

CASE STUDY

**BRIDGING THE GAP  
BETWEEN USERS AND  
PRODUCERS OF VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN DATA IN  
ALBANIA AND MOROCCO**

**LAWRENCE ROBERTSON**

This case study is on bridging the gap between data production and use, highlighting the role of data users to influence how data is collected. This case study was developed as part of the 2019 monitoring and reporting process of the Women Count programme. The case study series documents promising results from the programme, to distill critical lessons learned that can be applied, disseminated, and replicated.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The case study documents good practices and lessons learned as a result of working with partners and stakeholders involved in using and producing data on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Albania and Morocco. This specific area of results from UN Women's "Making Every Women and Girl Count" (Women Count) Programme is examined through a largely qualitative lens.

Since the Women Count programme began in 2016, UN Women has supported the collection of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, first by obtaining buy-in from national statistical offices (NSOs) to produce these data and then by supporting their production. UN Women has also supported greater dissemination and access to these data, including by helping users understand what these data mean and how to interpret them. Much of this work has focused on decision-makers and policymakers. In addition, UN Women has trained local governments to use these statistics in their delivery of services, while also helping civil society organizations (CSOs) understand how to use these data for advocacy and service-delivery.

To this end, Women Count supported the development and implementation of VAWG prevalence surveys and directly promoted the use of the resulting data in both Albania and Morocco between 2018 and 2020. The results of the VAWG survey were published in Albania in March 2019, and users got a sneak peek at key results of the Morocco survey in December 2019 (as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence), ahead of the publication of the final report. Women Count and NSOs note that there is high demand for these data in both countries from activists, CSO service-providers, as well as from local and municipal governments and national ministries.

The evidence from these two countries suggests that there is added value in involving data users at the inception and design phase of surveys – not just when the data is being prepared for publication or dissemination. Involving them from the beginning generates greater interest, understanding of, and trust in these data, and increases data use by CSOs and government users alike, particularly local authorities. The experiences from Albania and Morocco with their recent VAWG surveys suggests that early engagement with CSOs promotes a greater sense of ownership of the data, fuels related advocacy and improves their support for victims through more targeted responses.

Even at this early stage, a year or two after conducting the prevalence surveys, it is clear that bridging the gap between VAWG statistics producers and users has contributed to the following important improvements in these two countries:

**Data collection** – Engaging users in designing the survey (and in collecting data in Morocco) led to better data collection as well as new elements being gathered compared to previous surveys.

**Data dissemination** – Having findings released at launch events that engaged media and civil society made these data widely accessible (even before publication in the case of Morocco) and highlighted key findings of greatest interest to CSOs.

**Data uptake** – CSOs increasingly cite the data from both VAWG surveys in their advocacy efforts to push for changes to policies, laws and existing VAWG programmes.

**Impact** – Albania has made legal and policy changes based on better data and stronger CSO advocacy based on these data; while in Morocco initial efforts to change laws have begun.

# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this case study is to document good practices, lessons learned and stories of change from Women Count's experience. The study examines these targeted programme results in the conduct and use of VAWG prevalence surveys through a largely qualitative lens, to enhance learning.

## About Women Count

Women Count is UN Women's global gender data programme launched in September 2016. The programme aims to affect a radical shift in the availability, accessibility and use of data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). It is a multi-year and multicountry programme, supported by global and regional activities linking normative and technical work on gender statistics at the global level to the regional and national levels through three interlinked areas:

- Building a supportive policy and institutional environment for the localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs;
- Increasing the quality, comparability, and regularity of gender statistics to address national data gaps and meet reporting commitments under the SDGs;
- Ensuring that gender statistics are accessible to users in governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector to strengthen demand for their production.

Women Count has a strong presence in Albania, through a regional project in Europe and Central Asia, which aims to support data producers in all areas related to gender and the SDGs. Capacities of users are being strengthened to improve the way gender data are communicated. In Morocco, UN Women has been supporting the High Commissioner for Planning (HCP) to assess the production and use of gender statistics and support capacity building efforts to improve the production and use of violence against women data.

## Purpose of the case study

Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) is a key component of UN Women's flagship Women Count programme towards generating knowledge on cost-effective ways to provide statistical capacity building in gender statistics in different contexts. Throughout the life of the programme, there has been an ongoing effort by UN Women to realize the three concrete key objectives contained within the Women Count MLE Plan:

- measuring effectiveness of the approach;
- learning through diversity of experiences; and
- monitoring sustainability.

The midterm of the Women Count programme conducted in 2019 provided an important opportunity to continue building on existing MLE efforts and respond to the needs of programme partners to improve how the programme captures results. The MTR document highlighted several important results of the programme but also pointed to some areas where improvements were needed. These include:

- refining reporting, learning, monitoring and evaluation tools to better capture and demonstrate the programme's impact;
- streamlining internal communications; and
- improving knowledge management to facilitate greater collaboration across the programme.

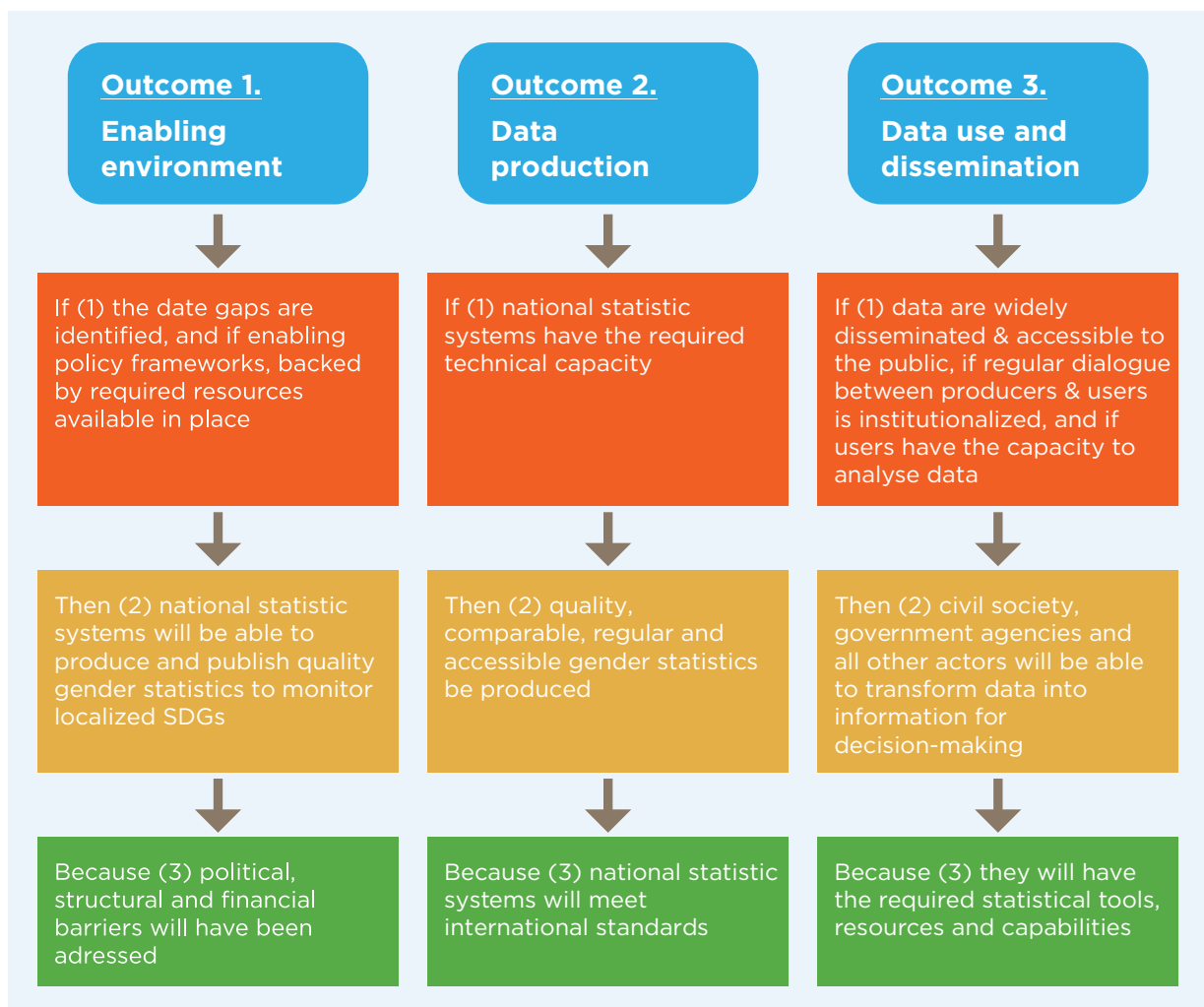
To respond, UN Women commissioned an initial set of multi-country/regional case studies to collect qualitative and quantitative data to better illustrate the real impact of the programme and feed into the organization's annual report. This is one of three case studies that aim to highlight country and regional best practices that can effectively demonstrate the impact of Women Count across its three outcome areas and distill critical lessons learned that can be applied, widely disseminated, and replicated within and beyond the programme.

## Background and objectives

This study focuses on an aspect of Women Count’s third main outcome area – improving data accessibility and use. Under this area, Women Count supports the engagement of data users and producers and promotes greater access to and analysis of data by users. This includes support for open access, dissemination tools, user-producer dialogues and strengthening the capacity of relevant actors to use gender statistics in policy, programmes and advocacy. This work is directly connected to the second outcome of the Women Count programme – increasing data production. This case study does not focus on Women Count’s achievements in increasing VAWG data production as much as on its work to engage producers and users in improving their access and use of these VAWG data.

To this end, this case study specifically examines the process of bringing together data producers and users in the design, implementation and dissemination of national VAWG prevalence surveys and data. It examines two countries – Albania and Morocco – where Women Count has engaged with NSOs and other partners and stakeholders to improve these surveys in 2018, through the Europe and Central Asia Regional Women Count Programme and the UN Women Country Office in Albania, as well as in 2019, through Women Count initiative in Morocco. Through Women Count, initiatives were aimed at strengthening engagement with NSOs together with civil society, government ministries and agencies, local governments, academics as well as international organizations during VAWG surveys in both countries.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Women Count Programme Theory of Change**



# METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The case study was guided by the following key questions:

1. How has bringing together data users and producers supported efforts to end VAWG?
2. What are the benefits of including data users across the different stages of the data production?
3. What are the challenges to including data users across the different stages of the data production, and how were these challenges addressed?
4. What are the key factors that contributed to promoting greater data use?
5. Has improving how gender data is communicated led to greater uptake by data users?

To answer these questions, the Women Count consultant worked with global project staff to design a methodology to collect data on each country's experience with conducting their most recent VAWG surveys and the programme's experience in supporting these surveys.

## Data collection

The qualitative data that informs the case study was obtained through:

- conducting an in-depth desk review of Women Count programme documents and materials from Women Count partners, particularly from NSOs

(including the prevalence studies themselves, or summaries of these data); and

- conducting semi-structured interviews with UN Women staff, partners at NSOs and civil society organizations using remote methods using Zoom and Skype (see Annex 1). Limited quantitative data from the NSO and Women Count publications are also utilized for the study.

Findings from qualitative and quantitative data collected were triangulated and compared findings across types of informants/publications and countries in the Women Count experience in bridging the gap between data production and use in VAWG statistics.

## Limitations

Limitations to the case study included: Limited time for data collection and limited time since the completion of the VAWG prevalence studies in both countries.

The case study was conducted from April to June 2020 and designed to contribute to the 2019 Women Count Annual Report. It was challenging to assess the impact of the 2018 and 2019 prevalence studies in Albania and Morocco as only a year had passed since the publication of the Albanian study, in March 2019, and only the summary statistics of the Moroccan study had been released in December 2019, with the final report's publication postponed due to COVID-19.

# FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

National statistical offices strive to improve the quality and use of their statistical products, including on VAWG. In Albania and Morocco, NSOs recognized that the planned national VAWG surveys presented opportunities to improve the quality of prevalence data, including its collection and dissemination, with the support of UN Women through the Women Count programme. Through the Women Count programme, UN Women supported in strengthening collaboration between NSOs and civil society organizations and other key data users.

## Albania

### Background

The Albanian National Statistics Institution (INSTAT) had conducted two previous national prevalence surveys on VAWG, in 2007 and 2013, with support from UNDP. These surveys were part of INSTAT's plans, but the NSO lacked funds to implement them.

In Albania, to encourage the use of statistical products, INSTAT has developed the general approach of working with a group of statistics users at the dissemination stage for all of their statistical products. This involves working with selected specialists that regularly use the specific type of data produced to finalize the statistical data. These practices have been developed to improve the utilization of data by users. INSTAT engaged CSO data users prior to disseminating the two prior prevalence surveys. With support from Women Count, the 2018 report presented an opportunity to increase this engagement with users.

### Involving data users in the VAWG survey design and data collection

Through Women Count, UN Women supported INSTAT in the preparation, implementation and dissemination of the 2018 VAWG survey in Albania. Advocacy, facilitating user-producer dialogues and

maintaining a strong partnership with INSTAT were seen as instrumental in ensuring data users were included in the overall survey design working with data producers and users to prepare the instruments and questions for the national prevalence survey. The approach to include data users from the inception phase was seen as an important factor that led to an increase in the quality of the study produced and also encouraged greater data uptake and use. This was an important innovation in the overall data collection process, INSTAT reported that this was the first time they had done such an open, wide consultation at each and every step for a single survey.<sup>1</sup>

UN Women supported INSTAT to establish two advisory bodies - the technical working group and the advisory board as important platforms to further strengthen engagement between VAWG data producers and users and improve coordination within the national statistical system. Members of the advisory bodies included representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior/Albanian State Police, and Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Gender Equality and ending VAWG, the Albanian School of Magistrates, and leading CSOs and networks on women's rights. Both groups also included academics as well as representatives from key international organizations – such as UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). This allowed key stakeholders/data users to provide technical input at all stages of the process, from the first draft of the questionnaire. The role of the advisory bodies, was sought not only to strengthen the quality of the survey but also would increase their sense of ownership and interest in the resulting data, while catalyzing its use for advocacy.

<sup>1</sup> INSTAT holds comprehensive consultations on the Census, a larger process, at all stages.



## GENDER DATA STORY

### Improved data on violence against women catalyses advocacy and legal change in Albania



Read the story on the Women Count data hub: <http://tiny.cc/albania-vawdata>

Engaging users and producers in designing the survey led to new data being collected. As a result, ‘new’ types of violence – such as dating violence, non-partner violence, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and stalking, the consequences of violence on women and the activities of victims to address VAWG – were collected in the 2018 survey. The study also measured relevant social norms, women’s perceptions of the seriousness of VAWG in Albania, and the importance of related legislation.

#### Improving dissemination of the data and raising awareness

The 2018 National Population Survey on Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania was launched in March 2019 on the INSTAT website, accompanied by a user-friendly infographic presentation. The survey found that VAWG in Albania has remained high despite legal and other efforts to confront it, and that VAWG is greatly underreported to the authorities. The survey specifically revealed that 52.9 per cent of women had ‘ever’ experienced one or more of the five

different types of violence; of these survivors, 47 per cent reported experiencing intimate partner domestic violence; 65.8 per cent dating violence; 18.2 per cent non-partner violence; 18.1 per cent sexual harassment; and 12.6 per cent had experienced stalking.<sup>2</sup>

To encourage greater use of the survey results, Women Count focused heavily on disseminating the data, through a launch event and two local dissemination workshops to explain the data’s implications for VAWG service-providers, including government ministries, municipalities, CSOs, police and ombudsmen. UN Women supported organizing two user-producer dialogues to disseminate the VAWG survey findings, seen as particularly useful for sharing the VAWG data and their implications to government ministries, municipalities, the police and ombudspersons, which provide services for victims and survivors of VAWG.

<sup>2</sup> INSTAT and UN Women Albania. 2018. National Population Survey on Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania. <https://albania.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/violence-against-women-and-girls-in-albania#view>

Workshop participants were coached on how to understand and use the data. The local workshops raised awareness and helped overcome misunderstandings, as police, Ombudsmen and municipalities' data on reported incidents of VAWG were very different from the survey's findings.

As workshop facilitator Ani Plaku noted, many local CSOs did not even know such data existed before the workshops. The workshops opened discussion between the police and local civil society on how and why they have different impressions of VAWG, as well as different data on specific cases. Through the survey data and their engagement with local CSOs, municipal police learned that the number of women that need support is much larger than those who report incidents. Activists hope that improved understanding of the incidence of VAWG will shift police approaches towards prevention.

## Impact

### *Improving collaboration between data users and producers led to better quality results*

Former INSTAT Director Delina Ibrahimaj stated that 'expanding the discussion between users and producers in the early stages of the VAWG survey led to better results in the 2018 survey compared to 2013.' The additional insights gained from users were seen as having contributed to the formulation of more accurate survey questions and to drafting a final report with a better understanding of its users' needs. Diversifying the number of users involved in the process was seen as beneficial, according to the former Director, because CSO experts are in frequent contact with women victims and understand their needs, which helped INSTAT formulate more effective questions to capture the results better tailored to the experiences of the respondents. Expertise of CSOs also benefited INSTAT to better analyse the data based on users' needs.

Moreover, as a result of the dissemination workshops, facilitator Ani Plaku notes that INSTAT's sharing of VAWG data with the Ombudsman's office has led that Office to similarly share administrative data with INSTAT and to begin disaggregating its administrative data on VAWG complaints by sex for the first time. INSTAT will publish these data in its next annual volume of statistics, entitled 'Women and Men'.

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**“Expanding the discussion between users and producers in the early stages of the VAWG survey led to better results in the 2018 survey compared to 2013.”**

**Delina Ibrahimaj**  
*Former INSTAT Director*

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### *Communicating and widely disseminating survey results is leading to greater use of the data to inform advocacy and policies*

Since the release of the 2018 VAWG survey in March 2019, CSOs have cited it in their advocacy for changes to policies, laws and programmes. Albania was finalizing a new framework defining standards of services provided by emergency municipal facilities for gender-based violence survivors and the survey data were expected to contribute to adapting the framework to better meet the needs of victims.

With their increased awareness, CSOs are better equipped to ask for additional changes to make Albania's legal frameworks more inclusive of all forms of violence, not just domestic.

Subsequent amendments to the Criminal Code added psychological violence and dating violence as forms of gender-based violence, alongside increased prison sentences for perpetrators. Survey data were also instrumental in advocacy efforts to expand services available for victims of domestic violence to cover other forms of violence, and resulted in the establishment of the first rape crisis centre in Albania.

## Morocco

### Background

UN Women's predecessor organization (UNIFEM) contributed to the design, conduct and publication of Morocco's first national VAWG survey in 2009, led by the High Commission for Planning (HCP), Morocco's national statistical office. Innovatively, HCP consulted with women's networks and groups in civil society in the preparation of the 2009 VAWG survey. Recognizing that data collection on a subject as sensitive as domestic violence would be particularly difficult in more traditional villages in many regions

of the country, HCP arranged to bring in women “listeners” from CSOs that provided services to victims of violence from these regions to work with HCP survey teams to collect these data.

Following the adoption of a national law to prevent VAWG in February 2018, the Moroccan Government expressed the need to update VAWG prevalence figures captured in the first VAWG survey in 2009, in order to establish priorities, inform the enforcement of the new law and to monitor its progress. For Morocco’s second VAWG prevalence survey, planned for 2019, HCP sought international support, including from Women Count, to strengthen its development, implementation and dissemination.

### Involving data users in the VAWG data collection and supporting capacity-building of data producers

UN Women worked closely with HCP to design the country’s second VAWG prevalence survey and supported user-producer dialogues and capacity building of data producers through training on VAWG data.,

UN Women’s Women Count programme in Morocco began in 2019 with a national assessment and workshops to engage statistical users and producers at the earliest stages of the survey design. Consultations sought to expand the survey’s scope beyond areas covered in the first survey in 2009.

UN Women also organized a two-day training workshop for HCP regional supervisors to deepen their understanding of VAWG issues and train enumerators on sensitive data collection – including how to help interviewees recall violent events, ethical procedures and referrals to services and support for survivors. All but three of the 21 HCP supervisors reported that they had never previously been trained on VAWG. The training was imparted by an expert from a CSO specialized in gender-based violence – the Association Marocaine des Droits des Femmes (AMDF [Moroccan Association for Women’s Rights]). The workshop emphasized the tools, knowledge and precautions HCP enumerators had to take to conduct VAWG interviews, in accordance with UN standards. In addition, UN Women support the participation of five HCP statisticians and the two econometricians to

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## GENDER DATA STORY

### Civil society ‘listeners’ team up with enumerators to track violence against women in Morocco



Read the story on the Women Count data hub: <http://tiny.cc/albania-vawdata>



the National University of Ireland–Galway Centre for Global Women’s Studies for specialized training on estimating the costs of violence against women – a new element to be covered in the survey. As a result of strengthening the capacity of HCP on VAWG data collection, new areas – such as estimating the social and economic costs of violence against women, for both victims and their relatives – were added to the survey design.

Recognizing that collecting data on this sensitive subject would be particularly difficult in traditional villages, UN Women supported HCP to engage 35 civil society VAWG service-providers to serve as ‘listeners’, to work alongside HCP enumerators to collect the data. Prevalence data was thus collected from February–July 2019 by a pair of enumerators – one from HCP and one from civil society – both of whom had been trained to work together on data collection. This innovative approach allowed both groups to learn from each other’s expertise, and resulted in more sensitive survey tools, while increasing trust in the resulting data. This second survey deepened engagement between CSOs and HCP, bringing them in earlier, to discuss tools, concepts and approaches for interviewing victims and to develop the questions.

### Improving dissemination of the data and raising awareness

The preliminary results were widely disseminated, even before publication, at a well-publicized, high-level event on 18 December 2019 – the last day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. The high-level release event was used to mark the HCP’s commitment towards gender equality. Prior to the event, UN Women organized multiple meetings with HCP executives to ensure their alignment with the findings and to agree on a new agenda of priorities (notably on advocating on the need to reform the legal and institutional environment for gender statistics). As a result of these efforts, at the event the High Commissioner himself even emphasized the need to reform the legal framework and develop the national strategy to deliver gender-sensitive data and statistics. The consultations served as an important tool to secure government buy-in from the highest level to raise awareness of the importance of using gender data to inform advocacy and policy change.

Following the release of the preliminary results, UN Women supported the dissemination of these preliminary findings, including through infographics as a means to further communicate the data and attract broader media coverage.

Four dialogues between data users and producers were also organized to foster knowledge-sharing and communication in order to improve their understanding and use of the survey data.

### Impact

#### *Widely disseminating survey results is leading to greater use of the data to inform advocacy and policies*

Preliminary results include that 57% of women and girls had experienced at least one act of violence in the previous 12 months (down from 63% in 2009).

Only 10.5% of survivors had reported the violence (up from 3% in 2009). Only 58% of women and 57% of men had heard of law 103-13 – which criminalizes gender discrimination – and only 41% of women were aware of relevant public services.

Wide publicity around the launch of the initial findings of the survey, in both French and Arabic, led to increased media coverage. This wide publicity is expected to lead to greater demand for data from the whole survey when the final report is published and made available on the HCP website.

HCP is waiting to have a proper publication and launch of the final report to support its dissemination and use; however, this has been hampered by COVID-19. CSOs in Morocco have already begun using the preliminary survey results in their advocacy to change policies and legal frameworks. They have combined survey prevalence data with administrative data to call for changes to Law 103-13 – which criminalized gender discrimination – so that it will also specifically combat VAWG.<sup>3</sup> CSOs involved in designing and implementing the survey have also served as agents of change in using the data for awareness-raising and for guiding local service-delivery for survivors – for

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3 Safaa Kasraoui, “Moroccan Courts Handle 17,000 Cases of Violence Against Women Annually,” Morocco World News, 9 March 2020, <https://www.morocworldnews.com/2020/03/295690/moroccan-courts-handle-17000-cases-of-violence-against-women-annually/> (accessed 23 June 2020).

example, targeting areas where prevalence levels are high, but where few women report cases. “When users know the data, as they participated in data collection, they are more willing to trust these data,” says AMDF President Najat Razi. Most recently, the survey data was used by Moroccan CSOs to argue for measures to protect women against violence, particularly in the context of the COVID-19. One CSO also cited it in a specific survey it undertook with CSO VAWG service-providers, in which 66.67% of respondents observed increased numbers of abused women seeking assistance and 91.67% reported facing new challenges to serving women survivors during the state of emergency.

***Strengthened partnerships between data users and producers improved production of quality data***

“Working with civil society improved data quality through the ways they conducted interviews, the tools, and the words chosen – all of this enabled improvements in data quality by reflecting more precisely and accurately the reality of Moroccan women’s experiences,” said Oussama Marseli, HCP’s Director of Statistics. He says the listeners also helped

enumerators introduce violence in an indirect manner to get information, more subtly.

Women Count has followed up on this work linking producers and users of gender statistics by launching a joint study with HCP on the production and analysis of statistics on early marriage, and – through work with the Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family & Social Development – identifying partners that could work on producing and analysing gender statistics on women’s economic empowerment. Women Count is also working with HCP to develop a user-friendly platform for key gender statistics in order to increase dissemination and use more generally.

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**Working with civil society improved data quality through the ways they conducted interviews, the tools, and the words chosen – all of this enabled improvements in data quality by reflecting more precisely and accurately the reality of Moroccan women’s experiences.**

**Oussama Marseli**  
*Director of Statistics, HCP*

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# CONCLUSIONS: CROSS-COUNTRY ANALYSIS

Even at this early stage, a year or two after conducting the prevalence surveys, bridging the gap between producers and users has had at least four sets of benefits in these two countries:

- **Data collection** – Both surveys went beyond domestic violence and having users engaged in designing the survey (and in collecting data in Morocco) led to better data collection as well as new areas of data being gathered compared to previous surveys.
- **Data dissemination** – Having findings disseminated at launch events that engaged media and civil society made these data widely accessible (even before publication in Morocco) and highlighted key findings of greatest interest to CSOs.
- **Impact** – Albania has made legal and policy changes based on better data and stronger CSO advocacy based on these data.
- **Data uptake** – CSOs increasingly cite the data from both VAWG surveys in their advocacy efforts and push for changes to policies, laws and existing programmes.

## Common drivers of success

Women Count, NSOs and other stakeholders have attributed successes in bridging the gap between data production and use in VAWG statistics to these efforts to engage data users and producers.

Certain Women Count approaches were identified as particular drivers of success:

- High-level outreach from UN Women to NSOs ;
- Partnerships with NSOs in comprehensive programming to support gender statistics ;
- Technical advice and information-sharing on prevalence surveys with NSOs ;
- Financial and organizational support for workshops that bring civil society users into the process of developing the surveys; and

- Financial and organizational support for disseminating survey results through well-publicized launches.

Prioritizing bringing together data users and producers are seen as promoting not only a stronger survey but also a greater understanding and use of the resulting data, going forward.

## Common challenges and methods to overcome them

Women Count staff did not report facing challenges in engaging producers and users of statistics in the development, implementation and dissemination of VAWG prevalence surveys in the two countries. Staff noted that the plans, partnerships and activities to link users and producers worked as designed.

However, NSOs in both countries did face common challenges that limited their ability to engage with data users. NSOs did not have the capacity or funding to bring users together for the development of survey questionnaires or to support their dissemination. Women Count initiatives that organized and financed engagement with CSOs and local governments in both countries were thus essential to enabling them to overcome these limitations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed processes of disseminating information from the prevalence survey in both countries. Women Count has delayed additional dissemination workshops in Albania planned for municipal authorities and CSOs in the regions. In Morocco, HCP delayed the release of the full VAWG survey report until they are able to organize a large, well-attended launch event to better promote understanding and use of these data.

## Lessons learned

The main lessons learned from Women Count's experience in bridging the gap between data production and use in VAWG statistics include that:

- The Women Count approach to strengthen engagement both producers and users of statistics – such as through workshops, consultations, coordination mechanisms – can result in the production of better quality data in areas like VAWG and improved coordination between NSOs, other government partners, civil society, academics and international organizations.
- Bringing together data users and producers has supported advocacy efforts to end VAWG by building the constituency of knowledgeable interested parties in such data production, adding to the kinds of VAWG data being produced, strengthening the quality of that data, and providing civil society organizations with data on incidence and victimization that can be used for advocacy to change national policies and legislation, and support service-delivery to victims through CSOs and local and municipal governments.
- Bringing civil society expertise into the development of surveys and questionnaires (as in Albania) or involving civil society VAWG specialists in the data collection processes themselves (as in Morocco) produce higher-quality data that better address users needs and in turn can encourage greater the use of these data by CSOs for advocacy.
- Challenges to engage data users across the different stages of data production include limited technical capacity and financial resources of the NSOs. These challenges can be addressed by supporting meetings and workshops that connect NSOs, civil society and local government data users and service-providers.
- Improving how VAWG data is communicated and disseminated is expected to lead to greater use of these data by data users in the future. Increased use has already informed policy change in Albania and initial efforts are underway in Morocco. However, more time is needed to see substantial effects on VAWG data use and advocacy in both countries.

# ANNEX.

## DATA SOURCES:

### INTERVIEWS AND

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **Albania**

1. Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) and United Nations Development Programme. 2013. Domestic Violence in Albania, National population-based Survey 2013. Tirana: INSTAT.
2. Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT). March 2019. National Population Survey 2018: Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania. Tirana: INSTAT.
3. Gardner, Jessica. 2017. Assessment of opportunities for UN Women to support the development of gender statistics in Europe and Central Asia. New York: UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

#### **Interviewees:**

Estela Bulku, UN Women Programme Specialist

Delina Ibrahimaj, Former Director, INSTAT

Ani Plaku, UN Women Consultant

#### **Morocco**

1. High Commission for Planning. January 2011. Enquête Nationale sur la Prévalence de la Violence à l'Égard des Femmes - Principaux résultats présentés [National Survey on the Prevalence of Violence against Women - Presentation on Main Results]. Rabat: High Commission for Planning.
2. A2012. Enquête nationale sur la prévalence de la violence à l'égard des femmes au Maroc: 2009 [National Survey on the Prevalence of Violence against Women in Morocco, 2009]. Rabat: High Commission for Planning.
3. 2019. Communiqué-du-Haut-Commissariat-au-Plan-a-l-occasion-de-la-campagne-nationale-et-internationale-de-mobilisation-pour-l'élimination de la violence à l'encontre des femmes [Press release from HCP on the occasion of the national and international mobilization campaign for the elimination of violence against women].
4. UN Women. March 2017. Project document -Making Every Woman and Girl Count: Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs through better production and use of gender statistics in Europe and Central Asia. New York: UN Women.



## Interviewees:

Leila Rhiwi, UN Women Country Representative in Morocco

Myriem Noussairi, Programme Specialist, UN Women

Sophia Benamar, Programme Analyst, UN Women

Oussama Marseli, HCP Director of Statistics

Siham Zarrari, HCP Chief of Division for General Statistics

Najat Razi, President, Association Marocaine des Droits des Femmes (AMDF)



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