

Methodological note to calculate gender data gaps and countries' performance on the status of women and girls

As of August 2022

The goal of this experimental exercise is to reveal gaps in availability of gender-specific SDG indicators in each country. Overall, we use a total of 82 gender-specific indicator series where data disaggregated by sex are available from the United Nations Statistical Division ([UNSD's SDG global database](#)).

The first analysis conducted in 2019 included 62 gender-specific SDG indicator series and corresponding data as of September 2019 was 33%. The computations were based on the latest data available for each indicator series by country (as of September 2019) and where simple regional and global averages were estimated. The same methodology was applied for subsequent computations for data availability as of December 2020 and June 2022; with the change being the increase of indicator series under review (i.e., 72 and 82 indicator series, respectively).

To illustrate time needed by countries to achieve 100 percent SDG gender data availability, we used the statistical measure time-distance analysis that measures the distance (proximity) in time to provide comparative analysis. S-distance is computed between the two periods in time for an indicator (in this case, data availability for a country) and their difference is attributed to the relative improvement/deterioration of an indicator for that period. We divide the S-distance by the years of time period to normalise the S-distance per year. Based on the S-distance per year calculated, the time period (years) needed for each country to reach a specified level of data availability is computed. It is a concept where, degree of inequality and convergence are clubbed to bring important policy implications, especially for interrelationship between efficiency, growth and inequality.

$$S_{ij}(X_L) = \Delta T(X_L) = T_i(X_L) - T_j(X_L)$$

- T = Time/ year at which the indicator is measured. i and j are two time periods.
- X_L = gender specific SDG data availability for a country
- $S_{ij}(X_L)$ is the time distance of data availability for a country between the two periods of time.
- The sign of the time distance (S_{ij}) comparing two units distinguishes whether it is a time lead (-) or time lag (+) in years.

Some countries have shown negative growth in reporting gender specific SDG data owing to the increase in indicator series of new datasets as indicated above. This has been observed in 22 countries and have thus been excluded from the analysis.

Note

This methodology is experimental, so we would appreciate any comments or suggestions to improve it. Please send any comments to gender.data@unwomen.org.