II will strengthen UN Women's regional architecture in all six regions, to support 70+ countries.

- **More tailored approach:** The scope of interventions in Phase II will be more targeted, driven by country demand and responding directly to data and informational needs identified by governments and other stakeholders.

- **Sharper thematic focus:** Based on consultations with countries and demands expressed, Phase II data production will focus on four priority areas of work, namely: 1) women's economic empowerment, 2) violence against women, 3) gender and the environment, and 4) governance and participation. This will also include advancing processes on the use of new data sources, including administrative data, big data and citizen-generated data.

- **Focus on data use:** Greater emphasis will be placed on improving data use in Phase II. This shift will be informed by existing guidance on data use prepared during Phase I.

- **Systematic knowledge management:** This will be achieved by continuing to guide systematic knowledge-generation, documentation and exchange, ensuring that data and knowledge products are disseminated and by promoting learning through Communities of Practice on gender data.

- **Leveraging partnerships:** Existing partnerships will be strengthened and new ones forged, while further advancing inter-agency collaboration to improve gender statistics and SDG monitoring.

- **Robust communications and outreach:** Building on current practices, Phase II aims to localize communications, outreach and advocacy to deepen engagement in communication and dissemination at country and regional levels.

The evaluation of Phase I and the systematic capture and documentation of lessons learned during the implementation of Phase II will be used to further develop and sharpen the Phase II strategy.

ANNEXES

Programme expenditures 2016-2022

Budget Women Count Programme	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total	Percentage (%) Direct Costs
Expenditures by outcome									
Creating an enabling environment (Outcome 1)	$100,047	$537,747	$2,862,359	$3,459,511	$3,066,762	$2,582,659	$178,117	$12,787,203	40%
Increasing data production (Outcome 2)	$ -	$425,051	$697,725	$2,426,285	$3,430,492	$4,110,852	$794,077	$11,884,481	38%
Improving data availability and use (Outcome 3)	$ -	$70,529	$687,470	$1,614,762	$1,622,479	$2,138,415	$14,511	$6,148,165	19%
Learning, monitoring and evaluation	$ -	$16,649	$118,337	$201,002	$258,039	$251,710	$-	$845,737	3%
Total direct costs	$100,047	$1,049,977	$4,365,891	$7,701,560	$8,377,771	$9,083,635	$986,705	$31,665,586	100%
Total support costs	$157,093	$372,284	$911,125	$807,044	$232,148	$225,952	$62,004	$2,767,649	-
TOTAL	**$257,140**	**$1,422,261**	**$5,277,016**	**$8,508,604**	**$8,609,919**	**$9,309,587**	**$1,048,709**	**$34,433,236**	**-**

Expenditures by category									
Expenditures by category									
Salary Costs - National Programme Staff	$ -	$ -	$12,213	$77,304	$241,536	$218,598	$ -	$549,651	2%
Salary Costs - General Service Staff	$ -	$ -	$65,509	$122,672	$180,327	$235,019	$ -	$603,527	2%
Salary Costs - International Programme Staff	$ -	$361,020	$958,111	$1,701,798	$1,733,669	$1,648,116	$ -	$6,402,714	19%
Insurance and Security Costs	$ -	$63,443	$174,886	$340,716	$398,069	$394,026	$ -	$1,371,140	4%
International Consultants	$12,000	$68,350	$260,427	$432,432	$614,055	$930,454	$138,679	$2,456,398	7%
Local Consultants	$24,165	$62,485	$187,025	$478,631	$834,221	$748,681	$30,550	$2,365,758	7%
Contractual Services - Individuals	$ -	$ -	$106,246	$691,202	$845,923	$729,675	$305,340	$2,678,386	8%
UN Volunteers	$ -	$ -	$ -	$11,091	$29,333	$14,880	$6,097	$61,401	0%
Travel	$63,882	$51,567	$671,983	$1,027,623	$442,565	$759,565	$31,286	$3,048,472	9%
Contractual Services - Companies	$ -	$228,554	$131,726	$427,524	$685,146	$988,907	$6,071	$2,467,928	7%
Equipment and Furniture	$ -	$ -	$16,647	$14,585	$30,390	$10,879	$188	$72,690	0%
Communication and Audiovisual Equipment	$ -	$175	$65,656	$41,675	$25,454	$40,127	$938	$174,024	1%
Supplies	$ -	$ -	$1,556	$15,388	$45,424	$15,685	$ -	$78,053	0%
Grants	$ -	$ -	$1,224,271	$308,629	$100,000	$50,000	$ -	$1,682,900	5%
Hospitality/Catering	$ -	$5,683	$2,359	$42,558	$3,375	$54,741	$ -	$108,717	0%
Rental and Maintenance - Premises	$ -	$42,842	$116,425	$278,280	$260,677	$246,581	$15,915	$960,719	3%
Rental and Maintenance - IT Equipment	$ -	$ -	$51,342	$30,640	$62,699	$102,511	$73	$247,265	1%
Reimbursement Costs	$ -	$16	$12,433	$38,429	$25,911	$8,466	$110	$85,364	0%
Professional Services	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$106,200	$339,395	$2,459	$448,055	1%
Audio Visual and Printing Production Costs	$ -	$10,000	$52,518	$125,446	$234,338	$280,083	$22,808	$725,194	2%
Provisions and Write-offs	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$82,132	$5,076	$87,207	0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	$ -	$ -	$3,122	$33,056	$6,250	$420	$ -	$42,848	0%
Facilities and Administration	$157,093	$372,284	$911,125	$807,044	$232,148	$225,952	$62,004	$2,767,649	8%
Training, Workshops and Conferences	$ -	$1,524	$171,934	$744,510	$459,763	$700,760	$422,635	$2,501,126	7%
Salary Costs - Temp appointment / IP staff	$ -	$153,236	$61,387	$678,688	$957,915	$450,963	$983	$2,303,172	7%
Other	$ -	$1,082	$18,114	$38,682	$54,532	$32,972	$(2,503)	$142,879	0%
GRAND TOTAL	**$257,140**	**$1,422,261**	**$5,277,016**	**$8,508,604**	**$8,609,919**	**$9,309,587**	**$1,048,709**	**$34,433,236**	**100%**

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF: GLOBAL

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

THE ISSUE

The Women Count global policy support project aims to address three interrelated challenges:

- A weak policy space, as well as legal and financial environments, continue to be barriers to progress. In many countries, the production of gender statistics is not specified in statistics laws and policies, and as a result, the sector remains underprioritized and underfunded in national budgets.

- Technical and financial challenges limit the production of gender statistics. Areas such as violence against women (VAW), and unpaid care and domestic work, are important to measure but continue to be underresourced. Also at-risk are emerging areas, such as gender and poverty, gender and the environment, and women's participation in decision-making, where more methodological work is needed. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these existing challenges.

- Lack of access to data and limited capacity to make use of gender statistics limit their ability to inform policies remains. Where data are available, they are often not shared in user-friendly formats, impeding their uptake, analysis or use to inform evidence-based advocacy and decision-making. When data are not used, this leads to low demand, which in turn reduces the incentive to produce gender statistics.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** UN Women has provided programmatic and technical guidance to pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries to implement gender statistics activities. Technical guidance has been developed on key areas, including the production of SDG indicators from existing household data and data collection amid COVID-19. Collaborating with key partners such as PARIS21 has facilitated the inclusion of a gender perspective in national strategies.

- **Increasing data production:** Global monitoring of the SDGs has improved thanks to the successful completion of methodological work and the compilation of gender-related SDG indicators led by UN Women. Partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), UN-Habitat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank, UN Women has generated new data on women's economic empowerment and other areas.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The Women Count Data Hub launched in 2019 has become a global one-stop-shop for gender data. Knowledge products, statistical briefs, interactive dashboards and research on gender and the SDGs have been produced and widely disseminated through partnerships with media to increase access and use of gender

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"Our three-year collaboration with UN Women has been catalytic. Our partner countries have a deeper understanding of the importance of mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems. Building on Women Count, we mainstreamed gender in our own organizational strategy, as well as in many of our tools, guidelines and approaches."

Johannes Jütting, Executive Head, PARIS21

- data. Global advocacy on gender data has also improved through UN Women's participation and organization of major global and regional events.

- **Monitoring, learning and evaluation:** The End-line Evaluation, Mid-Term Review and Annual Review Meetings have provided important opportunities to take stock of progress, lessons learned and to inform the future direction of Women Count Phase II.

KEY RESULTS

Since the start in 2016, UN Women has actively driven the international dialogue on gender statistics, strengthening the organization's position as a global leader on gender data. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Women Count has expanded UN Women's global footprint on gender data.** Since 2016, UN Women has supported at least 62 countries in implementing various gender data initiatives. As a result, national statistical systems are now more gender-responsive and are prioritizing gender data in national planning, policies and programmes, which has in turn enabled more gender data to be produced and used. For example, an assessment of gender statistics in Lesotho led to the holistic gender mainstreaming of the National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) through the inclusion of gender-specific objectives in all 14 sector plans, which has increased ownership to address data gaps. Similarly, technical support provided to UN Women's Multi-Country Office in the Caribbean resulted in six countries agreeing to integrate questions about unpaid care and domestic work in upcoming censuses, enabling reporting on SDG indicator 5.4.1. Practical guidance and tools have strengthened the capacities of National Statistical Offices (NSOs), UN agencies and other key stakeholders to collect data on the impacts of COVID-19; to utilize existing data to fill gender data gaps to monitor the SDGs and to assess data and statistical capacity

gaps to improve gender statistics in a more unified way. Phase I has deepened UN Women's gender data work, making the organization a trusted, influential and sought-after partner on gender data, cementing its leadership in this space. Gender data production is also now recognized as a cross-cutting institutional priority in UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022–2025.

- **Global inter-agency coordination has influenced others to take action on gender data.** UN Women has contributed to various initiatives, including the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and SDG Indicators, the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) and the UN Geospatial Network — all of which are mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) to increase the coordination of international statistical activities. UN Women's participation and contribution to the ISWGHS, including as co-chair (alongside the World Bank), was critical to ensuring that gender statistics are now one of the working group's core areas of work.

- **More funding for gender statistics has strengthened UN Women's ability to inform data-driven policies and improve monitoring of the SDGs.** The implementation of the Women Count programme is rooted in strong, consistent and diversified financial commitments that have enabled UN Women to expand the reach and depth of support that could be provided to countries and regions. UN Women's catalytic mobilization of resources has led to a total of USD 44.4 million funding for gender statistics since 2016. Despite this unprecedented investment, gender data remain chronically underfunded. The pandemic underscored the importance of timely gender data, and while calls and the demand for gender statistics increase, funding remains stagnant. For example, only 11% of funding for data during the

pandemic included a gender dimension. Without increased resources for gender statistics, there will be very significant gaps in the ability to track progress on global commitments and to monitor how data have been used to inform policies and advocacy on gender equality and women's empowerment (for more information see chapter 3).

2. Increasing data production

- **There is more SDG gender data being produced than ever before, with more countries now able to monitor progress on SDG 5.** As the custodian/co-custodian agency on SDG 5 indicators, UN Women led the completion of the methodological work and successful reclassification of SDG indicators 5.1.1 (existence of legal frameworks to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex), 5.5.1b (women's representation in local governments) and indicator 5.c.1 (gender-responsive budgeting) in 2017–2018. As a result, all 14 gender-related indicators in SDG 5 can now be measured, 80% of data are available to track 5.2.1 (up from 45% in 2019), 45% of data are available for SDG 5.4.1, and 32 countries are able to track 5.a.1. As of June 2021, 42% of the data needed to monitor the various gender-related SDGs are now available – up from 26% in 2017. Moreover, each of the countries Women Count has supported have now achieved at least 40% of gender data availability. UN Women and UNSD have annually taken stock of progress on data availability across the SDGs. With these new data in-hand, the latest edition of the SDG 5 tracker reveals that only 1 of the 18 SDG 5 indicators is 'close to target', spurring calls for urgent action to accelerate progress to achieve SDG 5.

- **Catalytic partnerships with the FAO, ILO, UNDP, UN-Habitat and World Bank have resulted in new data on women's economic empowerment and on socioeconomic disadvantages.** UN Women partnered with the ILO and UN-Habitat to produce two new global databases on women's labour force participation by marital status (SDG 8) and on gender and slums (SDG 11), shedding additional light on key issues. The ILO has made the data available on their dashboard and both organizations will continue to regularly update the data as part of their regular work. Collaboration with the World Bank resulted in the first global estimates on poverty by sex and age, now publicly available on the new Poverty and Inequality Platform, to support closing data gaps

for monitoring SDG indicator 1.1.1. Using these data, UN Women collaborated with UNDP and the Pardee Centre to generate poverty forecasts and advocate for an integrated policy approach to achieve SDG 1. In addition, UN Women's partnership with FAO increased the number of available SDG indicator 5.a.1 estimates (on women's ownership or secure rights over agricultural land) from 10 to 33 and provided technical capacity to 16 countries to produce and report on this indicator, by reprocessing existing household survey data and increasing the number of countries that can produce such estimates.

- **Women Count rose to the COVID-19 challenge to address the need for new gender data, including on the shadow pandemic.** Despite the challenges of collecting data amid a pandemic, the programme pivoted to support more than 77 RGAs in 59 countries to collect data on gender-related socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, with many influencing government responses and policies. Building on the success of these RGAs, in 2021 UN Women conducted 13 RGAs with a focus on VAW. Findings confirm that violence against women increased as a result of COVID-19, with a shocking half of all women surveyed reporting that they or a woman they know had experienced VAW since the pandemic. The VAW RGA methodological tools will also be used to inform the VAW prevalence surveys to be conducted in Colombia and Bangladesh in 2022.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **The Women Count Gender Data Hub has been recognized as the leading UN Women portal to access data and resources on gender data.** Following its launch in 2019, the Data Hub has been recognized within the global gender statistics community as the 'one-stop shop' for gender data. It has been especially crucial in increasing the accessibility of gender data on the SDGs and on the impacts of COVID-19. Country fact sheets have been used as a key resource to measure country performance on the status of women and girls and to assess the gender data availability needed to improve SDG monitoring. The Hub has amassed over 1 million unique views from 224 countries and territories as of May 2022 – a monumental increase over the 44,400 views in its first three months after launching in 2019. A recent UN Women evaluation also revealed that among all UN Women websites, the Hub is the most frequently used knowledge platform by headquarters and field

- office staff. The Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) regional gender statistics portal, launched in 2021, also enhances access and visibility of key gender data, statistics resources and normative frameworks of the subregion.

- **UN Women has influenced global conversations on the need for more and better gender data.** Since 2016, UN Women has strengthened awareness of the importance of gender data by organizing and participating in global advocacy events on the margins of the UNSC, UN General Assembly, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), World Data Forum, etc. At the SDG Moment, UN Women's findings from the Gender Snapshot 2021 and the SDG5 tracker were cited in the Economist Impact's keynote speech, the unanimous call for urgent action needed to achieve SDG5 and the UN Secretary-General's report on progress on the SDGs. At the two high-level events on gender data at the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico and in Paris, UN Women equally advocated for advancing a data-driven accountability agenda to propel the delivery of the six Action Coalitions in particular, and policy action more broadly. With more than 1,800 participants at each session, both events garnered among the highest attendance at the Forum. The gender data event in Paris was the second-most attended high-level session, signalling the global importance of gender data to fulfil the ambitious commitments of the Action Coalitions to drive progress on gender equality (see Chapter 3 for more).

- **Partnerships with media have increased the visibility of Women Count and the latest data and resources.** UN Women has strengthened the use of gender data for outreach and advocacy in different media outlets, achieving wide reach through its engagement with print and social media. Great visibility for the work completed in Phase I was achieved by publishing a focus area on gender data in partnership with Devex and partnering with the BBC to use findings on unpaid work in the BBC's 100 Women initiative. Featured articles recapping COVID-19 and gender (BBC) and gender data fuelling generation change (Devex) garnered more than 1 million views. Social media has grown in importance during the pandemic, by harnessing the power of telling stories to make the invisible visible to more global and more diverse audiences.

4. Monitoring, learning and evaluation

- **Evaluation dubs Women Count a best practice.** UN Women's corporate evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of UN Women's 12 Flagship Programme Initiatives (FPIs) reveals that Women Count was one of the most successful programmes, maintaining consistently good results across regions and being regarded as a good practice. The programme stands out among the FPIs for its timing and positioning of UN Women, strong governance and operational effectiveness, effective donor engagement, calibrated approaches and strong advocacy. The Women Count end-line evaluation further confirms these findings, revealing that the programme's design and approach effectively responded to and met the needs and priorities identified in the gender assessments of NSSs, while being aligned with national development plans and global initiatives. The evaluation notes that the implementation strategy was largely successful because of its holistic theory-based approach that targeted the entire system, covering the full data cycle and statistical processes while simultaneously addressing existing barriers to efficient production, dissemination and use of quality gender data and statistics. The programme achieved more than 90% of its results at outcome and output levels. The Women Count programme was also deemed to have been successful in addressing policy and legal frameworks, and to have accelerated the increased production of gender-related data across the different regions and countries by strengthening the institutional capacities of NSOs (see Chapter 4 for more).

- **Critical lessons learned from Phase I are informing the future of Women Count.** Regular reviews of programme effectiveness and strategic guidance have contributed to the success of Women Count. Systematic stock-taking and lessons learned through commissioning country case studies, quarterly reviews, annual review meetings and a Mid-term Review have promoted opportunities for Women Count staff and partners to share experiences and lessons learned and to identify the necessary programmatic shifts needed. This has been instrumental in mitigating unforeseen risks, especially amid COVID-19. Lessons learned have also been used to inform the development of Women Count Phase II.
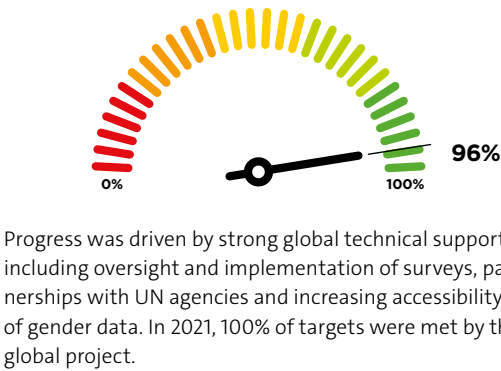
PLANS FOR PHASE II[1]

At the global level, Women Count Phase II will continue to: scale up its support to regions and countries to develop and implement gender data initiatives; deepen strategic partnerships with UN agencies to produce new data and analysis on key areas to monitor the SDGs; produce global guidance to equip countries with the tools needed to produce and use gender data for policies and advocacy; as well as systematically document data uses cases. Key activities will include:

- Participating in inter-agency meetings and strengthening partnerships, for example with FAO, ILO and WHO to monitor and report on the gender-specific SDGs.

- Providing technical and programmatic support to countries and regions to develop Phase II projects.

- Expanding partnerships with academia and research institutions to develop new measures and improve monitoring of the gendered impacts of COVID-19.

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress during Phase I

96%

0%   100%

Progress was driven by strong global technical support, including oversight and implementation of surveys, partnerships with UN agencies and increasing accessibility of gender data. In 2021, 100% of targets were met by the global project.

- Producing global guidance and tools that contribute to modernizing national statistical systems through the use of non-traditional data sources (big data, artificial intelligence, geographic information systems), and by integrating gender into global statistical methodologies and standards.

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1 Plans for Phase II are in the process of being finalized.

ANNEX III.

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

THE ISSUE

A regional assessment on gender statistics in Asia-Pacific, conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Only a quarter of countries in the region had a law on gender statistics or explicitly covered gender data in a general statistics law. The subregion with the lowest availability of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) gender data was the Pacific, which lacked data for more than half of gender indicators.

- Specialized surveys in important areas, such as time use, were not carried out regularly in most countries, either due to limited financial resources, lack of technical skills or both.

- National statistical systems often had limited capacity to disseminate and communicate data. This constrained the ability of media, governments, women's organizations and other stakeholders to use gender statistics to inform decisions, research, advocacy, policies and programmes.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Regional coordination to support countries' production and use of gender data has improved. Working with

organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Island Countries were supported to mainstream gender in national plans and coordination mechanisms through a Roadmap on Gender Statistics.

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of national statistical systems have been strengthened, with quality data generated on the gender and environment nexus, climate change, women's land ownership and the gendered consequences of COVID-19. In partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the first ASEAN flagship publication on gender statistics was produced, aimed at improving SDG monitoring.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Training on gender statistics has been standardized across the region. Through work with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), users' capacities have been strengthened to conduct gender data analysis, while the accessibility of gender statistics has increased, fuelling better reporting. Training has also improved capacities to communicate and share gender data and metadata between regional and global SDG-related databases and to organize user-producer dialogues effectively.

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FINAL ANNUAL REPORT:
MOVING THE NEEDLE ON GENDER DATA | 53

"Our partnership with UN Women resulted in the creation of the Training Curriculum on Gender Statistics in 2020, lead by the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training, within the Asia-Pacific Network for Statistical Training Institutes. Through its 11 modules, it covers a wide variety of gender statistics topics. Using these materials, we have also trained numerous trainers across the region and started a certification programme for those who completed it. Building the capacity of trainers has been essential to ensure institutionalization of the training and sustainability of the initiative. The materials have also been used to create an e-learning course, which is now freely available to continue building the capacities of statisticians and data users on gender statistics."

Makoto Shimizu, Deputy Director, SIAP

KEY RESULTS

Since 2018, UN Women has made significant efforts to improve the production and use of gender data across Asia and the Pacific. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Strengthening regional coordination has led to system-wide action on gender data.** As a result of UN Women's advocacy, technical support and partnerships, in 2020, the Committee on Statistics agreed to mainstream gender across all of its workstreams. As a result of this decision, UN Women, in collaboration with ESCAP, has been enhancing gender mainstreaming in disaster statistics, economic statistics and civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS). Following the preparation of two briefs and a side event on CRVS, a ministerial conference's outcome document called for more comprehensive registration of life events for both women and men across their life cycles. In the area of environment and disaster statistics, UN Women and its partners – International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), ESCAP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – have developed indicators and a model questionnaire, that was field-tested in Bangladesh and fully implemented Mongolia in 2021. Furthermore, through the use of data integration techniques and geospatial analysis, UN Women has generated empirical evidence on the connections between climate change and gender outcomes, leading the global conversation in this area of statistics.

- **A Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics is paving the way for more and better gender data.** The

Pacific Roadmap, developed in partnership with SPC and Member States, has helped jumpstart the national production of gender data in at least 11 Pacific Island Countries. In Fiji, the National Statistical Office (NSO) in partnership with various other government agencies conducted an assessment of gender data gaps, prepared a gender data profile and set out a series of steps to fill gaps in the future. Tonga set up a Gender Statistics Taskforce and promoted inter-ministerial dialogue to identify key areas for gender data production (such as women's leadership, gender and the environment). Palau used the Roadmap to identify 40 National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEIs) as a first step towards a centralized gender data repository and is reprocessing existing SDG data.

- **Increased coordination has enabled Pacific Island Countries to prioritize gender data.** A Pacific Gender Statistics Coordination Group was established together with SPC and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It has been a useful space to support the implementation of the Roadmap, for example to identify interests/needs and share lessons on collecting data in Roadmap priority areas (such as gender and the environment, women's economic empowerment, big data, etc.). Gender Statistics Coordination Group meetings have improved collaboration between data users and producers. In Samoa, for instance, the Ministry of Women is now coordinating closely with the NSO to identify data needs to better measure the consequences of COVID-19 as well as environmental hazards. This conversation began through group sessions and has now been institutionalized for planning for data collection in the country.

2. Increasing data production

- **For the first time, countries are now able to collect data on the gender and environment nexus.** A model questionnaire to measure the gender-environment nexus was developed in partnership with SPC, UNEP, IUCN, ESCAP, FAO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). It aligns with international standards and helps countries collect internationally comparable data in this area with traditionally low gender analysis, while contributing to measuring various SDG indicators. The world's first nationally representative survey on gender and the environment was conducted in Mongolia in 2021, which aims to inform the implementation of Mongolia's Vision 2030 and will generate over 100 indicators. The new estimates showcase large gender differences in numerous environmental indicators, ranging from land ownership to animal husbandry and preparedness and vulnerability to disasters. In Bangladesh, the same survey was implemented in select disaster-prone provinces and UN Women is working with the NSO to use lessons learned to pave the way for a nationally representative survey on this topic. Another three countries[1] plan to roll out surveys based on the model questionnaire in 2022. The development and testing of the model questionnaire, and the analysis of the connections between gender and the environment undertaken by UN Women, fed into the 2022 Agreed Conclusions of the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which call for countries to enhance the availability and quality of data on gender and the environment.

- **More countries are now able to monitor more SDG targets and fill data gaps.** UN Women has led the development of international guidance to better measure the time women allocate to supervising children and other dependents through Time-Use Surveys (TUS) – the frequency of which is growing across the region. Indonesia has approached UN Women to test the methodology, as a first step towards the country's implementation of a full TUS in 2023. The methodology is expected to improve measurements that currently undervalue women's contribution to unpaid work and contribute to reporting on SDG indicator 5.4.1 on unpaid care and

domestic work. As a result of UN Women's support, the Government of Viet Nam identified a set of NPGEIs, now publishes related data periodically to monitor progress towards these priorities (including the SDGs) and has actively encouraged policymakers across ministries to use this publication to inform their decisions. In Mongolia, data reprocessing has resulted in the regular publication of disaggregated data on child marriage rates, the proportion of people with access to basic water services, improved sanitation facilities, clean cooking fuels, etc., which are being used to monitor progress on the SDGs and Mongolia's Vision 2030.

- **The Asia-Pacific Training Curriculum on Gender Statistics has standardized statistical training across the region and beyond.** The curriculum, developed by UN Women and SIAP, was institutionalized by training institutions across the region, with 15 universities integrating these materials in the course work for journalism, economics and statistics degrees. Nearly 300 students have increased their knowledge on gender data as a result. These institutions have created gender statistics programmes and regularly provide related training to students and statisticians. For instance, based on the Training Curriculum materials, the National University of Mongolia developed a post-graduate course on Gender and Economics. Statisticians from national statistical training institutions are also using the curriculum to train an increasing number of new recruits to produce and use gender data. Furthermore, through a virtual training-of-trainers, educators in 10 countries, whose details are included in a repository, are now certified to implement further gender statistics training. UN Women, SIAP and ESCAP have also created an e-learning course, openly available online, for those who wish to take this training at their own pace. Several countries outside of Asia and the Pacific are benefiting from these materials as well.[2] Through the Gender Statistics Coordination Group, SIAP, SPC and UN Women also designed a training programme adjusted to the needs of Pacific Island Countries and Territories that will be implemented later in 2022. In 2021, regional training was delivered virtually to further develop big data analysis skills among national statisticians, not just within NSOs but also in other line

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1 Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga.
2 Government institutions and universities in Central African Republic, Germany and the United States of America are now using curriculum materials in their coursework.
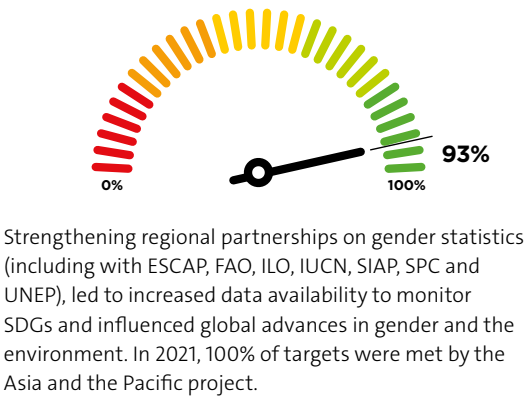
- ministries, to help fill gender data gaps in areas such as violence against women, environment-related displacement and the use of early warning systems, among others.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Gender data analys is being used to promote gender mainstreaming in national and regional strategies in ASEAN.** In partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), its Committee on Women, its Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, and NSOs across the region, UN Women has supported all 10 ASEAN Member States to reprocess existing data, disaggregate it at multiple levels, and identify those population groups lagging the furthest behind for each of the SDGs, from a gender perspective. These data were then published in the first edition of the ASEAN Gender Outlook in 2021. ASEC is already using the findings to shape future regional strategies, such as the ASEAN's Complementarity Initiative and ASEAN Cares. Statistics from the Gender Outlook were also used to inform the ASEAN Regional Framework On Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in Disaster Management 2021–2025 (ARF-PGI), which is expected to inform national policies in this regard. UN Women has also been working with all 10 Member States to promote the use of these data to formulate strategic policies and decisions in line with the publication's findings. In Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Culture has utilized Gender Outlook data to highlight women's role in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and the need to continue supporting their participation in the labour market, including through flexible arrangements.

- **Big data analysis is fuelling advocacy on climate change and violence against women (VAW).** Survey data were integrated with geospatial data in five countries to assess the connections between climate change and gender-related outcomes, showing clear connections with aridity, drought episodes, temperatures, floods and other factors. As a result of the climate change analysis utilizing geospatial data finalized at the end of 2021, evidence-based contributions were made to expert groups in preparation for CSW66 and to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in 2022. Big data from search engines and social media were also

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress during Phase I

93%

0%   100%

Strengthening regional partnerships on gender statistics (including with ESCAP, FAO, ILO, IUCN, SIAP, SPC and UNEP), led to increased data availability to monitor SDGs and influenced global advances in gender and the environment. In 2021, 100% of targets were met by the Asia and the Pacific project.

analysed to understand trends pertaining to VAW since the onset of COVID-19 in eight countries.[1] The analysis has helped CSOs and other service-providers better target their online strategies to reach survivors more efficiently, after a series of discussions with service-providers organized by UN Women in each of the eight countries. As a result, some CSOs are already starting to see higher online engagement, which may open doors to reach more survivors. This analysis also informed similar big data analysis conducted under in the Building Back Better programme for four Pacific Island Countries,[2] which showed that VAW-related searches and posts also increased in times of overlapping crises (COVID-19 and floods, typhoons, volcanic eruptions, etc.). The results of this research will be published in 2022 and are expected to inform the behaviour of service-providers in those countries.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[3]

Plans for Phase II in Asia and the Pacific will focus on: strengthening and expanding partnerships in Pacific Island Countries and ASEAN to ensure greater coordination on gender statistics; continuing to roll out the Gender Statistics Training Curriculum to different regions and subregions; increasing data production on the gender and environment nexus and women's economic empowerment; and scaling up efforts to improve data accessibility by collaborating with policymakers to ensure that gender data inform policies

and programmes across Asia and the Pacific. Specific interventions include:

- Continuing to support Pacific Island Countries with the implementation of the Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics and through the Pacific Gender Statistics Coordination Group.

- Continuing to expand methodological work on gender and the environment and support related data collection.

- Supporting more countries to analyse and reprocess existing data to fill SDG data gaps.

- Utilizing innovation and non-conventional data sources to fill data gaps on care entrepreneurship and women's contribution to natural resource and waste management.

- Producing flagship publications for subregions to inform intergovernmental processes.

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1 Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore
2   Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga.
3 Plans for Phase II are in the process of being finalized.

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN AFRICA

THE ISSUE

A regional assessment on gender statistics in Africa was conducted in 2018, revealing three interrelated challenges:

• Despite regular censuses and surveys conducted by National Statistical Offices (NSOs), there were huge gaps in data to track gender-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators across Africa. Regional stakeholders acknowledged that a lack of coordination and poor communication had been a major drawback, leading to duplication of efforts and missed opportunities to leverage resources.

• Technical challenges limited the production of gender statistics and the ability to inform regional and country-level interventions – on economic empowerment, violence against women and girls, political participation, and peace and security.

• NSOs and other producers of statistics were still using outdated or ineffective methods of dissemination and communication, which resulted in the limited use of gender-sensitive data to influence policy dialogue, planning and budgeting.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

• **Creating an enabling environment:** Regional coordination has improved. By working with organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), countries have identified and addressed institutional, legal and financial constraints to mainstream gender in national statistical systems (NSSs) and establish an efficient monitoring and evaluation system for the SDGs.

• **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of NSSs are being strengthened and quality gender data – on violence against women, unpaid care work, gaps in access to decent work and pay, participation in public life and decision-making, and access to/use of information and communications technologies – are being produced to improve SDG monitoring.

• **Improving data accessibility and use:** The capacities of users are being strengthened to conduct gender data analysis, while the accessibility of gender statistics is increasing through better reporting. Training is also improving capacities to communicate gender data, while data- and metadata-sharing are being encouraged to facilitate data flows, including to regional and global SDG-related databases.

"The collaboration with UN Women has been of immeasurable contribution to the effective implementation of the African Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS) [...]. Illustrations of such achievements are among others: (i) Joint trainings and meetings in various areas of gender statistics in Africa that have contributed a lot to the development of capacities of gender and statistics experts; (ii) The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa, developed under the leadership of UN Women in partnership with UNECA and AfDB through a continent-wide and inclusive consultative process [...] to inform its development; and (iii) the Assessment of APGS 2017–2021 and development of a new APGS 2022–2026. These efforts are essential to the achievement of the APGS objectives."

Fatouma Sissoko, Gender Statistician, UNECA

RESULTS

Since 2019, UN Women has made efforts to strengthen the production and use of gender data through a continent-wide approach. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

• **Regional coordination on gender statistics has been strengthened through strategic partnerships.** Since 2012, the continent's coordination mechanism for gender statistics, the African Group on Gender Statistics (AGGeS) had been inactive due to technical and financial constraints. UN Women supported UNECA in reigniting AGGeS, which led an evaluation of the first phase of the Africa Programme of Gender Statistics (APGS) and the preparation of its second phase (2022–2026). As a result of collaborative, continued advocacy by UN Women in support of the APGS, more agencies are now actively supporting the production and use of gender data on the continent. With the increasing prioritization of gender statistics, AfDB funded the establishment of a gender statistics unit at the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in 2021. Further, partnerships within and beyond the UN system have led to the development of training programmes and the production of gender data, firmly rooting gender statistics in the continent.

• **New gender data priorities have helped harmonize gender statistics across the continent.** As a result of UN Women's advocacy and technical support, the Statistical Commission for Africa (SCA) adopted a Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa (MSGIA) providing strategic direction and scope for gender data actors and strengthening regional collaboration among NSOs. The MSGIA is embedded in the APGS and provides guidance to countries on formulating their own national minimum sets of gender indicators. It harmonizes regional and subregional indicator initiatives into a coherent set of 53 indicators that were jointly developed by UN Women with UNECA and AfDB, after a continent-wide consultative process with NSOs, gender machineries, UN agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs). After training from UN Women, the MSGIA has been used by NSOs in the preparation of Country Gender Equality Profiles.

• **An increasing number of African countries have strengthened gender data production and use as a result of UN Women's leadership.** Women Count's regional efforts in Eastern and Southern, Western and Central Africa have enabled more countries to improve how gender data are produced and used. In Rwanda, surveys were conducted to fill critical data gaps on domestic violence and women's unpaid care and domestic work. Nine countries[1] were supported to conduct gender assessments, which resulted in an increasing national prioritization of gender statistics. Responding to the assessment, governments developed full-fledged gender statistics projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. In Zimbabwe, UN Women support served to revitalize its dormant Gender Sector Statistics Committee, which led to an evaluation of the second National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) that informed the country's third NSDS, which now includes more specific gender

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1 Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

- statistics plans and strategies than any of its predecessors. Gender data are also increasingly informing national reports, such as Zimbabwe's Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2021, strengthening countries' abilities to monitor and report on the SDGs. This has resulted in an increasing demand for UN Women's support on gender statistics across the continent.

2. Increasing data production

- **Alternative data sources now hold greater potential to strengthen SDG monitoring.** The data landscape is ever-changing, with a greater volume of data being produced outside of surveys and censuses. To holistically monitor the 2030 Agenda, UN Women championed the development of regional guidelines and assessments on non-traditional data sources, including administrative and citizen-generated data, which hold the potential to strengthen and harmonize gender data production. Globally, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data have incorporated these guidelines in their work. And national research institutions are following suit. For example, with the support of UN Women the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Ethiopia embarked on a one-year pilot to collect, analyse and use citizen-generated data to report on SDG 5 and other gender-specific SDG indicators. The guidelines have strengthened the capacity of NSSs to use non-traditional data sources for SDG monitoring and strengthened NSO collaboration with CSOs in the region.

- **A regional training programme has scaled up gender statistics capacity-building on the continent.** Building on the momentum for gender statistics created by the APGS, UN Women, in partnership with UNECA and AfDB, developed a virtual training programme on gender data and statistics in 2020. Conducted annually, the programme convenes data producers and users for a workshop addressing gender data literacy, communicating gender statistics and producing SDG indicators and thematic surveys through various modules responding to the needs of NSOs. Kenya and Senegal have applied skills gained from

these trainings in the design of their first time-use surveys. Similarly, Statistics Mauritius has requested the training material on computing MSGIA indicators for its own training replication. Skills gained on communicating data have also contributed to the dissemination of key knowledge products in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.[1]

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **New gender data are fuelling policy action across the continent, including on women's economic empowerment amid the pandemic and on preventing violence against women.** Findings from surveys, assessments and census modules implemented by governments with support from UN Women, are informing gender-responsive policies and programming across the continent. Findings from Rapid Gender Assessments (RGAs)[2] were used to inform United Nations Country Team's emergency response frameworks, making them more gender-responsive in Mozambique, Malawi and Central African Republic. In Ethiopia, the RGA findings informed the design of a UN Joint Project on Sustaining Businesses and Protecting Jobs in the Informal Economy, provided support to Small and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMEs) most affected by COVID-19, including women-owned SMEs. In Rwanda, results from the domestic violence module in the Demographic and Health Survey 2019/20 were also used to develop a National Violence against Women Policy and produce data on SDG indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. A regional study on gender and public transport[3] conducted in partnership with the Stockholm Environmental Institute informed discussions between the Uganda Country Office and the Minister of Transport in Uganda on ways to engender urban transport policies and planning, with a steering committee established that will use the findings to develop an action plan.

- **Gender data analysis is informing national reports on the status of gender equality and contributing to SDG monitoring.** With the increasing prioritization of gender statistics and gender-responsive policy-making in Western and Central Africa, UN Women supported 11 countries and one region[4] to prepare

- Country Gender Equality Profiles (CGEP), in partnership with the AfDB and the European Union (EU). The CGEPs describe the present situation in a given country based on frameworks – including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development – and contribute to national SDG monitoring and reporting through VNRs. In Rwanda, UN Women supported data analysis of the national Labour Force Survey to produce the National Gender Statistics Report 2019. Together with a thematic report on key labour force indicators for women and men that highlights the disproportional time spent by women on unpaid care work compared to men, the national report informed CSO advocacy efforts directed towards parliamentarians to assess gender-responsive budget statements – a requirement under Rwandan law.

- **Knowledge-sharing between gender data users and producers has been institutionalized through the inter-agency exchange forum, expanding the national production of gender statistics into new areas.** UN Women has enhanced peer-to-peer learning through the establishment of a Community of Practice (COP) on Data and Statistics in the Eastern and Southern Africa region in 2020. The COP, attended by NSOs, Ministries of Women and UN Women Country Offices, has increased visibility for gender statistics and has led to the establishment of stronger ties between gender data focal points. By facilitating knowledge exchange, the COP session on the development of Women Economic Indices presented by the Kenyan NSO inspired Zimbabwe's NSO, ZIMSTATS, to put the development of their own index in their work programme.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[1]

Plans for Women Count Phase II will build and further strengthen the regional collaboration established with UNECA, AfDB and the APGS to ensure greater coordination on the production and use of gender statistics across the continent; further address gender data literacy gaps; promote the update and use of the MSGIA; advance the use of non-traditional data sources, such

as administrative data and citizen-generated data; and mine existing data sources to produce new gender statistics reports to increase the use of data to inform programmes and policies. Specific interventions will include:

- Continuing to support African countries in developing and evaluating national statistical development strategies.

- Building capacities on MSGIA implementation and citizen-generated data production and use, to strengthen gender statistics.

- Institutionalizing regional training programmes and adapting training materials to growing capacity-building demands.

- Supporting the monitoring and reporting of SDG indicators, including SDG indicator 5.c.1, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- Advancing methodological work to fill data gaps on women's economic empowerment and violence against women.

- Strengthening dialogue and developing use plans for gender data reports, such as Country Gender Equality Profiles, focusing on both policy and strategy.

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1 Kenya's RGA, Zanzibar's Gender Indicators Report, and Uganda's revised National Priority Gender Equality Indicators.
2 National RGAs supported by the regional Women Count programme for Africa were conducted in: Benin, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and South Africa. Two regional reports were also produced on the Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Eastern and Southern Africa and on the Potential impact of COVID-19 on achieving the SDGs in East and South Africa.
3 Kampala and Nairobi.
4 National: Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone; Regional: G5 Sahel.

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

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

THE ISSUE

A regional assessment on gender statistics, conducted in 2017 in Europe and Central Asia (ECA), revealed three interrelated challenges:

- The low priority given to gender data within national statistical systems (NSSs) was evident in organizational structures, budget allocation, and the absence of a strong commitment to gender monitoring and reporting in national statistical strategies and plans. A weak policy space, limited resources and a lack of coordination meant gender statistics were not adequately mainstreamed in statistical production.

- Technical challenges limited the effective and efficient production of gender statistics. Although data production was relatively strong in the ECA region, ongoing issues related to data sensitivity and transparency resulted in gender data either not being collected or not being released.

- Ineffective use of gender statistics was the most problematic issue in the region. The demand for support to improve dissemination, communication and use of data seemed to outweigh the supply of funding and technical assistance.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Regional coordination on SDG monitoring has improved as a result of strengthening UN Women's collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional UN Coordination Group on Data and Statistics. Countries are being supported to identify and address institutional, legal and financial constraints to gender mainstreaming in their NSSs and to establish an efficient system for monitoring and evaluating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of NSSs have been strengthened to produce quality data on violence against women and unpaid care work and have resulted in improved SDG monitoring.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The capacities of users have been strengthened through training on how to analyse gender data and improve how gender data are produced and communicated. Gender statistics are now more accessible to all users through increased analysis in knowledge products and data portals, which has resulted in better reporting on progress on gender equality across the region.

"During the last several years, important projects were implemented with the technical and financial support of UN Women, with a very successful and productive partnership. Strengthening gender statistics has utmost importance for Geostat and every single step that is taken with this regard, is highly appreciated. Significant progress was made regarding filling gender data gaps and … Geostat had tangible results regarding improving access and use of data."

Gogita Todradze, Executive Director, GEOSTAT

KEY RESULTS

Since 2017, the Women Count programme in ECA has been instrumental in strengthening regional coordination to produce and use gender data for SDG monitoring. Key results during include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Improved coherence and system-wide action on gender data have enabled more countries to better monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective.** Since 2018, UN Women's engagement within the UN Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics[1] has contributed significantly to: peer learning and improved regional coordination, identifying synergies with UN agencies on SDG data work, and the co-authoring of annual reports on progress on the SDGs, resulting in gender statistics being more intentionally integrated in country-level UN support. As a member of UNECE Steering Groups on Gender Statistics and Statistics for SDGs, UN Women developed guidance for data producers on measuring the ongoing and longer-term gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including methodological considerations for data collection using a minimum set of questions to integrate within household and population-based surveys. The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau has proposed that CES countries incorporate questions from the guidance within their regular statistical data collection. This will substantially support National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to generate data for developing gender-responsive policies, while contributing to broader understanding of the gender-specific impacts of COVID-19.

- **Gender data are now mainstreamed in national strategies, resulting in stronger capacities to govern, produce and report on gender data commitments.** UN Women has been supporting six countries[2] across the region to mainstream gender in national statistical development strategies (NSDSs), to develop dedicated gender statistics plans and inform gender strategies. Tajikistan's NSDS featured a dedicated chapter on gender statistics for the first time, with specific objectives to be achieved. Georgia adopted its first-ever 2021–2023 Strategy on Gender Statistics to: enhance its 2020–2023 NSDS; address the increased demand for high-quality and timely gender statistics; strengthen the coordination and financing mechanism for gender statistics; improve access and dissemination; and boost the use of data for evidence-driven action and policymaking. Findings from national assessments on gender statistics in Kyrgyzstan and Armenia will also be used develop their first-ever National Strategies on Gender Statistics in 2023, to set the strategic direction for gender statistics in these countries, including priorities for strengthening the coordination, production and use of gender data. Moreover, Kyrgyzstan has further used the findings to formulate a dedicated target on the harmonization and alignment of gender statistics with international recommendations and requirements as part of the country's new Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2024), to be approved by the Government in 2022.

2. Increasing data production

- **Countries have delivered on their commitment to improve SDG monitoring by collecting more and better data.** With UN Women's support to conduct surveys and reprocess existing data, six NSOs[3] have

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1 Replaced the former Issue-based Coalition on Data for the SDGs (IBC-SDG Data) in 2020.
2 Gender has been mainstreamed in the NSDSs of Albania, Georgia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with Kyrgyzstan's to be approved in 2022. Dedicated gender statistics plans have also been developed in Georgia, with work ongoing in Kyrgyzstan and Armenia.
3 Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), and Kyrgyzstan.

- increased the availability of SDG gender-related indicators through the production and reprocessing of available data. In 2019, NSOs across the region pledged greater cooperation to improve SDG monitoring. And national capacity to produce gender-related SDG indicators now ranges from 50% in Tajikistan to 70% in Kazakhstan, showing that countries are delivering on their commitments. In 2021, at least two countries (Albania and Georgia) started producing new indicators to inform their 'Leaving no one behind' national policy agenda. Albania produced eight new national priority gender equality indicators (NPGEIs) for the first time as part of the annual statistical publication Women and Men in Albania, 2020 edition. The indicators will feed into national reporting on the SDGs and data-driven policies on gender equality and women's empowerment, and have already informed the targets and responsibilities of new national gender equality strategies in both Albania and Kyrgyzstan. Additionally, UN Women supported Georgia and Kyrgyzstan to generate more disaggregated gender statistics by reprocessing existing data, such as from Household Budget Surveys and Labour Force Surveys, to feed SDG reporting and monitoring of national gender equality commitments. For example, in Georgia, new employment indicators were included in its Country Gender Equality Profile, and Kyrgyzstan Women and Men 2021 has at least 10 new indicators.

- **Data producers' and users' statistical literacy has improved to fill critical data gaps on unpaid care work and violence against women (VAW).** Since 2018, UN Women has led regional and national capacity-building efforts for data producers and users, which has resulted in strengthened national capacities to produce time-use statistics on unpaid domestic and care work and enhance monitoring and reporting of relevant SDG indicators. Trained statisticians in Georgia and Armenia applied the skills to design their first-ever time-use surveys, which have allowed them to report on implementation of SDG 5.4. They are also expected to be used to design data-driven policies and programmes on the care economy.[1] In Kazakhstan, as a result of UN Women technical coaching sessions on conducting the VAW prevalence survey, the National Statistics Committee redesigned survey methodology and tools to enable them to provide updated information on intimate partner violence and for the first time will capture data on new forms of non-partner violence, including sexual harassment (piloted and to be launched in 2022). In Kyrgyzstan, through UN Women's partnership with the American University in Central Asia and the School of Data, a training module on communicating gender statistics, build partially on the SIAP training module, is now institutionalized as part of the AUCA's Gender and Media master course is increasing gender data literacy and improve practical skills among media students to compile, analyse and present media products using gender statistics.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Gender data have been used to fuel policy action on preventing violence against women and on women's employment in the context COVID-19.** In Georgia and Albania, VAW data equipped advocates with the needed evidence to call for legal changes, resulting in the adoption of new legislation preventing sexual harassment and amendments to the Criminal Code to recognize psychological violence and dating violence as forms of gender-based violence, as well as to improve service-delivery for survivors. Findings from the rapid gender assessments (RGAs) have been incorporated into COVID-19 national response and recovery plans in several countries, and were used to mobilize additional resources to mainstream gender into recovery projects and programmes in Georgia and Ukraine. The findings were also used to analyse the government's COVID-19 responses and budget revisions from a gender perspective. In Albania, the RGA findings and advocacy also supported discussions with Parliament and line ministries that increased the target of women beneficiaries for government subsidies and support packages — particularly to specifically reach self-employed women farmers, job-seekers and women-led small businesses — by 15%.

- **Increasing access and improving how gender data are disseminated has fuelled advocacy and action on gender equality.** In Belarus, a one-stop-shop gender data portal has enabled the Government to access the latest gender-related indicators to measure progress on the implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2021–2025). In Georgia, Datathons were organized, which produced innovative visual communication products

- on gender statistics that have been widely used for advocacy and outreach on the gendered impacts of COVID-19 on women's and men's lives. Tajikistan produced a press release and infographics based on their Women and Men publication for International Women's Day. Meanwhile, in Kyrgyzstan, graduate students of the Gender and Media Master's programme published four human data stories illustrating specific gender issues by combining data with a compelling narrative. The gender data quiz on women's and men's situation was published by two national online media outlets with the highest outreach in the country. The regional data-driven snapshot Keep the promise, accelerate the change has also been used as a reference for activists, policymakers and other decision-makers to fuel advocacy efforts to drive change 25 years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[1]

Phase II of the Women Count ECA Regional Project will aim to enhance and sustain national and regional efforts to build gender-sensitive NSSs by further mainstreaming gender in NSDSs and scaling-up data collection on time-use and VAW, while harnessing the potential of non-official data sources to fill knowledge gaps on gender equality. It will continue capacity-building to foster knowledge-sharing and best practices across countries and to enhance the statistical literacy and ability of data users and producers to use gender data to inform advocacy and influence policymaking. Specific interventions will include:

- Strengthening regional collaboration on gender data by expanding partnerships with UNECE and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and advancing methodological work on filling gender data gaps.

- Supporting countries to assess, mainstream and develop their NSDSs or national action plans.

- Supporting countries to conduct gender-related surveys to strengthen the national and regional capacity to monitor and report on SDG progress, including through the development of practical tools and guidelines to facilitate survey planning.

- Building capacity on the use of administrative data and non-traditional data sources for the production and use of gender statistics.

- Advancing existing work to increase data accessibility and use through knowledge products and data portals.

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1 Armenia's TUS was launched in 2022 and Georgia's TUS was launched in 2020, with preliminary results to be available in 2022.

1 *Plans for Phase II may be further adjusted.

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 underline 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).

- **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[1]

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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1 SDG Gender Fact Sheet 2021

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1 Plans for Phase II may be further adjusted.

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 staistics 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 reportsand 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 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.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[1]

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:
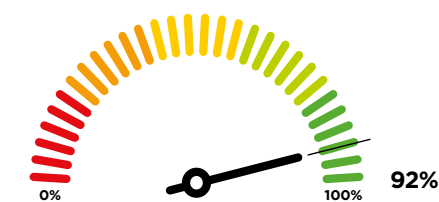
- Supporting the development and implementation of the PNSD III (2021–2025) and gendered sectoral plans, strategies and policies, in accordance with PARIS21 recommendations on integrating gender statistics.
- Strengthening national capacity for the uptake and use of gender data for users and producers, 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.

1 Plans for Phase II may be further adjusted.

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN TANZANIA

THE ISSUE

A national assessment of 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 sought 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 were fully available, and few had additional disaggregation, beyond sex.

• There was 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 were not regularly or systematically organized.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

• **Creating an enabling environment:** Gender statistics have been integrated in key national strategies and plans, as well as in their monitoring

frameworks. The institutional capacities of key statistical actors and inter-agency coordination mechanisms have been strengthened thanks to the gender statistics working groups established.

• **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in Zanzibar and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Mainland Tanzania have been strengthened. New quality data on unpaid care work, violence against women, and social norms and institutions have been produced, while existing gender data in censuses, surveys and routine data systems have been reprocessed to fill gender data gaps to improve SDG monitoring.

• **Improving data accessibility and use:** Support to OCGS and NBS to develop a centralized and responsive online database hosting national-level gender statistics has improved monitoring of global and national commitments, including on social norms and institutions. The capacities of users have been strengthened to conduct gender data analysis, while reports, profiles and booklets on gender across the SDGs have been regularly produced to improve the use of gender statistics.

"The programme assisted both, the office of the Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar (OCGS) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to develop a gender module which was embedded in the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan II and also the Five-Year Development Plan III. We were able to conduct the Social Institutions and gender Index (SIGI) survey. UN Women helped the National Bureau of Statistics to support the Household Budget Survey (HBS)"

Sylvia Meku, Manager, NBS

RESULTS

UN Women has made significant strides in Tanzania, including significant structural improvement in the NSS to produce and use gender. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

• **Gender statistics are increasingly prioritized in national plans, strategies and laws in Tanzania and Zanzibar, which now require certain sex-disaggregated gender data**. Before the Women Count project in Tanzania, key national plans and legal frameworks lacked the explicit promotion of gender data production and use to drive evidence-based policymaking. As a result of UN Women's support, NBS amended a restrictive Statistics Act, paving the way for the drafting of a Gender Statistics Strategy (GSS) that has mainstreamed gender statistics production in the Mainland and Zanzibar for the next five years. This support has also helped to ensure that the National Gender Policy, the Tanzania Statistics Master Plan (TSMP II) and the Zanzibar Strategy for the Development of Statistics (ZSDS) all explicitly include gender data action and financing plans. The GSS is embedded in the TSMP II, which highlights the importance of gender-sensitive surveys, such as time-use surveys and a violence against women (VAW) module; makes provisions for a gender chapter to be included across all survey reports; and calls for the production of sex-disaggregated data in its implementation plan. Also embedded in the TSMP II is the Five-Year National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children, through which OCGS mandates relevant ministries, departments and agencies to produce sex-disaggregated VAW data to better inform support to victims. In Zanzibar, the produced VAW data have been used in community radio talk-shows and discussions on violence-related issues to sensitize people in the community. VAW data are also shared with users regularly through user-producer dialogues in Zanzibar

and have been used to adopt pragmatic programmes to manage VAW. Gender statistics have also been included in the country's national sustainable development strategies, namely in Tanzania's Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III, 2021/22–2025/26) and Zanzibar's Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA IV). Gender mainstreaming in these strategies will further improve data availability while strengthening institutional capacities of the NSS to fuel gender-responsive policymaking.

• **National coordination has been institutionalized, leading to the improved availability and increased use of gender data for SDG monitoring in Tanzania**. Before 2018, coordination on gender data was fragmented, both in Zanzibar and the Mainland. In response, UN Women supported the establishment of Gender Statistics Units at both NBS and OCGS and founded an inter-agency Technical Working Group on Gender Statistics (TWG-GS) that oversees quality data production. These committees also advocated in various forums to use sex-disaggregated data to inform policies and programmes at a national as well as sectoral level. Regular meetings are being held to provide technical guidance related to various gender statistics activities by NBS and OCGS for quality assurance. Committee members are also now better able to manage gender statistics as a result of capacity-building under the Women Count programme. Driving gender statistics in the country, these coordination mechanisms have promoted the production of gender-related SDG indicators, which have informed and positioned gender data squarely in key strategies and plans, such as FYDP III, MKUZA IV, TSMP II and ZSDS.

2. Increasing data production

• **More gender data are increasing Tanzania's ability to monitor the SDGs.** The ability to monitor the SDGs has significantly improved with the preparation and adoption of Minimum Sets of Gender Indicators

- (MSGI) for the Mainland (125 indicators) and Zanzibar (79 indicators). The MSGIs paved the way for the inclusion of 26 (out of 54) gender-specific SDG indicators in the results frameworks of FYDP III and MKUZA IV. As a result of continuous data production and the reprocessing of surveys, data on 65% of gender-related SDG indicators have been produced and can be found in key monitoring and reporting tools, such as the first SDG Indicator Reports in Zanzibar and the Mainland, the country's Voluntary National Review, as well as reporting on Tanzania's progress on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) Beijing+25 report.

- **Increased gender data production has reduced data gaps and led to increased commitment of financial resources for gender statistics.** UN Women has supported NBS and OCGS to conduct surveys and modules as well as to reprocess existing survey data on time-use and VAW. The time-use modules in the Household and Budget Surveys (HBS) in the Mainland and Zanzibar informed the construction of the first household satellite account, providing further details on unpaid care and domestic work. They also fed the compilation of a National Multidimensional Poverty Index (SDG 1.2.2), providing a valuable level of disaggregation for assessing the true extent of poverty among Tanzanian women. The first Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) survey, coupled with the dissemination of gender-based violence and crime data from the police, equally served as impetus for the Government to support UN Women's initiative to mobilize non-core resources for a stand-alone VAW survey in 2022/2023. This is a testament of the increased commitment and a whole-of-government approach towards gender statistics production.

- **Capacity-building on the production and use of gender statistics has been systematized across the NSS and is improving reporting on national commitments.** UN Women has been supporting NBS and OCGS in their efforts to systematically provide trainings on how to collect, analyse and use gender data for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs and for policymaking. More than 200 data producers and users have improved their abilities to conceptualize surveys and analyse quantitative and qualitative gender data. As a result, NBS, OCGS, the Ministries of Gender from the Mainland and Zanzibar and the Department of Police have increased data production and analysis of VAW crime statistics, time-use data and the SIGI survey.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **New gender data are spurring advocacy and fuelling policy changes.** The SIGI, conducted in 2020, underlines that discrimination in social institutions — such as child marriage, VAW and unequal inheritance and property rights — hamper opportunities for women and girls. For example, SIGI data revealed that 16% of girls were married before the age of 18 in Tanzania — lower than the average rate of girl child marriage of 24% in Eastern Africa in 2019. Produced with UN Women's support, a working paper highlighting the SIGI findings is being used in advocacy with policy-makers to pass the pending Marriage and Divorce Bill currently before Parliament, which would increase the minimum age for marriage from 15 to 18. With UN Women, reports on unpaid care work in the Mainland and Zanzibar were also finalized and are currently available for reference on the websites of NBS and OCGS. These findings have been used to adjust UN Women programme interventions on women's economic empowerment and the care economy in Tanzania. Moreover, HBS data were used to revise the minimum salary of government employees and Labour Force Survey data (2020/21) were used to increase the allocation for women under the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) as part of government poverty-reduction strategies.

- **More information is now available and widely accessible on the status of women and girls in Tanzania.** UN Women's support for data production has increased the availability of gender-related statistics in status reports on women' economic empowerment, Zanzibar in Figures, and gender equality overall. This first-ever Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) for Zanzibar makes available sex-disaggregated data on key gender issues, building on data production supported by UN Women, including from the HBS and the rapid gender assessment (RGA). The accessibility of gender-related statistics and reports on the status of women and girls has increased through the dedicated gender statistics pages hosted under the NBS and OCGS websites, which were visited by 9,000 visitors annually. Through an inclusive dissemination approach, the findings of the reports on Zanzibar's SDG indicators and its MSGIs have been shared widely, through prioritized regional-level dissemination and diversified communication channels to reach different stakeholders. For example, younger and more general-public audiences are being reached through the increased use of digital platforms and social media.

- **Zanzibar has institutionalized the regular dissemination of VAW and crime statistics.** In 2017, the Government of Zanzibar made a bold commitment to end violence against women and children. In service of improved policymaking in this area, UN Women supported the preparation of the OCGS Action Plan on Gender Statistics, shedding light on three key issues — migration, marriage and divorce registration, and crime — and specifying specific data user needs. Since then, OCGS has regularized the dissemination of VAW and crime statistics through monthly statistical releases of secondary VAW data from the police in Zanzibar. These data have been used in civil society advocacy for improvements to Zanzibar's VAW information system to ensure that standardized and quality VAW data are collected throughout the country. Through the community radio discussions in Zanzibar, the data have been used to sensitize communities to better manage VAW cases.

PLANS FOR 2022

Plans for Women Count Phase II in Tanzania will focus on: sustaining the integration of gender statistics in the NSDS, national development and gender policies; strengthening the technical capacities of governments, civil society and other actors to fill gender data gaps and inform evidence-based policymaking; supporting the production and use of gender data on VAW, governance, peace and security and time-use; increasing the availability and accessibility of gender

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress during Phase I

98%

Progress was driven by institutional strengthening of NSOs, enhanced coordination mechanisms and increased gender data availability, leading to improved reporting and advocacy for policy changes. In 2021, 100% of targets were met by the project.

data knowledge products; as well as further advancing monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. Specific interventions will include:

- Strengthening gender statistics mechanisms in the Mainland and in Zanzibar.
- Finalizing the performance indicators for FYDP III and MKUZA IV.
- Conducting a VAW survey (2022/2023).
- Collecting data on women in local government (2022/23).
- Strengthening administrative data systems on VAW in Zanzibar.
- Customizing and finalizing the methodologies to develop citizen-generated data.
- Developing methodologies and document best practices on the institutionalization of user-producer dialogues.

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN NEPAL

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Despite political will to monitor gender equality and women's empowerment commitments, gender statistics were weak or lacking in Nepal. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) did not specifically mention gender statistics. Due to ever-increasing demands for data and recent reforms, the mandate to produce statistics had been extended to several institutions, rendering the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) less effective as a leader and coordinator.

- Nepal lacked mechanisms to monitor many SDG targets, with data available for only 37% of all gender-related global indicators. Most data were extracted from national censuses and surveys, which were undertaken only every 5 or 10 years, limiting their effectiveness.

- Data accessibility was a key challenge for non-governmental users, with many stakeholders relying on personal and informal contacts to access gender data. When data were available, they were not always used effectively.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Partnership with the CBS was strengthened to improve coordination around the production and use of gender statistics in the national statistical system.

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the CBS were strengthened to produce quality data on gender identity in the 2021 Census round and to measure the impact of COVID-19.

- **Improving data use accessibility and use:** Advocacy and communication tools were developed, which have improved how data are communicated and used to inform policy action and advocacy on gender equality.

"The Government of Nepal['s] Central Bureau of Statistics highly acknowledges the partnership with UN Women Nepal['s] Women Count project, to engender the National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021. [...] CBS is grateful that the project was able to finalize the [gender equality and social inclusion] GESI advocacy and communication strategy for the NPHC 2021, the documentaries, the audio and video public-service announcements (PSAs) and communication products in [our] 11 most-spoken languages. This partnership has enabled CBS to achieve the meaningful participation of all sectors in the NPHC 2021."

Nebin Lal Shrestha, Director General, CBS

KEY RESULTS

Since 2018, progress on implementation was slow due to administrative delays in finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CBS. Although the process took two years, UN Women's continuous efforts to secure national commitment through negotiations with government counterparts emphasizes the critical importance of having a formal partnership agreement in place. Due to the slow pace of progress, the Women Count Nepal project was phased out and concluded in December 2020. Despite this, UN Women has made efforts to facilitate coordination within the NSS and successfully supported CBS to engender the 2021 Census and disseminate its key findings. After its close in 2020, UN Women has continued to support gender statistics, providing a significant impetus for the country to prioritize gender data. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **National commitment on gender statistics has been strengthened in Nepal.** As a result of the partnership established between UN Women and CBS in 2019, gender data is an area of priority for Nepal's NSS. The partnership was instrumental for the inclusion of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in the planned 2021 Census and it has helped fuel interest in developing an analytical report on gender and social diversity after the Census. A formal acknowledgment letter was received from CBS commending UN Women on the results achieved, the quality of partnership, and the inclusive process that engaged a wide range of partners and operationalized the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. Nepal's 15th periodic plan signals the need to develop a data system to measure gender equality and women's empowerment, further cementing the Government's commitment to improve gender data as a means to more effectively measure progress on gender equality in the country. It also makes gender data collection compulsory for all surveys in Nepal.

- **Bringing together different actors within the NSS has resulted in more coordinated efforts to fill gender data gaps.** Under Women Count, a Gender Statistics Working Group was established and tasked with improving the coordination of gender-related statistical activities. This Working Group was instrumental in providing a platform for coordinated action to engender the Census 2021 and advocate for the inclusion of a question to identify lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and other (LGBTIQ+) peoples. The group has been dormant since the COVID-19 pandemic, but work on gender data is now being led by the Development Partners Statistics Coordination Group, which was reinstated in 2022 to identify key data priorities within Nepal, including on gender data. Inspired by Women Count's efforts to bring together data users and producers, after the project's closure, CBS has continued efforts to organize user-produce dialogues to identify data priorities that reflect the needs of data users to ensure that more inclusive data are produced, moving forward.

2. Increasing data production

- **LGBTIQ+ people were counted for the first time in the Nepal Census, an important step in Nepal's efforts to 'leave no one behind'.** As a result of UN Women's advocacy efforts, and after close consultation with LGBTIQ+ groups, Nepal's 2021 Population and Household Census included the

- option to indicate one's sex as male, female or 'other' for the first time. Previously, the lack of specific or agreed-upon questions or methods to collect data on LGBTIQ+ persons rendered this population invisible in official national statistics. UN Women supported CBS to deliver training, organize user-producer dialogues with civil society, engender the supervisors/enumerators manual and develop a GESI manual for CBS staff. As a result of such efforts, more than 55,000 government officials now have the skills needed to collect gender equality and social inclusion data in a sensitive manner. The Census data and final report, to be released in 2022, will help Nepal monitor progress on the SDGs by generating data for 58 SDG indicators disaggregated by sex, in line with the principle to 'Leave No One Behind'. These data will also enable decision-makers to evaluate the need for targeted policies and programmes for the LGBTIQ+ community. Consulted LGBTIQ+ groups have praised those involved in the process for listening, allowing their voices to be heard and for even hiring LGBTIQ+ staff as Census enumerators.

- **Gender data have revealed the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on women in Nepal.** Under the leadership of the Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizens, in April 2020, UN Women Nepal jointly with the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific administered an RGA that received more than 8,000 responses in Nepal and fed into a broader regional report. Among other things, it found that 68% of informal women workers in Nepal had lost their job or worked fewer hours, compared to 72% of women (and 59% of men) in formal employment. These findings have informed programme interventions on COVID-19. For example, in 2020, UN Women Nepal designed and implemented a comprehensive relief package and advocated to ensure that the voice, needs and interests of women (and especially those from the most excluded groups) were at the forefront of the COVID-19 response, with aim of achieving lasting, empowering change in the lives of women and girls in Nepal. The comprehensive relief package was able to address their practical needs as the crisis evolved in terms of supplying cash, food and non-food items, while addressing specific gender-based vulnerabilities such as gender-based

violence, unpaid care work, and a lack of access to information, services and resources.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Nepal's first Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) provides the data needed to spur policy action for women and girls.** UN Women supported the inclusion of key statistics on Nepal's gender equality commitments to produce the Gender Equality in Numbers document, for CGEP's Statistical Annex in 2021. The Annex serves as a consolidated reference on the status of Nepal's commitments to gender equality, key gender-related SDG indicators, and the minimum set of gender indicators on population, demographics, health, education, leadership, labour, economic empowerment, poverty reduction and ending all forms of gender-based violence. Once published and disseminated in 2022, the CGEP will allow a better national understanding of progress towards Nepal's international, regional and national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment and provide the critical evidence base to inform the country's next Periodic Plan. It will equally support the design of interventions to tackle gender inequalities and discrimination that are grounded in local realities and that reflect the needs of girls, women, and those who are gender non-conforming.

- **Increased advocacy and visibility of gender data have resulted in greater awareness of how to use gender data to trigger change.** To promote the use and visibility of gender data, UN Women developed various communication and advocacy tools to improve how gender data are communicated. In 2019, UN Women created a new 'using gender data' award to improve statistical literacy among students, which inspired new and innovative ways to use data to visualize Nepal's progress towards achieving the SDGs.

- **Inclusive communications materials are rendering dissemination efforts more effective.** In line with the advocacy and communications strategy prepared for the Census, UN Women developed a range of inclusive advocacy and communications materials, including documentaries, audio and video public service announcements, posters and brochures to

disseminate and generate awareness around the GESI manual and preliminary findings of the Census 2021. A survey revealed that the radio PSAs have reached over 75% of respondents, which demonstrates how using various inclusive and innovative means can be an effective mode of delivery to effectively generate awareness on the importance of using gender data for advocacy.

FUTURE PLANS[1]

Following the mid-term review in 2019, Nepal's Women Count project was closed in December 2020, with the partnership agreement concluding in December 2021.

- UN Women Nepal will continue to support activities to generate gender-related data for informed decision-making to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, including by:

- Continuing to provide technical support and training for CBS in the conduct, analysis and dissemination of the findings of the engendered Census 2021.

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress during Phase I
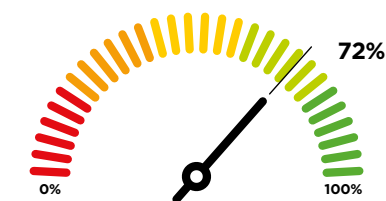
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A strengthened national coordination mechanism was instrumental in filling gender data gaps and advocacy improved awareness of the power of gender data to produce lasting change.

- Supporting CBS on data collection efforts to prepare a time-use survey, including by developing a survey protocol, training, organizing user-producer dialogues, forming a steering and technical committee and mobilizing resources.

1 Plans for Phase II are in the process of being finalized.

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN BANGLADESH

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics, conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- The availability of gender data and statistics were uneven – across sectors and topics, as well as in regularity and timeliness. While there were numerous laws, policies and plans to address gender equality and women's empowerment, the gender data and statistics needed for monitoring and reporting were not available for many areas, and those statistics that were available were not updated.

- Surveys and censuses were not conducted regularly. Moreover, the national statistical system (NSS) did not have designated statistics capacities – meaning there was no assurance that data collection would be resourced and done regularly.

- Systems to facilitate efficient access and dissemination were virtually non-existent. The Bangladesh

Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the statistical system in general, did not have a dissemination policy or advance-release calendar. Access to statistics was complicated for non-governmental users.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination mechanisms were established and have resulted in strengthened coordination of gender statistics activities in the NSS.

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the NSS have been strengthened to collect data on unpaid care work and to improve the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** User-producer dialogues have been organized to improve the analysis and use of gender statistics in planning, budgeting, policymaking and decision-making.

"We now have more people trained on gender statistics with support from UN Women's Women Count project, so in the future we can generate more gender-specific data more efficiently."

Mashud Alam, Director of the Demography and Health Wing, BBS

KEY RESULTS

Since 2018, progress has been relatively slow, due to challenges in formalizing partnerships with the BBS, and as a result the Bangladesh project was phased out and concluded in April 2021. Nonetheless, UN Women has made efforts to improve the availability of data, successfully advocated for gender data to be included in national gender strategies and plans, and there is increased gender data analysis to inform key policies and advocacy in the country. Even after the project closed, the technical committees established have continued to function and there have been calls from Parliament and the Government to collect data on women's economic empowerment and violence against women. Increased government buy-in and ownership signals a positive future for gender data in Bangladesh. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender data are increasingly recognized as a priority in national plans and gender strategies.** The country's Five-Year Plan (FYP) now includes its first-ever chapter on gender after UN Women supported the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) and the BBS in the preparation of a Gender Strategy that is now incorporated within the gender chapter of the 8th FYP (2021–2026). The Gender Strategy explicitly calls for the regular collection of sex-disaggregated data as an important factor to contribute to its strategic objective on creating an enabling environment for women's advancement. This signals that the Government will prioritize collecting gender data as part of its national efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment over the next five years. To implement the Strategy, it specifically calls on the BBS to generate sex-disaggregated data to report on national progress on gender equality commitments for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the SDGs.

- **Improved coordination within the NSS has resulted in more and better gender data being produced.** Composed of a Steering Committee, a Monitoring Committee and a Technical Committee, the Inter-ministerial Coordination Mechanism has contributed to improving the governance, production and use of gender statistics in Bangladesh's NSS. The Technical Committee, which includes MoWCA and the Ministries of Health, Education and Planning, was central to the implementation of Bangladesh's first-ever Time-Use Survey (TUS) in 2021. Even after the closure of the Women Count project, the Technical Committee is still functioning and will be instrumental in taking forward the development of a satellite account on unpaid care and domestic work and a survey on the prevalence of violence against women (VAW). UN Women remains engaged in the Committee, through collaboration with MoWCA, and is discussing a joint programme on unpaid care work.

- **Gender is now mainstreamed in the statistical operations of BBS.** The Gender Cell, established as part of Women Count activities, was supported to study how the BBS can generate data for gender-related SDG indicators by processing and reprocessing existing data. Recently, the Gender Statistics Cell has started contributing to other BBS departments to include a gender perspective or gender modules in other surveys. For example, the BBS units on 'hygiene statistics' and disability statistics approached the Gender Cell to ask for guidance in collecting data for these sectors. The Gender Statistics Cell has also been collaborating on developing a satellite account with the National Accounts wing.

2. Increasing data production

- **Bangladesh has blazed trails on measuring women's unpaid care work.** TUS data collection was completed in April 2021, with the final report to be released in June 2022. The BBS is also in the process

- of developing a satellite account, at the request of Parliament, based on TUS data to measure women's unpaid care and domestic work to estimate its contribution to national GDP. The satellite account will be used as a reference for the Government to take policy and programmatic action to gradually reduce women's unpaid care work burden. Additionally, with support from UN Women, MoWCA is updating the national action plan of the 2011 National Women's Development Policy to include women's unpaid care and domestic work issues, in line with the initial findings of the TUS.

- **More data are now available to monitor gender-related SDGs in Bangladesh.** Gender-related data from existing surveys can now be used to generate around 60% of gender-related SDG indicators, including on time use, based on UN Women's support. This is a notable increase from the 37% of gender indicators for which data were readily available at the project's inception. The TUS served as a crucial reference for SDG 5.4.1 to set the 2021 baseline of the SDG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and its targets for the next nine years. These data have also been used to report on national commitments to achieve gender equality for the country's Voluntary National Review.

- **More data are now available to assess the gender-specific impacts of COVID-19.** Bangladesh was one of the first countries to produce a rapid gender assessment (RGA) on the impacts of COVID-19 in April 2020. Then, Bangladesh was one of 13 countries selected by UN Women for a separate RGA on violence against women (VAW) and how this increased during COVID-19, which helped BBS determine the tools, methodology and even some questions related to COVID-19 in the country's official VAW survey in 2022.

- **There is now Government commitment to collect data on the prevalence of violence against women for the first time.** BBS is in the process of planning a VAW prevalence survey, investing USD 100,000 of its own funding to begin preparatory work. It will draw on experiences from the 2015 survey and will also include a dedicated section on VAW in the context of COVID-19, drawing on UN Women's VAW RGA. VAW data will be used to monitor existing programmatic and policy provisions of the Women's

Development Policy and the National Action Plan on Ending Violence against Women. The data will also provide information that will be used for financing through the existing gender-responsive budgeting mechanism and to monitor progress against two specific SDG indicators (5.2.1 and 5.2.2). MoWCA has already formally asked BBS to conduct the VAW prevalence survey as soon as possible. The VAW data are also expected to help build pressure on the Government to adopt a stand-alone law on VAW prevention: The High Court has already instructed the Government to do so and the CEDAW Committee's 65th Concluding Observations equally recommend that Bangladesh adopt a national VAW prevention law.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Gender microdata are now available to researchers for further analysis.** Data accessibility is poised to increase with a BBS commitment to upload all survey findings on their webpage at the earliest possible time and to make microdata available to researchers. This institutional commitment was made by the Secretary of the Statistics and Informatics Division. Microdata are also being made available to researchers through a clearance process.

- **Gender data analysis is expected to fuel evidence-based decision-making.** The production of two policy briefs was supported by UN Women: the first, on gender-based education, found that girls' enrolment is high in primary education but drop-out rates rise in secondary school and there is low participation in tertiary education — the main factors cited being high rates of child marriage and violence against women. The brief, published on the BBS website, is expected to inform future decisions of the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) to improve female participation in tertiary education. The second policy brief, on Gender-Based Employment and Wages, will be published in 2021 and will raise awareness about the gender gap in the employment sector in Bangladesh.

FUTURE PLANS[1]

UN Women will continue to support activities in Bangladesh to provide gender-related data for informed decision-making, with the support of the Asia-Pacific Regional Office, including:

- Integrating gender statistics in the next NSDS and in the updated National Statistical Act.

- Developing a minimum set of gender indicators for Bangladesh; mainstreaming gender indicators in key surveys (i.e. the Labour Force Survey, Household Integrated Economic Survey, Agriculture Census, etc.); and developing modules on gender indicators with clear instructions for their inclusion for all departments of BBS.

- Continued processing and reprocessing work, strengthening the capacity of the Gender Statistics Cell to play key role to mainstreaming gender statistics in the NSO.

- Continued technical support to BBS to include gender statistics in new and emerging areas, such as migration, environmental, disability and women's participation in the informal sector.

- Disseminating TUS data and supporting the development of a national satellite account to calculate the contribution of women's unpaid work to GDP using TUS data, while developing a national programme on the care economy, based on TUS data with the Ministry of Women and BBS.

- Supporting BBS with conducting the national VAW prevalence survey and to generate gender statistics using big data and other technological tools.

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 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.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[1]

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.

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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

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

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN COLOMBIA

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics conducted in 2019 in Colombia revealed three interrelated challenges:

• The national statistical system (NSS) had multiple entities producing statistical information, which can lead to duplication and inconsistency.

• There was limited information and evidence to inform local policymaking and weak capacity to produce gender data on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the subnational level. There was limited training on gender perspectives or intersectional approaches for staff that produce and disseminate statistics.

• Gender statistics were not concentrated in a single place and there was limited availability of survey and census microdata. There were also few feedback mechanisms to detect unsatisfied needs from users – with half of the country's institutions lacking such mechanisms.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

• **Creating an enabling environment:** A coordination mechanism was established and has improved exchanges between key actors in the NSS – such as the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) and the Presidential Council for Women's Equality (CPEM) – to better mainstream gender in national policies and legal frameworks and prioritize gender data in key national strategies.

• **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of DANE were strengthened to mainstream gender in key statistical operations, which has resulted in more quality data on time-use, the gendered impacts of COVID-19, political participation, security and disability, and more data are available for improved SDG monitoring.

• **Improving data accessibility and use:** Partnerships were established with national and regional gender observatories to improve data accessibility and use. Key knowledge products, such as Women and Men in Colombia, are being used to track progress towards gender equality and to inform public policies, as a part of broader and substantive support to the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of key public policies.

"Through the Women Count project, UN Women has made it possible for DANE to build a strategic alliance with [the Presidential Council for Women's Equity] to ensure that the gender statistics produced are used to inform the design of inclusive policies. For example, new data and analysis produced on women's time spent on unpaid care in Colombia are already being used by [the National Planning Department] and [the Council] to inform the design of the Government's new care policy."

Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director General, DANE

KEY RESULTS

Since 2019, Women Count has contributed to significant improvements in how gender data are produced and used in Colombia. Key results in include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

• **Greater coordination within the NSS is generating national ownership and fuelling action.** As a result of UN Women's advocacy, DANE and CPEM have joined forces to strengthen the analysis and use of gender data. Several mechanisms have been established to bring together more data producers and users, which has improved coordination on the production, access and use of gender statistics for policymaking, promoting accountability on gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women contributed to the establishment of an expert network on gender data at the Technical Advisory Council of the National Statistical System (CASEN) to guide efforts to systematically mainstream gender in its statistical operations – a clear sign of national ownership. UN Women and DANE also developed the first institutional guidelines to improve coordination and communication between producers and users of gender statistics within the NSS. The guide will be taken forward by CASEN to sustain efforts to engage policymakers, civil society and key actors within the NSS to create more data-driven policies, programmes and strategies to deliver on the 2030 Agenda's promise to leave no one behind.

• **Intersectional and disaggregated gender statistics are now prioritized in national development plans and regulations.** While Colombia's Women Count project was in its pilot phase and advocacy had begun, the country's National Development Plan (PND) 2018–2022 was published with its first-ever dedicated chapter on gender and an explicit mention of the need for disaggregated gender statistics. The law regulating the PND, adopted once the project was fully underway in 2019, specifically included actions to strengthen intersectional statistical production, dissemination and use to inform public policymaking in a timely way.

• **Advocacy has resulted in the integration of a gender lens in the evaluation of national policies and programmes.** UN Women has provided technical support to the evaluation of the National Public Policy on Gender Equality (CONPES 161) and the National Policy on Risk Prevention, Production and Guarantee of the Rights of Women Victims of Armed Conflict (CONPES 3784). UN Women and the National Planning Department (DNP) teamed up to develop guidance aimed at building capacities within SINERGIA[1] to evaluate public policies from a gender and evidence perspective for the first time. The guidance will also be used to monitor the implementation of the National Care Policy.

2. Increasing data production

• **More gender-related SDG data are now available.** The SDG Subgroup chaired by DANE facilitates the coordination of UN custodian agencies measuring and monitoring SDG indicators. Through its participation in the SDG Subgroup, UN Women led, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the development of methodologies for five SDG indicators[2] measuring the prevalence of violence against women, women's political participation and women's land ownership. UN Women, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Bank, supported

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1 SINERGIA is a system responsible for tracking the implementation and performance of key government policies and programmes in Colombia.
2 SDG indicators 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.a.1

- DANE and CPEM in strengthening the Colombian Women's Observatory to effectively measure the SDGs, by defining and producing the first national set of 99 gender indicators. In addition, the latest DANE barometer – which measures data availability across SDG indicators – will be developed and used to measure progress. Several indicators moved from being unmeasurable to measurable as a result of reprocessing existing data and analysing administrative data, including SDG 5.1.1. on legal frameworks (which went from having 17 to 100% of data available), SDG 5.c.1 on gender-responsive budgeting (which went from having 8 to 85% of data available), and SDG 5.4.1. on women's unpaid domestic and care work (which went from 79 to 100% data available).

- **New surveys are closing data gaps on women's economic empowerment, care work and violence against women.** UN Women has promoted the inclusion of a gender perspective in key statistical projects of the NSS, including the Economic Census and the Multipurpose Cadaster. Together with the DNP and DANE, a methodological guide was produced to guide the collection and production of data on access, tenure and land use, to inform policymakers of the barriers women face to owning land in Colombia. The guide, which has been used to monitor the implementation of the Multipurpose Cadastre and has since been piloted in six municipalities, will provide the baseline data needed to measure women's access to land – one of the key commitments of the Government's Peace Accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). As a result of UN Women's partnership with DANE, the upcoming Economic Census (2022–2023) will include a specialized module on care services for the first time, which will provide the evidence needed to monitor the national care policy and inform the design of territorial care systems.

- **More data users and producers are equipped with the needed skills to better produce and analyse gender statistics.** DANE and CPEM, with support from UN Women and ECLAC, conducted an intensive 60-hour training that has strengthened the ability of more than 100 data users and producers who now know how to produce, analyse and use gender statistics, and have designed individual strategies for how to integrate gender and intersectional approaches in their work. Select participants serve on the gender network that advocates for incorporating gender and intersectional approaches within the CASEN. Women Count was also instrumental in supporting the production of DANE's methodological guide on how to collect and present data on differences and intersectionality. Training on guidelines for gender equality in cadastral management, carried out by DANE and the Agustin Codazzi Geographical Institute, also benefited more than 65 data producers who have applied their skills in piloting the guide in six municipalities.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Data are fuelling policy action on women's unpaid care work.** Time-use data were used to inform Colombia's first National Care Policy and the first Municipal Care System in Bogotá. UN Women supported DANE to analyse the 2016–2017 Time-Use Survey (TUS) and design and conduct the 2020–2021 TUS to produce timely data on unpaid care, time poverty, caregivers and estimates of care needs. The results revealed that 60% of women contribute to unpaid care and domestic work activities and have higher poverty rates than men due to insufficient income and lack of employment, aggravated by higher time poverty. Such data were used by DANE and CPEM to inform discussions and develop a series of evidence-based recommendations for the first National Care Policy – including recommendations for the better social distribution of care – which have since been adopted by DNP.

- **RGA data were used to justify differentiated measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on women.** Data from Colombia's RGA on COVID-19 impacts were used to justify a 50% subsidy for women under the Formal Employment Support Programme (versus a 40% subsidy for men). They also helped justify a national programme that placed at least 300,000 women in formal employment, and helped shape the Fund for Women's Entrepreneurship with priority funding for rural women's projects. A second RGA conducted in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA on the needs of persons with disabilities, is being used by the Presidential Council for the Participation of Persons with Disabilities, DNP, DANE and Ministries of the Interior and Health to inform its review and updating of the national public policy on disability.

- **Colombia's first gender statistical profile is informing SDG reporting, the Government's review of its National Gender Policy and shaping local, regional and national decision-making.** Launched in 2020, Women and Men: Gender Gaps in Colombia is the country's first gender statistical profile published by DANE, CPEM and UN Women. It also includes intersectional data on disability and ethnic self-identification. In a clear show of high-level political support, Colombian Vice-President Martha Lucía Ramírez opened the launch event in 2020 and promoted the publication's use to guide local and national policy and decision-making. The profile has since been widely disseminated and used to assess progress and challenges in achieving the SDGs and has contributed to improving reporting on commitments as part of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2021, whose gender data mentions increased from 10 to 68 between 2018 to 2021. Regional gender observatories in the departments of Antioquia, Nariño, Cauca and Meta have since launched their own localized versions of the profile to inform local and regional policymaking, with the cities of Medellín and San Juan de Pasto successfully using their localized data to get selected as pilot cities for the first departmental care systems being developed under the National Care Policy. Profile data were also used in the situational analysis for the country's updated National Public Policy on Gender Equality, which was adopted in 2022. DANE has committed to produce the gender statistical profile regularly every two years, with the next edition in 2022.

- **Gender data are now increasingly accessible as a result of analysis, data visualizations and partnerships.** Under Women Count, UN Women partnered with five gender observatories to facilitate access, analysis and use of gender statistics to monitor national and subnational commitments to achieve gender equality. For example, indicators were revised to include sufficient municipal data disaggregation and access to microdata was facilitated for the preparation of various knowledge products. This has increased the dissemination of gender data across Colombia, with more than a dozen knowledge products developed, including books, newsletters and infographics. Moreover, the subnational observatory in Nariño produced and used infographics and figures amid the COVID-19 pandemic, launched a radio show and a public participation forum to encourage dialogue and evidence-based decision-making on gender equality. UN Women and DANE also developed the first Gender Atlas, which utilizes geospatial technologies to visualize gender data on women's economic empowerment and care work and is improving monitoring of the SDGs.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[1]

Under Phase II, Women Count Colombia will continue to work with key stakeholders such as DANE and CPEM to strengthen coordination on gender data, scale up data-collection efforts on violence against women, the gender-environment nexus and women's economic empowerment, and strengthen efforts around promoting data use for public policies and programmes. Key activities will include:

- Providing technical support to CASEN to update the national strategy for the development of statistics.

- Supporting the first national survey on VAW.

- Leveraging the use of modern technologies to fill knowledge gaps on gender and the environment and women's access to land.

- Together with DANE, introducing new modules in the Gender Atlas to increase access to gender data.

- Conducting training for data producers and users on how to monitor public policies from a gender perspective.

1 Plans for Phase II may be further adjusted.

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN CAMEROON

THE ISSUE

A national assessment of gender statistics, conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Gender was insufficiently integrated into Cameroon's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Within the National Statistical System (NSS), there were no specific laws or regulations governing gender statistics, although general references were made by many statistical regulations and laws on gender.

- Few financial resources were allocated to gender statistics within Cameroon's NSS. There was little understanding of gender-related issues by national statisticians, and poor collaboration between the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF).

- There was poor dissemination of gender statistics, at both national and local levels, as a result of limited dialogue between statistics users and producers, the absence of a mechanism to facilitate coordination, and

an overall misunderstanding of gender statistics and their importance.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Mechanisms were established to improve coordination on gender statistics and strengthen the normative framework, through the adoption of a minimum set of gender indicators.

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the NIS were strengthened to produce gender data on time use, the Census of Agriculture and Livestock, and the Population and Housing Census.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** MINPROFF was supported to establish a gender information system with a central online database for storing and sharing gender-related SDG indicators, while parliamentarians, media, civil society organizations (CSOs), academics, ministries and the private sector were trained to use and analyse gender statistics for decision-making.

"Thanks to UN Women, our traditional partner, the Government has improved the quality of its CSW and CEDAW reports with more data. Also, the structural transformation of the gender statistics environment in the country, driven by the Women Count project, has given us the opportunity to really highlight the work the Government is doing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in Cameroon."

Marie-Thérèse Abena Ondoa, Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family

KEY RESULTS

Since 2019, Women Count has made significant strides in improving how gender data are produced and used in Cameroon. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender data collection is now mandated in national plans on statistics.** Gender data collection has been made mandatory in the third NSDS 2020–2030 and includes a Gender Action Plan prepared by the Inter-ministerial Committee on Gender Statistics with support from UN Women. With the NSDS being the only framework for all statistical activities in the country, all institutions producing official statistics are thus required to produce gender data to comply with national requirements.

- **Gender data are better coordinated, produced and used as a result of bringing together different actors in the NSS.** Established with the support of Women Count, coordination bodies including the Permanent Working Group on Gender Statistics within the NIS, the Technical Committee on Gender   Statistics and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender Statistics, have become driving forces for the promotion of gender statistics in Cameroon. The Inter-Ministerial Committee has successfully advocated for gender statistics during sessions of the National Council of Statistics, for the inclusion of gender in the 2020–2030 NSDS, and for its prioritization in the strategy's 2022–2025 action plan. The Permanent Working Group has improved the quality of statistical operations through a review of the gender sensitivity of all operations conducted by the NIS to ensure that gender issues are well featured, and gender bias avoided or minimized in key surveys.[1]

- **Increased government investment in gender data signals a sustainable future for gender data.** Before the Women Count project in Cameroon, there was no specific funding for gender statistics in the State budget, nor was there any reference to gender statistics in the financing framework for statistics. As a result of UN Women's advocacy, gender statistics are now inscribed in MINPROFF's 2020–2023 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and in the financing framework of the 2020–2030 NSDS, and all statistics units are mandated to allocate funding to support the functioning of the Technical Committee on Gender Statistics. In addition, the Government has allocated XAF 400,000,000 (USD 728,000) to MINPROFF's Medium-term Expenditure Framework, to finance gender statistics activities and reforms. As a result, for the first time since its creation, the statistics unit at the national gender machinery has a dedicated budget to improve statistics work across the NSS. This has enabled MINPROFF to strengthen its statistical capacities by recruiting statisticians for the first time and developing a statistical information system as well as an action plan to mobilize State and non-State funding to sustain the work of the statistics unit.

2. Increasing data production

- **The adopted Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (MSGI) has informed policymaking.** Following the adoption of the MSGI by the NSC in 2019, the list of 53 gender-related indicators has since been published and widely disseminated to 200 institutions, such as academia, CSOs and development partners who use them for planning, advocacy and decision-making. The MSGI formed the baseline for the preparation of a gender statistics framework annexed to the third NSDS, which guides the production of new data.

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1 Such as the Employment and Informal Sector Survey, the Population and Housing Census, and the Agriculture and Livestock Census

- The Ministry of Finance, in partnership with the International Monetary Fund, has also started using the MSGI to prepare a national reform of gender-responsive budgeting.

- **New data on women's unpaid care work will spur action on social protection.** The NIS, with the support of UN Women, integrated a time-use module in its fifth national household survey that kicked off in October 2021 and will continue through 2022. The Minister of Development has already signalled the Ministry's intention to use the key findings on women's and men contribution to unpaid and paid work to inform the development of a new national strategy on social protection. The findings will also be used to produce a national satellite account that will determine how unpaid domestic care work is integrated into the calculation of national gross domestic product (GDP) to highlight the contribution of women and men.

- **Gender statistics training has been institutionalized, resulting in more statisticians equipped to produce gender data in six countries.** Thanks to the advocacy and technical advice of UN Women, the Subregional Institute for Statistics and Applied Economy (ISSEA) — which is the school in charge of training roughly 80% of Cameroon's statistical staff — reviewed its programmes and introduced a course on gender statistics, which is mandatory for graduation. Moreover, ISSEA is training statistical engineers from the statistical offices of six Central African countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon). An agreement has been concluded with UN Women to lecture for the course for the coming two to three years and for ISSEA to recruit a skilled lecturer that will continue in future years. The module on gender statistics was introduced thanks to the seminars on gender statistics that UN Women organized and facilitated at ISSEA schools since 2019.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **National reporting on gender quality commitments is now data driven.** For the first time, core statistical institutions such as the NIS and the Central Bureau of the Census and Population Studies (BUCREP), worked together with MINPROFF to prepare key commitments in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2019. BUCREP also took the 25th anniversary of

the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in 2020 as an opportunity to produce a report highlighting progress on all 53 gender-related SDGs in Cameroon, with support from Women Count, using reprocessed data sets. The findings emphasized Cameroon's progress on commitments to improve the rights of women and girls, particularly in education and health, while identifying room for improvement in the areas of employment, land tenure and political participation. The Government used the reports to position gender as one of the key issues to address in the VNR that will be conducted in 2022.

- **Cameroon's first Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) has informed a Finance Bill and an update of the National Gender Policy.** UN Women supported MINPROFF and the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP) to produce the country's first CGEP, which was published and validated by the Prime Minister's Office in 2021. It highlights gender equality achievements and challenges in Cameroon, across sectors such as the national economy, development of human capital and digitalization. The CGEP has become the main reference for all gender-related interventions in Cameroon over the next five years. In particular, it was used by the MEP to inform the 2022 Finance Bill adopted by Parliament in 2021, which includes an annex highlighting gender challenges to be addressed by the finance bill. The CGEP has been the core tool used in advocacy for national reform on gender-responsive budgeting as part of the 2022 Finance Bill. It is also being used by MINPROFF to review and update the National Gender Policy.

- **User-producer dialogues on gender data are now institutionalized, driving national gender data priorities.** UN Women has convened various dialogues on gender issues within the NSS on the margins of key events, such as Africa Statistics Week, to discuss the gender data needs of different users, including CSOs, government bodies and UN agencies. Through these forums, the NIS has recognized the importance of engaging data users in identifying priorities within the country as well as efforts to reduce gender bias in censuses and surveys. As a result, a permanent user-producer dialogue on gender data has been institutionalized in the NSDS, which now recognizes these dialogues as an important part of the NSS. The regular dialogue offers the opportunity to discuss
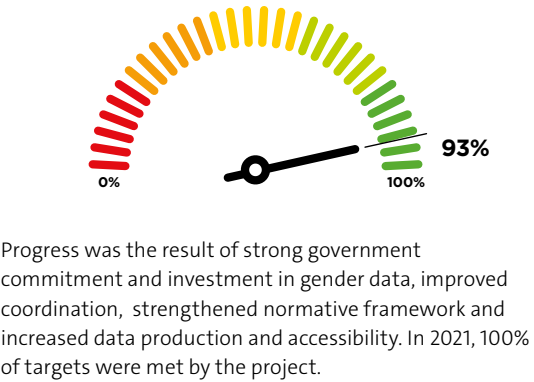
- concepts and methodologies to reduce gender biases that can affect specific statistical operations. Also, gender analysis will be a special issue in the ongoing Housing and Population Census and in two special issues in the ongoing Agriculture and Livestock Census.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[1]

Plans for Phase II in Cameroon will focus on continuing to support existing coordination mechanisms on gender data to monitor the implementation of the NSDS; increase data production in new areas, such as the gender-environment nexus and violence against women; and scale up efforts to improve data accessibility and use by collaborating with journalists and CSOs to ensure that data are used to inform advocacy and policies. Specific interventions include:

- Supporting capacity-building for data users and producers through training to improve skills on collecting and communicating gender data.

- Advocating for gender to be mainstreamed in key national statistical operations, including the Population and Housing Census.

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress during Phase I

93%

0%   100%

Progress was the result of strong government commitment and investment in gender data, improved coordination, strengthened normative framework and increased data production and accessibility. In 2021, 100% of targets were met by the project.

- Conducting surveys to collect data on violence against women, and on gender and the environment.

- Updating the central online database on gender data to increase access to, and the use of, gender-related SDG data.

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1 Plans for Phase II are in the process of being finalized.

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN JORDAN

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics in Jordan was conducted in 2019, revealing three interrelated challenges:

- Gender statistics had not been included in Jordan's national statistics legislation, or in a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). There was a lack of coordination between government institutions on statistical production, in particular when it came to gender statistics and sex- and age-disaggregated data.

- There was limited institutional capacity for production, research and training on gender statistics in both the national statistics office as well as line ministries. Jordan also faced challenges in technically demanding areas, such as measuring time-use on unpaid care and domestic work, as well as violence against women (VAW) and its costs.

- There was limited analysis of statistical data, limited use of statistics by most policymakers and decision-makers and there were limited means used to disseminate data in a timely way.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** UN Women formalized a partnership with the Department of Statistics (DOS) that has sought to develop the country's first NSDS and establish formal coordination mechanisms to bring together key actors in the national statistical system (NSS). Gender data are now recognized as a key priority in the National Strategy for Women (NSW) and the Gender Mainstreaming Policy.

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of DOS have been strengthened, enabling it to conduct the first-ever economic costing of VAW survey and to reprocess existing data to fill critical data gaps on agriculture and women's economic empowerment. A minimum set of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) gender-related indicators has also been adopted.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Gender statistics knowledge products have been developed and used, including a Country Gender Equality Profile and several rapid gender assessments (RGAs) on the impact of COVID-19, to inform policies and improve the monitoring of normative commitments on gender equality.

"I think [the RGA] was an important document that provided data at the time that we could refer to, use and build on for conclusions and for our own arguments. … that's why rapid assessments with analysis are so important, with recommendations and looking at the structural reasons behind them, that will really impact change."

Salma Nims, Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission for Women

KEY RESULTS

Since the Women Count project kicked off in Jordan in 2019, there have been important efforts to improve gender data production and use. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **The Government of Jordan now recognizes gender data as a key priority in national policies and strategies and has signaled its commitment to continue these efforts.** A National Gender Mainstreaming Policy and a National Strategy for Women were endorsed by the Government in 2020, with language institutionalizing sex-disaggregated data collection. The Gender Mainstreaming Policy seeks to ensure that all information can be analysed from a gender perspective and can inform decision-making, planning, implementation and reporting processes. Moreover, Women Count efforts supported the inclusion of an objective on gender statistics and a gender-related SDG indicator on data collection within the NSW in Jordan (2020–2025). In 2021, UN Women, DOS and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding to support efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics in Jordan and to strengthen the policies and practices that govern the production and use of gender statistics, including by developing a national strategy for gender statistics. This demonstrates the Government of Jordan's long-term commitment to strengthening the enabling environment around gender statistics.

- **An Institutional Capacity-Development (ICD) Committee is building gender mainstreaming infrastructure and fostering greater coordination.** Established in 2019, the ICD Committee is a national coordination mechanism that seeks to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment tools and approaches in policies and planning across DOS, which now mainstreams gender statistics across all

its work — not only that of its dedicated Gender Unit. Moreover, DOS is now implementing its first internal gender mainstreaming policy with UN Women's technical assistance and ongoing work is underway to create specific procedures based on this policy, including on gender mainstreaming training, gender-responsive budgeting, and on gender balance within working committees across DOS. The ICD technical gender team at DOS has also fostered greater coordination with the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), which contributed to the successful conduct of the first VAW costing survey.

2. Increasing data production

- **The Government of Jordan is now better able to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective.** Thanks to the Government's adoption of a minimum set of gender-related SDG indicators, developed jointly by UN Women, DOS and JNCW, all gender-related data for the SDGs will be collected in a repository at DOS. This will help the JNCW and other policymakers to inform policy decisions. This is also paving the way for the inclusion of 67 gender-related SDG indicators (out of 230 SDG indicators, distributed among 14 of the 17 SDGs) in the action plan for Jordan's NSW and its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) report.

- **The first-ever survey on the economic cost of VAW in Jordan is expected to herald new legislation and lead to a more effective allocation of state resources.** Jordan's first-ever Violence against Women and its Economic Cost Survey was conducted in 2021 in partnership with UN Women, DOS, JNCW, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). A key innovation of this survey was the inclusion of questions on the monetary impact of VAW in Jordan, which will provide the first-ever costing data when results are released in 2022. This data will not only encourage and enable the Government of Jordan to

- take evidence-based and effective action to eradicate VAW, but assist Jordan in meeting its SDG commitments, particularly the targets on VAW identified in SDG 5 (5.2 and 5.3). The expected legal and policy reforms will also lead to a more effective allocation of state resources, in line with the findings of the gender-responsive budgeting analysis, with a stronger emphasis on prevention. The Jordanian legal system still lacks legislation criminalizing VAW in all settings.

- **Statistical literacy skills and knowledge are improving among data users and producers.** UN Women, in close cooperation with ESCWA and the DOS Gender Statistics Unit, organized six workshops on gender statistics attended by 99 participants in 2021, and has offered professional mentoring. Post-training surveys indicate that participants' knowledge of gender statistics increased from 22.9% pre-assessment to 98.6% post-assessment. The ultimate goal of this training is to increase the availability of gender data to better inform programming, budgeting, research and advocacy on gender equality, women's empowerment and the SDGs. Some workshops have built capacities on gender data for ICD oversight, while others have served to validate and launch reports These events have sought to enhance national capacities among government ministries, non-governmental institutions, civil society, international organizations, research and academic centres on gender statistics and improve their ability to analyse existing data.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Data use is improving, with analysis of census data informing national policies and planning.** As part of the mentoring process, DOS and UN Women supported trainees to reprocess existing data from the agricultural census and the economic establishments census to produce two analytical papers on the reality of women and men in agriculture and economic establishments. The agricultural analysis enabled DOS to compile and publish data on SDG 5.a.1 (a) and 5.a.1 (b) for the first time. Findings revealed that 52% of women in rural areas are employed in agriculture — a data point that was used to improve programming by adding an output on 'capacity-building for agricultural digitization and the promotion of social inclusion for youth and women in green agricultural skills' in the action plan for the National Agricultural Development Strategy 2020–2025. Meanwhile, the paper on economic establishments called for amendments to the

Labour Code to allow more flexibility in regulating the relationship between employers and workers, create a safer environment for women's employment, and regulate the labour market for greater impact — recommendations that were used to develop the action plan for the Government's Economic Priorities for 2021–2023.

- **Normative processes are better informed through Jordan's first Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP).** Developed through a participatory process led by UN Women with key partners such as DOS and JNCW, the CGEP has become a primary source for evidence-driven advocacy, decision-making, programming and budgeting for national stakeholders, international development partners and the UN system. Taking into consideration the diversity between women and men (age, income level, migratory status, disability, geographic location, education level, etc.), the CGEP seeks to consolidate gains on gender equality and overcome bottlenecks at the national, sectoral and grass-roots levels. The report findings have informed both Jordan's second VNR report and the national plan of action for the NSW. The CGEP pointed to a lack of gender data and called for increased investments in data to track progress on the SDGs, as a result of which DOS has taken the concrete step of including additional questions in the original Demographic and Health Survey questionnaire (to take place in the second half of 2022) to track more gender-specific SDG indicators.

- **Data on COVID-19 are being used to inform policy action and responses.** The results of Jordan's national RGA served as a catalyst to accelerate the Government's approval of Regulation No. 93 of 2020 on social protection related to maternity insurance, to empower working mothers economically and keep them in the workforce. The Public Institution for Social Security provided cash benefits to working mothers to enable them to return to work after childbirth, and to secure care for their children in nurseries or at home and allowed government-registered childcare centres to receive direct cash benefits to cover operating costs. RGA data were also used to update the UN Social and Economic Framework to put in place additional protection measures and essential services, including to ensure that shelters for survivors of gender-based violence and clinical treatment for rape remained open and accessible during lockdowns,

- while increasing funding support for gender-based violence services in general and for local women's civil society organizations in particular. Based in part on the RGA findings, the JNCW also worked with UN Women to develop an Addendum to the NSW and to align it with the Government's Executive Programme.

FUTURE PLANS[1]

UN Women's work on gender statistics in Jordan will continue to be guided under the MoU with DOS and MoPIC in 2022 and onwards. Given challenges in implementation under Phase I, support will be provided as needed in Phase II through the Arab States Regional Office. Activities to be undertaken include:

- Developing a national strategy on gender statistics.

- Establishing a formal coordination mechanism to bring together different actors within the NSS to work on gender statistics.

- Reprocessing existing data to fill data gaps around women's economic empowerment.

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress during Phase I
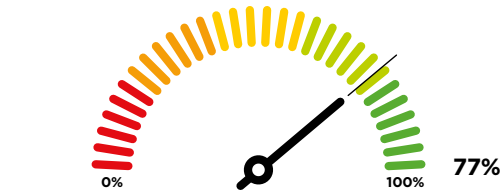
77%

Progress was the result of strengthened partnerships and the improved technical capacities of the NSO, enabling the first-ever economic costing of violence against women and effective use of gender data. In 2021, 100% of targets were met by the project.

- Developing a gender data portal to improve access to SDG gender data.

- Producing and disseminating the economic cost of VAW survey report.

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1 Plans for Phase II are in the process of being finalized.

PHASE 1

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IN BRIEF:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN SENEGAL

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics was conducted in 2019 and revealed three interrelated challenges:

- There was no dedicated budget for gender statistics in Senegal and no component of the national statistical system (NSS) had a specific entity in charge of gender statistics. Although all NSS structures had a gender focal point or specialist, this was often a single staff member reporting to the head of that entity.

- Several data gaps – including how often gender data are produced and in which domains – were undermined by the absence or poor quality of gender data. Data on wealth, income, expenditures and time-use of household members were generally not disaggregated by sex.

- There was no regular consultation, dialogue or cooperation between data producers and users, and no unified framework for disseminating gender indicators.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Gender was successfully integrated into the third National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2019–2023, setting the foundation for improved gender data.

- **Increasing data production:** The capacity of the National Statistics Agency (ANSD) has been strengthened through training to conduct surveys such as a time-use and a violence against women survey to improve monitoring of the SDGs from a gender perspective.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The publication of reports, policy briefs and other communications tools is contributing to greater evidence-based advocacy and policymaking to monitor progress on national commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

"Women Count has made it possible to stimulate the systematic consideration of gender-specific data in the production of data in Senegal."

Alé Nar Diop, General Manager, ANSD Senegal

KEY RESULTS

Since 2019, Women Count has laid the foundation for more and better gender data production and use in Senegal. Key results include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Laying a strong foundation to improve gender data through national strategies is bearing fruit.** As a result of UN Women's advocacy efforts in 2019, Senegal's third NSDS (2019–2023) designated gender statistics as a strategic pillar for the first time. To guide its implementation, a Gender Statistics Action Plan was adopted to further guide the ANSD and the Senegalese Government to improve the production of sex-disaggregated data at national and subnational levels and to increase accessibility for users. Since then, more gender data are being produced and used. For example, sex-disaggregated data were successfully mainstreamed for the first time in all chapters of the Economic and Social Situation report of Senegal, including a dedicated chapter on the situation of women and girls. It is the most used of all ANSD reports and it will be produced annually at the national and regional level.

- **The institutionalized Multipartite Gender Statistics Committee has strengthened coordination within the NSS.** The Committee, chaired by the ANSD, comprises 74 institutions across government, civil society and academia. Its role is to support the NSS to address the limited production, analysis and use of gender statistics at national and subnational levels. The Committee guided the design and approval of the Gender Statistics Action Plan (2020–2023).

- **The Ministry of Women is improving its ability to drive evidence-based policies by establishing a dedicated statistical unit.** UN Women commissioned a study to assess the statistical capacities of the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection (MFFGPE), which found that there was a

strong need to establish a dedicated statistics unit within the Ministry to guide the regular production of gender statistics across all gender units in all sectoral ministries in Senegal. The Ministry has taken forward these recommendations, with the support of UN Women, to institutionalize this unit, which will contribute to better coordination of the production and use of data to monitor and inform policies on national gender equality commitments. The unit will be responsible for reporting on gender indicators to inform Agenda 2063, scaling up the dissemination of gender data through analytical reports, encouraging other ministries to include gender in administrative statistics, and mobilizing resources for its operations. This is an important step towards building and sustaining the critical capacities of national government stakeholders and it increases the likelihood that gender-based policies will be data-driven, moving forward.

2. Increasing data production

- **Senegal's first-ever time-use survey (TUS) reveals significant disparities in women's unpaid care work.** The preliminary findings show that 90% of women surveyed contribute to unpaid care work compared to 54% of men, while 50% of men contribute to paid work compared to 31% of women. On average, women devote 5 hours a day to unpaid care work, compared to 2 hours for men – that is 2.5 times more time. After the NSDS 2019–2023 highlighted the need for detailed data on time use, in 2021, UN Women supported ANSD to implement the national stand-alone TUS. The TUS provides information about time-use distribution between paid and unpaid work and its contribution to economic growth and well-being – essential data for policymaking to achieve the SDGs. The Government has also expressed interested in using these findings to create a satellite account to understand the value of unpaid care work to GDP. UN Women will organize a press briefing in 2022 with the MFFGPE and the

- Ministry of the Economy to identify how the data will be used to inform policies on gender equality in Senegal.

- **Preparations are underway to fill data gaps on the prevalence of violence against women in Senegal for the first time.** UN Women is partnering with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to conduct the first violence against women survey. Planning and preparatory work began, including development of the methodological note and terms of reference. The survey will produce the first violence against women data collected at the household level, a mapping of survivors and service-providers, and the first administrative data collected on support for survivors at police stations, courts and health services across the country. Data collection will begin in 2022.

- **Data producers and users from across the NSS are now better equipped to collect data and close national gender data gaps.** UN Women has led over 20 trainings on improving gender data use and production, which have benefited more than 400 data producers and users since the start of Women Count, in partnership with ANSD. Data producers and users have participated in these capacity-building efforts in 10 out of the 14 regions of Senegal and have applied their skills to produce sex-disaggregated data as part of the routine statistics produced annually by sectoral ministries. With PARIS21, training on tools to support the monitoring of data activities for decision-making have equipped more data users and producers to identify gaps and to map the gender data demand from global and national policies.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Policymakers are better informed by new analysis on how to address gender disparities in Senegal.** UN Women in partnership with ANSD developed four studies: on differential access to education for men and women, on determinants of violence against women, on gender disparities in access to formal employment, and on the role of gender in measuring the contribution of entrepreneurship and leadership to added value. These studies reprocessed existing data from the Demographic Health Survey, Poverty Monitoring Survey and General Business Census which are not often analysed by sex. Their analysis found that women's entrepreneurship contributed

22.1% of Senegal's GDP in 2017 and noted pervasive inequalities in access to formal employment, where men are 1.6 times more likely than women to have a formal job. The studies include policy recommendations to enact gender quotas in the public and private sectors to encourage women's employment. By highlighting the disparities between men and women in these respective sectors and by assessing the socioeconomic and demographic factors contributing to such gaps, this research will inform future policy decisions and support the monitoring of SDGs 4, 5 and 8.

- **Data spur policy action to support vulnerable women to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.** The results of a rapid gender assessment (RGA) on the effects of COVID-19 in Senegal revealed that women and self-employed women in particular had been harder-hit than their male counterparts. Such data fuelled a new government programme aimed at strengthening the resilience of vulnerable groups and women in the informal sector in particular, which has since received USD 1.7 million in funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The findings informed MFFGPE's proposal for a Resilience-Building Programme for Households and Vulnerable Groups (PAREM), which focuses on the economic resilience of women in the informal sector, through subsidies and economic support to women-led small and medium-sized enterprises and community capacity-building for vulnerable groups.

- **Data users are improving how gender data are communicated through media.** A video was produced to make visible the actions undertaken and the results expected under the Women Count project. Capsules were developed to improve communication on the use of gender statistics in Senegal and were shown on national television. ANSD's second quarter newsletter, the widely read "PHARE", included a focus on the contributions of the Women Count project in Senegal. Moreover, with ANSD support, the Association of Gender Information Professionals, a network of journalists, was established to improve how gender data are communicated through online and print media. The network has been instrumental in bringing together journalists and strengthening their capacity to use data effectively in media reports.

PLANS FOR PHASE II[1]

Thanks to contributions from the French Development Agency (AFD) in 2020, the Women Count project in Senegal will extend its first phase until December 2022. The project will continue working towards the expected results set out by Women Count to improve the enabling environment for gender statistics, produce gender data and increase gender data accessibility, before transitioning to Phase II in 2023. Activities will include:

- Strengthening advocacy efforts to amend and mainstream gender in the national statistics law.

- Supporting ANSD to conduct the first-ever survey on violence against women.

- Facilitating the production of a bi-annual statistical bulletin "Women and Men in Senegal.

- Organizing user-produce dialogues to promote data use for policies and advocacy.

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress during Phase I
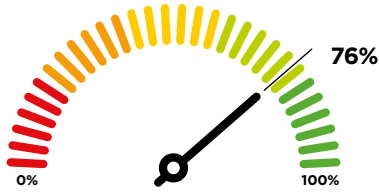
76%

0%   100%

Progress was the result of improved technical capacity to conduct surveys — such as a time-use and violence against women — and to improve monitoring of the SDGs from a gender perspective. In 2021, 100% of targets were met by the project.

- Conducting trainings for data producers at district level to strengthen their capacity to produce, collect and analyse SDG data from a gender perspective.

1 Plans for Phase II are in the process of being finalized.

ENDNOTES

1   As part of the 2020 comprehensive review of the SDG indicator framework, the IAEG-SDGs proposed 36 major changes to the framework, which were subsequently approved by the 51st Statistical Commission in March 2020. For the latest list, please see https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/.

2   Bangladesh, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania began implementation in 2018, while Senegal, Jordan, Cameroon and Colombia started in 2019. Albania is being supported through the Europe and Central Asia regional project, while in Sierra Leone, due to financial constraints, only a national assessment of gender statistics was conducted in 2021.

3   In 2021, the BMGF increased their contribution by USD 600,000 to extend work in Kenya on national care policies.

4   United Nations Statistical Commission. 2020. Report on the fifty-first session, 3–6 March. E/2020/24-E/CN.3/2020/37 https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/2020-37-FinalReport-E.pdf. Similarly, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Committee on Statistics also mainstreamed gender in all areas of work and in 2021 the Africa Commission on Statistics also adopted the Minimum Priority Gender Indicators for Africa.

5   See COVID-19 impact stories here: https://data.unwomen.org/rga

6   UN Women. 2021. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2021. https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2021/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2021-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1057

7   Albania, Georgia, Palau, Viet Nam, Cameroon, Egypt, Maldives, El Salvador, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Senegal, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uzbekistan.

8   Tanzania, henceforth.

9   Funding is from a larger World Bank fund provided to the Government to overhaul the national statistical system in Sierra Leone.

10 UN Women's calculations as of June 2022.

11 UN Women's data collection for indicators 5.5.1b and 5.c.1 is not supported by the Women Count programme.

12 Armenia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda.

13 Jordan, Kazakhstan, Rwanda and South Africa in 2021, Morocco and Uganda conducted studies, while Albania and Georgia were supported to disseminate existing VAW studies. In addition, Bangladesh, Colombia, Kenya and Senegal have begun preparations for VAW surveys to be conducted in 2022–23.

14 Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao, Mongolia, Nepal.

15 Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea.

16 Analytics as of 18 May 2022.

17 CARICOM Member States, Georgia, Kenya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania and Uganda.

18 See page 36: https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Press%202021_WEB.pdf

19 The Action Coalitions are global multi-stakeholder partnerships with governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector that seek to catalyse collective action to fill critical data gaps, drive increased public and private investment, use gender data for advocacy and policy formulation, and develop measurable plans and accountability frameworks to deliver game-changing results for women and girls everywhere.

20 C. Mosnega. 2020. Making Every Woman and Girl Count Mid-term Review. UN Women.

21 UNSD (United Nations Statistical Division) and World Bank. 2020. Monitoring the State of Statistical Operations under the COVID-19 Pandemic. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/covid19-response/covid19-nso-survey-report-2.pdf

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