

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

DRIVING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE ON GENDER DATA

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2023



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT PHASE II

Driving Transformative Change on Gender Data

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2023

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial intelligence
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AUD	Australian dollars
CEGS	Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics
CGD	Citizen-generated data
COP28	28th global Climate Change Conference (Conference of Parties)
CSO	Civil society organization
DANE	Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (National Administrative Department of Statistics, Colombia)
EUR	Euros
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GES	Gender environment survey
GRB	Gender-responsive budgeting
IGAC	Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Study
MDAs	Ministries, departments and agencies
MTP	Mid-Term Plan
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National statistical office
NSS	National statistical system
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
PFM	Public Finance Management
RGA	Rapid gender assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEK	Swedish krona
TF VAW	Technology-facilitated violence against women
TSD	Tonga Statistics Department
TUS	Time-use survey
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	United States Dollars
VAW	Violence against women
WHO	World Health Organization
Women Count	Making Every Woman and Girl Count

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AT A GLANCE: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

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.

Progress on national and international gender equality commitments will depend on the world’s ability to implement effective evidence-based policies that respond to the needs of all women and girls. 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 achieve gender equality by 2030. Localization and adequate monitoring of SDG targets are critical to ensure that policies and programmes are implemented, and progress is tracked. The [SDG Gender Snapshot 2023](#) reveals that globally only 2 of the 18 indicators under Goal 5 are close to the 2030 target, 8 are at a moderate distance to target and 4 are far or very far off target. Insufficient data and evidence continue to impede the monitoring of progress on gender equality. For example, despite strong gains, countries still lack 44 per cent of the data required to track both SDG 5 and all gender-related SDG indicators, pointing to the significant remaining challenges to collecting and using timely and reliable gender data:

- **Weak policy space, legal and financial environments pose barriers to progress.** Gender statistics still suffer from chronic underfunding. The [2023 Partner Report on Support to Statistics](#) found that gender data financing has stagnated at a low level, despite positive signs that more are being mainstreamed in development policies.
- **Several critical data gaps remain that limit our understanding of key issues.** These include women’s economic empowerment (WEE), violence against women (VAW) the gender and environment nexus and gender in humanitarian action. Without bold commitments to fill these gaps, our ability to measure progress towards achieving the gender equality commitments of the 2030 Agenda will remain impaired.
- **Lack of access and limited use of gender data pose challenges.** Data need to inform policymaking, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women’s empowerment results.

Halfway to 2030, SDG gender data availability is steadily improving:

56%

of gender-specific SDG indicators can be reliably monitored at the global level, up from 26% in 2016.

68%

on average, of SDG gender-related data is available in the 8 Women Count programme countries, 12 percentage points above the global average.*

59%

of the data needed to measure women’s unpaid care work (SDG indicator 5.4.1) are currently available (up from 31% in 2019).**

86%

of the data needed to measure VAW by an intimate partner (SDG indicator 5.2.1) are available, but there are still no comparable data on sexual violence (SDG indicator 5.2.2).***

Source: Figures are updated based on UN Women’s calculations as of March 2024, using the United Nations Statistics Division’s latest estimates available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.
Notes: (*) 65% in Bangladesh (up from 48% in 2022), 75% in Cameroon (up from 57% in 2022), 68% in Colombia (up from 54% in 2022), 73% in Kenya (up from 52% in 2022), 74% in Morocco (up from 43% in 2022), 64% in Senegal (up from 54% in 2022), 57% in Tanzania (up from 54% in 2022) and 70% in Uganda (up from 52% in 2022).
(**) the data pertain to SDG indicator 5.4.1.
(***) Data pertain to SDG indicator 5.2.1.

UN WOMEN’S STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

Building on UN Women’s unique normative, policy, programmatic and coordination mandate, the Women Count Programme is a multi-stakeholder global strategy that aims to create a radical shift in how gender statistics are used, produced and promoted to inform policy and advocacy on gender equality. Actions 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 national statistics



Improving data accessibility and use:

Expanding access to data to inform policies, programmes, research and advocacy through solutions such as open access, dissemination tools and user-producer dialogues so that data users are better able to use gender statistics to inform research, policies, 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.

Phase II, a coordinated approach at country, regional and global levels through partnerships at all levels is being deepened to achieve even greater impact across all areas of work. 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:

- **Targeted country support to more than 70 countries:**¹ Strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones with national statistics offices (NSOs), ministries of women and other key stakeholders is pivotal for implementing Phase II. Women Count creates partnerships within national statistics systems (NSSs) and builds sustainable institutional capacities on gender data.
- **Regional technical support and coordination:** Six regional projects provide targeted technical and financial support to countries to implement gender data activities in: the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, East and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and West and Central Africa. Regional projects also foster coordination and collaboration with regional bodies, including UN regional commissions and other relevant subregional institutions, to promote data production and use.
- **Global policy support and SDG monitoring:** In addition to global SDGs monitoring, policy and programme support, Women Count works with partners, such as Data2X, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), and the World Health Organization (WHO), to promote advocacy and fill gender data gaps.

SCALING UP DATA-DRIVEN ACTION: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

Women Count Phase II works to sustain the important gains achieved under [Phase I](#). It works to strengthen investments in gender data that contribute to global efforts to accelerate progress towards the SDGs by 2030 in key areas, such as:



Women's economic empowerment (WEE): Catalytic partnerships with the ILO and the World Bank are being strengthened to support countries to fill critical data gaps on women's unpaid care and domestic work, labour force participation and poverty. UN Women will also continue to support countries to conduct time-use surveys and integrate time-use modules in existing household surveys, as well as to collect other types of WEE data.



Violence against women (VAW): UN Women develops new standards for measuring: technology-facilitated violence against women in partnership with the WHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); femicide, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Countries are supported to conduct surveys and explore the use of administrative data to provide the evidence needed to inform policy and programmatic responses on ending VAW.



Gender and the environment: This work supports methodological development and building NSS technical capacities on data production and use through activities such as: survey methodology and questionnaire development; supporting countries to conduct specialized gender-environment surveys (GESs); improving the use of non-conventional data (e.g. big data, geospatial information) to expand analysis on the impacts of climate change and disasters on women and men; and strengthening the capacities of data users and producers through training to measure the gender-environment nexus.



Governance and political participation: UN Women continues to strengthen its role as custodian agency for several SDG 5 indicators, to increase data availability on key areas of women's leadership and gender-responsive governance for SDG monitoring. UN Women will support governments in the data-collection process and also to use these data to improve policy and budgetary decision-making.

OVERVIEW OF PHASE II	
Strategy for change	Create an enabling environment, improve data production, increase data access and use
Thematic and cross-cutting priorities	VAW, WEE, gender and the environment, governance and participation, innovation, leave-no-one behind
Where We Work	Up to 74 countries, 6 regions, 1 global policy support project*
Duration	January 2022 – December 2025
Budget	USD 58 million

* Phase II is being presently implemented in 8 programme countries (Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Uganda and Tanzania), with additional countries supported through projects in 6 regions (Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, Europe and Central Asia, East and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and West and Central Africa), and 1 global project Women Count will expand to more countries subject to funding availability.

CURRENT DONORS

Women Count Phase II is a USD-58-million multi-stakeholder comprehensive global strategy. As of writing, the programme is being generously supported by the Governments of Australia (AUD 7 million), France (EUR 125,000), Ireland (EUR 810,000), Italy (EUR 1 million), Sweden (SEK 130 million), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (USD 9.8 million). Additionally, USD 690,000 has been secured from core resources to support Women Count regional projects (see Chapter 3). Key interventions to improve measurement of the 'leave no one behind' principle and to expand efforts through innovation cut across all thematic areas to fill data gaps and enable

gender-responsive SDG monitoring. As key partners of Women Count Phase II, each donor is a member of the Donor Committee and the Steering Committee. As the executive mechanism, the Donor Committee reviews and approves budgets, endorses all major programme changes and promotes the programme broadly to encourage new partners to join. As a coordination and monitoring mechanism, the Steering Committee reviews progress, guides implementation and ensures coordination with other actors. UN Women also works with current partners through open lines of communication and cross-fertilization with relevant projects and programmes it supports.



DRIVING TRANSFORMATIVE AND LASTING CHANGE ON GENDER DATA

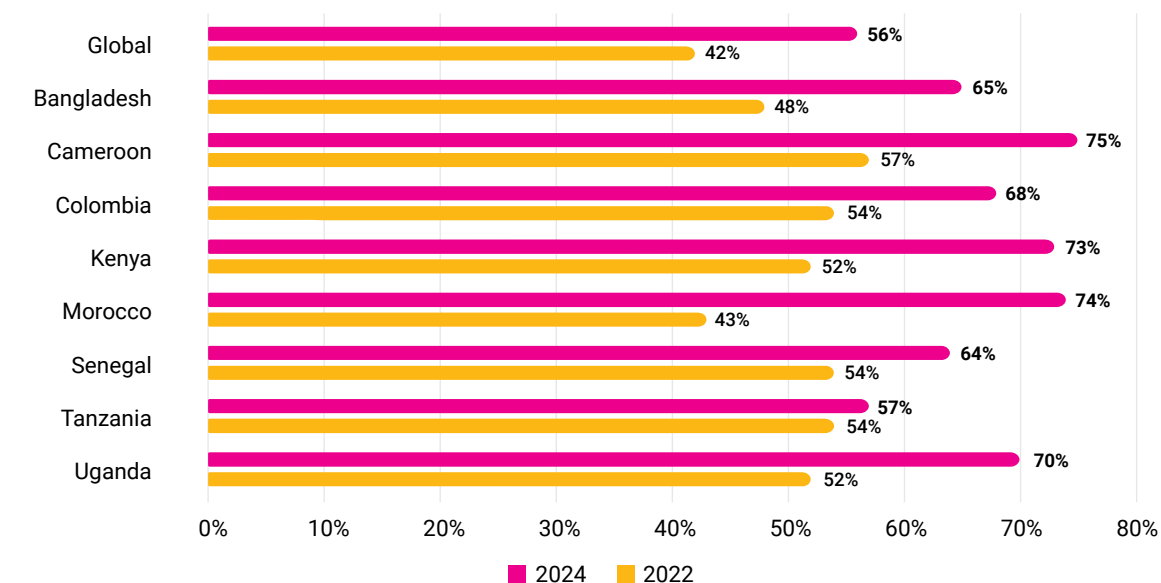
Reflecting on Women Count's transformative journey: What have we learned?

The year 2024 marks the midpoint of Phase II of the Women Count programme, and about seven years since the programme effectively started. Through several evaluations, deep-dives and exchanges with our partners, we have learned valuable lessons about which interventions to strengthen national gender statistics systems yield the best results to achieve transformative and lasting change.

By directly responding to countries' priorities, the Women Count programme has been successful in closing gender data gaps.

Women Count's approach of providing direct technical and financial support to countries on challenging topics has been instrumental in filling critical gender data gaps to inform national policies and improve monitoring of the SDGs. This strategy encompasses facilitating surveys, reprocessing existing data sets, refining administrative data sources and providing innovative methodological guidance. Presently, a minimum of 56% of gender-specific SDG indicators are available globally, signifying a 5-percentage-point increase since 2022 and a substantial 30-percentage-point change from 2016. The impact of Women Count's initiatives is observable across all eight participating countries, underscoring the tangible benefits of the programme (see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1.
Women Count country progress on increasing SDG gender data availability



Source: The 2022 figures are updated based on UN Women's calculations as of June 2022, while 2024 figures are based on UN Women's calculations as of March 2024, using the United Nations Statistics Division's latest estimates.

A key success factor for Women Count has been its alignment with the priorities identified by participating countries, as set forth in the gender statistics assessments undertaken in Phase I. Despite limited resources, UN Women has been able to support several major data-collection activities. These include surveys on VAW in 10 countries, time use in 14 countries, and a groundbreaking survey on gender and the environment in Tonga. The programme has adeptly utilized existing data-collection frameworks, collaborating with partners to incorporate specialized modules into scheduled Census and surveys such as: Demographic Health Surveys; Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys; Living Standard Measurement Studies (LSMS), working alongside the World Bank in Tanzania and Kenya; and Labour Force Surveys (LFS), in partnership with the ILO in Indonesia, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Dominica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In 2023 alone, at least 52 data-production initiatives received support, addressing crucial gender data gaps through new stand-alone survey modules, the compilation of administrative data, reprocessing of existing data sets, and advanced big data analytics (see key highlights).

Moreover, forging catalytic partnerships with UN and international agencies and active participation in inter-agency forums have enhanced the utilization of existing survey data and spurred action on gender data issues. UN Women, in collaboration with other UN agencies, has reprocessed large-scale surveys to yield significant insights. For instance, working with the World Bank, the inaugural set of global gender and poverty metrics based on LSMS data were produced. In partnership with the ILO, we reprocessed LFS data to create a novel database examining the effects of marriage and children on women's labour market participation. Additionally, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), we generated new gender-specific data on women's access to land (SDG indicator 5.a.1). In **Asia and the Pacific**, UN Women partnered with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to support all 10 ASEAN Member States to reprocess existing data, disaggregate it at multiple levels, and identify those population groups lagging the furthest behind on each of the SDGs. The results are now regularly produced and disseminated in the [ASEAN Gender Outlook](#).

By adopting a comprehensive approach to tackling gender data challenges, Women Count has fostered robust national, regional and global gender data ecosystems.

UN Women, through Women Count, has shown that many challenges in producing and using gender data can be addressed if an enabling environment is in place. Women

Count experiences reveal that several key factors contribute to creating strong national gender data ecosystems, which is critical for increasing data production and use. Engendering national statistics development strategies (NSDSs) and establishing a gender statistics coordination mechanism are essential first steps to improve planning, promote ownership and trust, and encourage organizations to prioritize gender statistics in their work.

In **Uganda** for example, the holistic integration of gender statistics in its NSDS and improved coordination and collaboration between the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), and other actors such as civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector, have led to [increased uptake of gender data](#). The success of the Women Count approach has now influenced the Uganda UN Joint Programme on Data and Statistics, enhancing sustainability of gender statistics. In **Kenya**, the early establishment of the [Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee](#) since 2018, has been instrumental in building a more inclusive and coordinated NSS and reducing fragmentation. This has resulted in gender statistics being prioritized in policies and programmes. In **Asia and the Pacific**, the [Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics](#) has paved the way for more and better gender data to be produced in at least 11 Pacific Island Countries for the first time.

UN Women's active engagement has been critical at all stages – from the design to the adoption of national plans, strategies, laws and policies, to ensuring that nascent coordination mechanisms are supported to meet regularly to influence key decisions, such as on which data are being produced. Strengthening the institutional capacities of NSOs, MDAs, CSOs and other key actors within the NSS through training has also been critical in promoting greater uptake and use for policymaking. In 2023, UN Women supported 13 national strategies and plans and enhanced the skills of 4,188 data users and producers through training, leading to improved coordination and the greater global availability of gender statistics.

Sharpening the focus on improving data access and use is leading to more evidence-based and gender-responsive policies.

Women Count's experience has shown that several measures can be undertaken to increase data access and use by involving data users and producers at all stages – in the planning, design, collection, analysis and use of survey data. For example, in **Colombia**, UN Women in collaboration with the National Administrative Department of Statistics

(DANE) and the Presidential Council for Women's Equity (CPEM) co-produced the [Women and Men: Gender gaps in Colombia](#), which provides the latest evidence and data on gender gaps and was used to inform the new National Gender Policy, National Development Plan 2023–2026 and its ongoing development of the national care system. In **Morocco**, [CSOs teamed up with enumerators](#) to collect data on violence against women, resulting in improved data quality and increased use by CSOs in their advocacy to call for revisions to Law 103-13 to combat VAW. Overall, since Women Count started, at least 30 evidence-based and gender-responsive policies and programmes for women and girls were introduced globally, including at least 21 in 2023 (see Impact stories 1–5).

Making gender data accessible to all and putting them into context also encourages their broader use and reuse. UN Women has persistently enhanced gender data accessibility by disseminating data, evidence and research through various channels, including knowledge products, data portals and events bringing together data users and producers. The Gender Data Hub has bolstered access to the latest gender data and stories of change, establishing itself as a key component of UN Women's digital footprint, with 700,000 views from 230 countries and territories in 2023. The Hub will expand to incorporate the [Global Database on Violence against Women](#), to increase access to tracking measures on VAW.

Despite this strong progress, demand for gender statistics far outstrips supply, and more can be done to improve data use.

Despite the substantial progress in addressing gaps in gender data planning, production and use, there are several key challenges:

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR WOMEN COUNT?

In 2024, Women Count will undergo its Mid-term Review, which will provide insights around successes, challenges and lessons learned in Phase II to inform the final year of implementation.

The upcoming 2024 Summit of the Future and the 2024 World Data Forum are key moments where Women Count will showcase programme results and play a leading role in

- **Domestic and international financing for gender statistics remains a critical stumbling block.** The [2023 Partner Report on Support to Statistics](#) found that gender data financing has stagnated at a low level, despite positive signs of more gender data being mainstreamed through development policies. This causes significant challenges, as there is overwhelming demand for support from countries to conduct large-scale surveys, for example. Women Count's recent stock-taking of country needs revealed that in 2024 and 2025 alone, approximately USD 17 million is needed to conduct TUS/modules in 14 countries²; GES in 11 countries³ and VAW prevalence surveys in 6 countries.⁴
- **There is still a critical need to emphasize data use** and to shift priorities to identify informational needs and expected uses of produced data before undertaking any data-collection exercises. The forthcoming Gender Data Outlook will outline types of data uses to serve as a guide for countries on improving data uptake and use. Greater investments are also needed to strengthen the capacities of data users and producers to better utilize data for advocacy and policymaking.
- **NSOs face challenges modernizing statistical processes, using non-conventional data.** The rapid emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) presents several pitfalls but also opportunities to streamline statistical processes more efficiently. Addressing challenges connected to the use of AI, administrative data and big data in complementing more traditional official statistics holds great potential to fill data gaps for gender-responsive SDG monitoring and reporting. Women Count is expanding its efforts to support the modernization of NSSs and the use of non-conventional data sources to fill data gaps on key issues and to enable gender-responsive SDG monitoring.

advocating for increased investments in more and better gender data to spearhead progress on gender equality. UN Women will also deepen its support to countries, through Women Count, to build robust gender data ecosystems using our forthcoming Gender Data Outlook report with PARIS21 to further guide countries on how to translate gender data investments into policy action (see Box 5).

2023 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The capacities of national statistics systems have improved to coordinate, produce and use gender statistics across countries

13

COUNTRIES integrated gender in national statistical development strategies (NSDS)s, improving their capacity to coordinate, produce and use gender statistics.

13

COUNTRIES have improved coordination within their NSS, through establishing and/or strengthening national coordination mechanisms on gender statistics.

4,188

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



INCREASING DATA PRODUCTION

More and better gender data are available to monitor the SDGs including in new areas such as gender and the environment

52

data-production initiatives have been supported to fill critical gender data gaps, including **five** surveys on VAW, **three** on time use and **two** on gender and the environment.

56%

of the data required to monitor progress on gender-related SDGs are now available, up from 26% in 2016.



IMPROVING DATA ACCESS AND USE

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

Gender data have been used to inform at least

21

POLICIES AND/OR PROGRAMMES to spur action on ending VAW, women's economic empowerment, humanitarian efforts or disaster mitigation.

The UN Women Data Hub continues to expand access to gender data globally, with over

700,000

VIEWS FROM 230 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES in 2023.

More than

95

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS were produced, building a strong evidence and knowledge base on using and producing gender data to highlight gaps in achieving gender equality.

68%

of SDG gender-related data, on average, are available in 8 Women Count programme countries.

WOMEN COUNT PROGRESS DASHBOARD: MEASURING RESULTS IN 2023

ABOUT THE PROGRESS DASHBOARD

The Women Count progress dashboard shows achievements against each outcome and output indicator for global, regional and country projects in 2023. To determine levels of achievement, the following methodology is used:

A (achieved): If a positive 2023 target exists (i.e. 2023 actual is different than the 2023 target) and is achieved

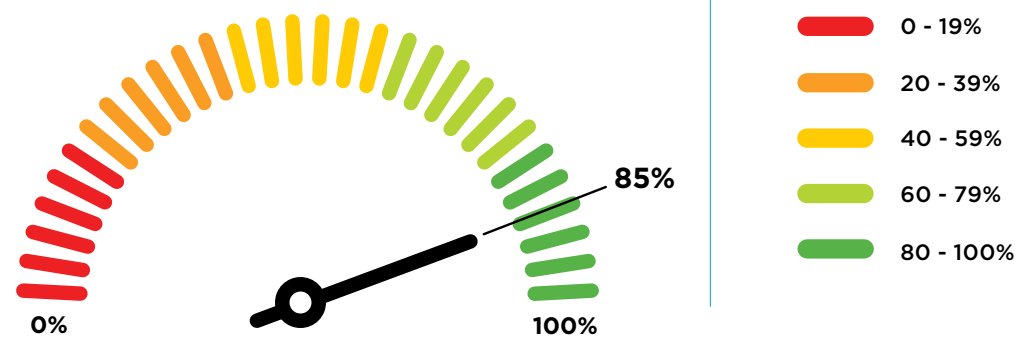
B (not achieved): If a positive 2023 target exists (i.e. 2023 actual is different than the 2023 target) but the target is NOT achieved

C (on track/some progress): If a positive 2023 target does not exist, but work has started in 2023 and significant progress towards the target is reported

D (not started/applicable): If a target was achieved previously or a positive 2023 target does not exist, and work has NOT started in 2023 (excluded from the final calculation of 2023 achievements)

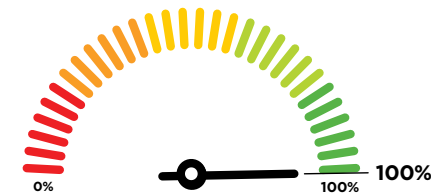
A detailed list of indicators, baselines and targets for global, regional and country projects is provided in Annex II.

OVERALL PROGRESS OF WOMEN COUNT



UN Women continued to solidify its reputation as a credible voice and partner on gender statistics, which are increasingly included in statistical planning and informing gender-responsive policies.

GLOBAL PROJECT



Progress was fueled by strong global technical support and engagement in global advocacy and partnerships around financing for gender statistics.

REGIONAL PROJECTS



Asia and the Pacific

Progress was driven by establishing globally acceptable standards on mainstreaming gender across climate change and environment statistics, following increased demand for producing such statistics.



Arab States

Progress was due to strengthened inter-agency coordination mechanism on the production and use of gender statistics, leading to the publication of a new handbook on Arab Gender Indicator Framework, which seeks to enhance SDG monitoring.



East and Southern Africa

Progress was fueled by increased integration and prioritization of gender data to address gaps in policies national planning in the region, resulting in the adoption of first-ever Gender Statistics Strategies in South Sudan (2023–2033) and in Southern Africa Development Community countries (2023–2030).



Europe and Central Asia

With increased demand for gender data in the region, progress was driven by significant production of gender data, leading to increased SDG 5 data availability. Consequently, the region is leading the use of gender data for policy decisions.



Latin America and the Caribbean

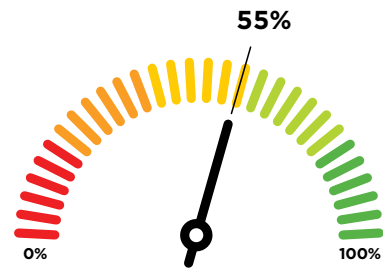
Progress was due to strengthening the capacity of the NSOs across the region, leading to the adoption of the "Guidelines for mainstreaming gender perspective into statistical production", a regional framework to guide gender integration in all phases of statistical production.



West and Central Africa

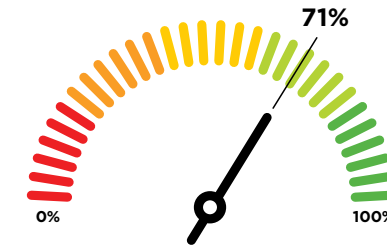
Progress was related to increased integration of gender statistics in NSDSs in the region, especially with the development of the first dedicated Regional Gender Statistics Strategy, a blueprint for guiding the production and use of gender data in the region.

COUNTRY PROJECTS



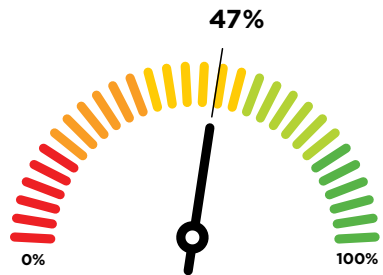
Bangladesh

Progress is attributed to strong partnerships and government support, fostering an enabling environment through the NSDS and the National Action Plan for the National Women's Development Policy, both of which have a strong commitment to improve on gender statistics priorities.



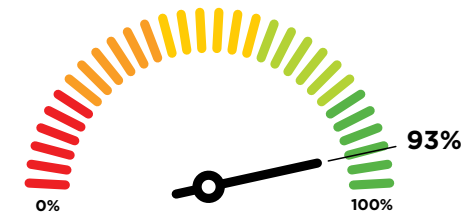
Morocco

Progress was due to improved gender data production to meet data gaps, including the upcoming TUS, and studies on WEE and VAW. This was despite the changing political landscape and the NSO's restructuring, which slowed progress.



Cameroon

Progress focused on establishing a strong foundation for sustaining gender statistics work, with the collection of gender data now more decentralized and fulfilled at every Ministry, following the allocation of Government funds to the gender statistics component of the NSDS.



Senegal

Progress was related to enhanced coordination within the NSS and expanded partnerships to include civil society, especially with the Women in Mining CSO, leading to increased production and use of citizen-generated data.



Colombia

Progress was driven by strengthened regulatory frameworks governing the production and use of data, through the approval of its first Law on Official Statistics and the National Statistical Plan for the period 2023–2027, which both emphasize on the need for "inclusion" and "respect for the country's diversity".



Tanzania

Progress was driven by sustained and institutionalized collection of gender data to fill critical data gaps, leading to the first-ever stand-alone VAW survey, digitizing monthly administrative data on VAW, and publication of two Gender Equality profiles.



Kenya

Progress was fuelled by increased demand and use of data, not only at the national level, where gender data informed the National Care Policy, but also informing County Integrated Development Plans, a significant shift towards evidence-based planning and resource allocation at all levels.

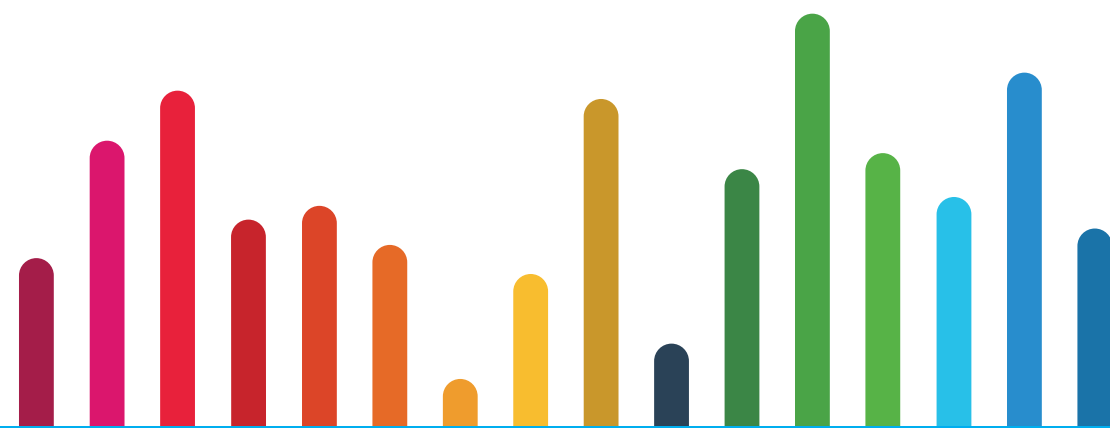


Uganda

Progress was fuelled by enhanced engagement with policymakers to increase the use of gender data. This is evidenced by the collaboration with the Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association, leading to the use of gender data to inform several pieces of legislation in the country.

2 RESULTS

This chapter underscores Women Count’s commitment to strengthening and maintaining the infrastructure of national gender statistics systems. It also showcases specific instances where Women Count’s initiatives have made a tangible impact, particularly in areas such as women’s economic empowerment, violence against women, gender-related environmental concerns, and humanitarian efforts.



2.1 SCALING UP DATA-DRIVEN ACTION

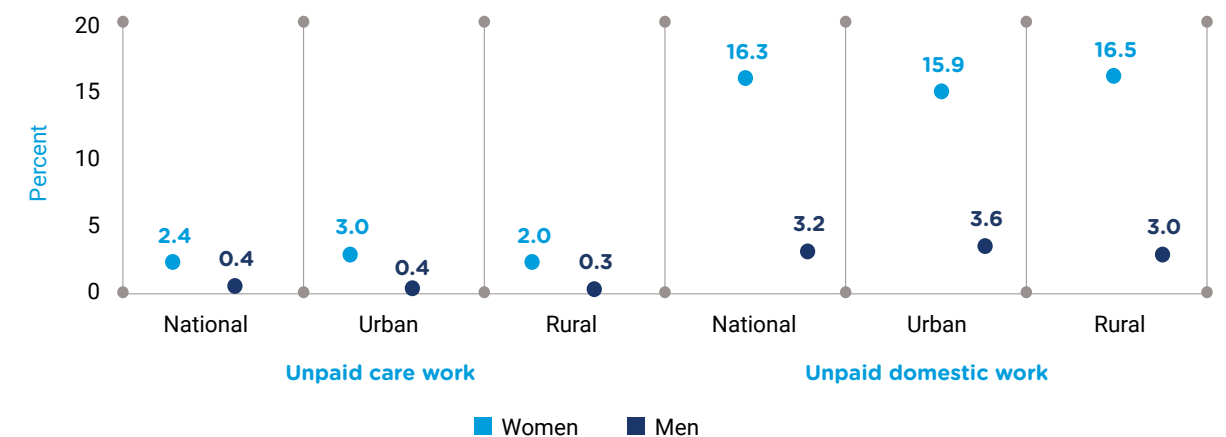
WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Women Count is advancing time-use survey (TUS) data collection and measurement, fuelling care policies and shaping legal reforms

Having detailed data about how women and men use their time can help raise awareness to confront stereotypes about the gendered division of labour and to design care policies. In Kenya, the 2023 [Time-Use Report](#) (see Figure 2)

and [National Care Needs Assessment](#) were used to produce the first-ever National Care Policy, which includes measures to reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work through social protection policies, public services, the promotion of shared household responsibilities, and the collection of time-use data to monitor its implementation. The Government has allocated nearly USD 2 million towards the development and implementation of the National Care Policy for the next 5 years.

FIGURE 2.
In Kenya, data reveal that women spend significantly more time than men on unpaid care and domestic work



Source: Proportion of time in a day spent on household activities, by sex, persons 15+. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. 2023. [Kenya Time-Use Report](#). p. 127.

Georgia’s [Time-Use Survey](#) report findings are being used in private sector gender equality training that is encouraging and increasing paternity leave-taking (see Impact story 1). The TUS report’s findings and a 2023 [Gender Impact Assessment of the Public Service Law](#) are also guiding a legislative amendment package that is expected to include non-transferable paternity leave for public sector employees. Moreover, the data are also being used by the Parliament’s Gender Equality Council to argue against revisions to the State Pensions Law that would increase women’s pensionable age.

In partnership with the ILO, UN Women supported four countries in the Caribbean (**Grenada, Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**) to include time-use questions in their forthcoming LFS in 2024/2025 for the first time. Efforts to add time-use modules to existing surveys are also underway in at least six more countries (**Indonesia, Malawi, Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe**). UN Women also supported preparations for a dedicated TUS in: **Armenia, Cameroon, Morocco and Nigeria**. In 2023, UN Women also contributed to global work on harmonizing and modernizing

these surveys as part of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, including by promoting [improved measures to capture supervisory care](#).

Household Satellite Accounts are showing the huge contribution of women to economic prosperity

Senegal's first [Household Satellite Account](#) estimates the value of activities not currently measured by the system of national accounts at USD 12.5 billion – with 88.8% stemming from unpaid work, prompting the Ministry of Economy to [develop economic strategies](#) to support women. Morocco's [Household Satellite Account](#) finds that GDP could be raised by 19.4%, with women contributing 16.4%. In Bangladesh, with the support of UN Women and the Asian Development Bank, efforts are underway to produce a satellite account for the first time, following a [call from the Prime Minister](#) to include women's unpaid care work in GDP calculation. Furthermore, the National Action Plan 2021–2030 for the National Women's Development Policy now specifies that a TUS must be conducted on a regular basis to assess the value of unpaid care work.

Regional trainings are increasing awareness of the importance of TUS and household satellite accounts.

Thanks to training:

- 20 participants from seven **West African countries** gained insights on the care economy and the production of household satellite accounts
- 70 experts from 25 countries in **Latin America and the Caribbean** (LAC) deepened their knowledge on time-use and unpaid work, including through a newly launched Community of Practice [for Measuring the Care Society](#), and
- 17 statisticians from nine countries in **North Africa and Western Asia** increased their knowledge of TUS methodology and the NSOs of Egypt and Jordan expressed an interest in undertaking a TUS.

New WEE data and analysis have contributed to increased funding for social programmes and strategies to help vulnerable groups of women

In **Tanzania**, the 2022 Social Institutions and Gender Index survey supported by UN Women, in collaboration with the OECD Development Centre, revealed that 16% of girls in Tanzania were married before the age of 18. These [data are now being used](#) to advocate for policymakers to pass the pending Marriage and Divorce Bill, which is currently before

Parliament. This law would increase the minimum age for marriage for girls from 15 to 18.

Since 2020, a Social and Economic Inclusion Chapter has been included in **Kenya's** annual Economic Survey as a result of UN Women's advocacy. The 2023 [Survey report](#) revealed that Government funding for WEE and social services increased by 13.2%, from KES 65 billion (USD 506 million) in 2021/22 to KES 73.6 billion (USD 573 million) in 2022/23. UN Women has also supported the integration of gender perspectives on financial inclusion, including to track access to credit for agricultural productive resources by women, into the 2024 Financial Access Household Survey questionnaire.

In **Rwanda**, [LFS data analysis](#) revealed significant gender differences in employment and unpaid work. Working women predominantly work in agriculture (55.5%, compared to 39.8% of working men) and do twice as much unpaid care and domestic work as men. This has led to Government initiatives to create off-farm jobs for women and youth and advocacy for redistributing care responsibilities, influencing the revision of the Family Law to acknowledge women's unpaid labour. Additionally, 2022 Census data revealed a digital divide, with urban and male residents more likely to own smartphones.⁵ This prompted a national campaign by the Ministry of ICT and Innovation to provide smartphones to rural women to bridge this gap.

In **Colombia**, analysis by UN Women and DANE revealed that only 36% of Colombia's rural properties belong to women, compared to 64% belonging to men. These data are being used by policymakers working on the Integral Rural Reform as well as in the National Development Policy. UN Women is also helping ensure a gender-sensitive [Multipurpose Cadastre](#) and measuring its impact on increasing women's land ownership registration, which has already seen a 3% rise in pilot municipalities (see Impact story 5). UN Women also produced four departmental Gender Profiles with data on women's higher rate of monetary and multidimensional poverty, teen pregnancy and VAW, which authorities are using to formulate sub-national development plans and inclusive policies and programmes to address these issues.

[A report on the digitally enabled care economy in Southeast Asia](#), recommending policy reforms and actions to ensure decent work for predominantly female care workers, has been used to shape the design of the Asia-Pacific [Care Accelerator project](#) and helped inform the forthcoming Care Declaration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

IMPACT STORY 1:

TIME-USE DATA CONTRIBUTE TO PATERNITY LEAVE-TAKING IN GEORGIA

After his son was born in 2023, 34-year-old Avtandil Tsereteli became one of the first men to take the paid paternity leave offered by TBC Bank, in Georgia.

"It was one of the most significant decisions I will ever make," he says. "When you have time with your baby, it gives you such a huge pleasure that I had never experienced before, and I could not have imagined."

Tsereteli says he was encouraged by a fellow employee taking paternity leave in his department. Another father has also since taken it.

TBC Bank began mandatory gender equality trainings for all employees in early 2023, shortly after learning about the findings of the UN Women and GEOSTAT [Time-Use Survey in Georgia](#) 2020–2021 published in December 2022.

"We are big users of these reports," says Maka Bochorishvili, Environmental, Social and Governance Coordinator at TBC Bank. "It's important to understand the granularity of the data – and the analysis. That gives you the real insight!"

She says that in 2021 and 2022, not a single male employee took paternity leave. But after TBC started communicating these findings in trainings, meetings and other communications – such as their Intranet, newsletter and Facebook group – and actively encouraging employees to make use of the company's fully-paid parental leave of up to 6 months, four men took paternity leave in 2023.

The TUS report and other UN Women data were used by TBC to develop four mandatory staff training modules on gender equality, stereotypes, sexual violence and time poverty, as well as in-person classes that began in early 2023. So far, more than 2,500 of TBC's 8,000 staff have taken these weekly 4-hour in-person trainings for 35 randomly selected staff at a time.

Tsereteli took this training in October 2023, when his wife was pregnant, and calls it an important part of changing mindsets.

Photo: UN Women/Avtandil Tsereteli

READ THE STORY

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Cutting-edge data, knowledge and evidence on VAW are shaping legal reforms and mobilizing funding for new programmes and gender data production

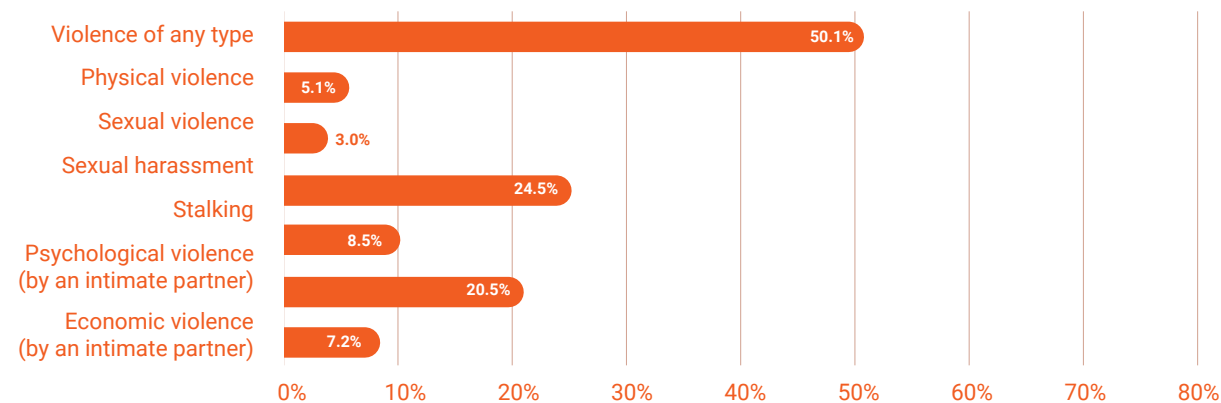
Data from **Uganda's** National VAW Survey, published in 2021, have contributed to several [legal amendments](#), including an amendment of the Employment Bill to include sexual harassment policies in the workplace, which was adopted by Parliament in 2023. The survey data were also successfully used in a proposal for a second phase of the 2023 European Union (EU) supported Spotlight Initiative on ending VAW. The EU also committed USD 30,000 to support the production of citizen-generated data on ending VAW in 2024.

Findings of the 2023 VAW survey in mainland **Tanzania**, set to be launched in 2024, were used by the Ministry of

Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups to inform the newly adopted National Plan of Action to End VAW. This plan notably addresses technology facilitated violence against women (TF VAW) for the first time, in response to the Agreed Conclusions of the 67th Commission on the Status of Women. Concurrently, Georgia launched its [second nationwide VAW study](#). Along with the first study in 2017, this survey provides valuable comparative data for identifying trends, [evolving social norms](#), and measuring violence prevention and responses (see Figure 3). The data will be used to track progress on the VAW/Domestic Violence Action Plan 2022–2024 and set baselines for the upcoming 2024–2025 Action Plan.

In addition, VAW surveys were also rolled out in Senegal, preparations got underway for surveys in **Colombia** and **Bangladesh**, and UN Women supported **Kazakhstan** to analyse the results of its 2022 national VAW survey, to be published in 2024.

FIGURE 3.
In Georgia, women reported experiencing different types of violence in their lifetime



Source: UN Women. 2023. "Percentage of women who experienced lifetime violence, by type, women aged 15–69." *National Study on Violence against Women in Georgia 2022*, pp. 54–55.

Administrative data are helping close data gaps and improve government services. In **Tanzania**, widely disseminated monthly VAW case statistics using administrative data are receiving significant media coverage and being used by Zanzibar's Ministry of Gender to prepare its yearly action plan and establish gender-sensitive police desks. The data have also supported a parliamentary motion for more police resources to combat VAW. In **Uganda**, all administrative data on VAW are now disseminated through an innovative [spatial data portal](#) to enhance service-delivery and access to justice (see Impact story 2).

Methodological advancements and capacity-building are improving how VAW data are produced

UN Women is leading global efforts to better measure technology facilitated violence against women, in partnership with UNFPA, WHO and NSOs. Efforts included pilot-testing [web surveys in the Arab States](#) and using big data [in Libya](#) and [in Asia-Pacific](#). Working with UN regional commissions and gender statistics experts has also helped secure their buy-in. TF VAW will also be discussed at the UN Statistical Commission in 2024, as an important step towards globally agreed standards.

Training and partnerships, such as with WHO and Apolitical and the [Global Data against Femicide Initiative](#), are strengthening capacities for VAW data production, including for TF VAW in **LAC** and femicide data in **Central Asia**. For example, following a workshop for 27 national statisticians, **Belarus** began preparing its first-ever VAW survey, integrating best practices learned at the workshop. In **LAC**, UN Women supported 26 scholarships for a 4-month diploma on Measuring VAW and Femicide at the Latin American Council of Social Sciences.

The [global guidance](#) and [toolkit for the quality assessment of VAW administrative data](#) are contributing to establishing international standards, influencing [CARICOM guidelines](#) and protocols on the collection and use of administrative data on VAW. Assessments of crime and VAW administrative data systems in **Lesotho** and **Somalia**, using the toolkit and global guidance, were endorsed by police, and were used to train 38 government officials in Somalia.

IMPACT STORY 2:

UGANDA MAKES STRIDES IN HARNESSING ADMINISTRATIVE DATA TO CONFRONT VAW

In Uganda, administrative data routinely compiled by the justice, law and order sector, private sector and ministries, departments and agencies are increasingly being used to tackle VAW.

"They will provide regular real-time data on where service-delivery gaps or inconsistencies exist, to better focus interventions to improve access to justice for survivors," says Pamela Kakande, Head of UBOS's Gender and Disability Unit.

A new [Learn from Uganda brief](#) highlights how stronger collaboration has enabled UBoS to extract data from various institutions to build a more comprehensive picture of the prevalence of VAW. The judiciary has taken a keen interest in better communicating gender statistics, specifically through data visualization, while police data for crime reporting are now being recategorized as VAW or non-VAW and published in regular UBoS reports. A statistics manual was developed by the Uganda Police Force and a [Uganda spatial data portal](#) is bringing together all administrative data on VAW.

In 2023, 51 producers of administrative data from 18 MDAs, nine higher local governments and two CSOs enhanced their capacity to generate and use administrative data, and mainstream gender across the administrative data production chain, thanks to training co-organized by UN Women. There is also a high demand for more training on VAW administrative data, including from the judiciary and National Identification and Registration Authority.

Progress on administrative data has complemented other efforts to expand the understanding of VAW, through Uganda's 2020 national VAW survey, which has contributed to several [legal amendments](#), including to the Sexual Offences Bill, Penal Code, and the Employment Bill adopted by Parliament in 2023



Photo: UN Women Uganda/Nadine Kamolleh

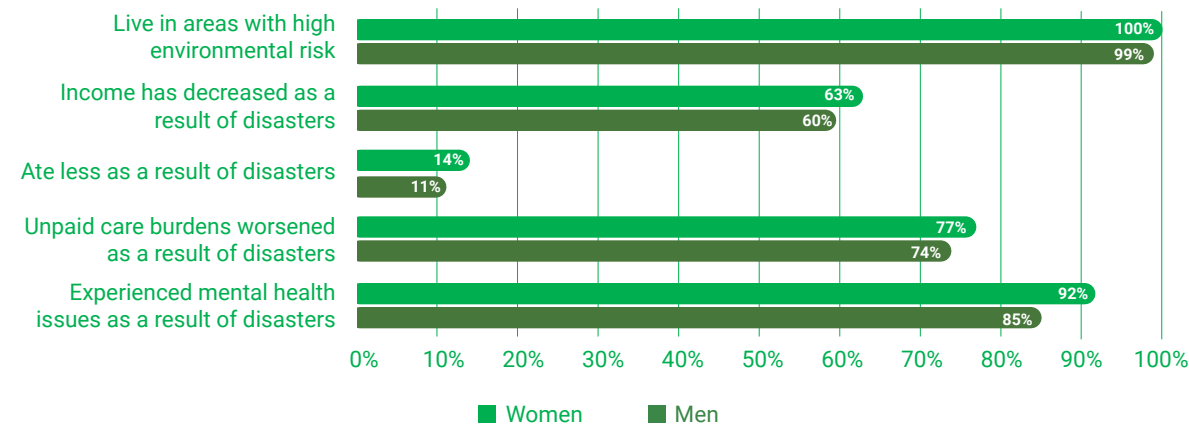
GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

New surveys and methodological advancements are driving progress to measure the gender-environment nexus

Tonga and **Samoa** implemented national gender and the environment surveys (GES) for the first time in 2023. In Tonga, the Women's Affairs and Gender Equality Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is using the [data](#) to shape various policies and programmes and to shape training for front-line responders (see Figure 4). In partnership with UN Women, **Cambodia** rolled out a new national set of gender-environment indicators to monitor national priorities

such as the Master Plan on Gender and Climate Change 2018–2030. UN Women is currently supporting Cambodia to conduct its first GES, which will help generate data for the priority indicators. Preparations for new GESs also got underway in **Kiribati** and **Senegal**. **Tanzania** began gathering gender-environment data through five questions in its 2022 Population Census questionnaire, but after participating in the 28th global Climate Change Conference (COP28) gender data conference co-organized by UN Women, the Director of the National Bureau of Statistics has committing to conduct a dedicated GES in 2024/25.

FIGURE 4. Disasters disproportionately impact more women than men in Tonga



Source: Tonga Statistics Department and UN Women. 2023. [Gender and Environment Survey 2022 Report: Kingdom of Tonga](#)

Methodological work is informing global, regional and national gender-environment monitoring and data production. UN Women contributed to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and influenced the Expert Group on Environment Statistics' decision to [review and incorporate](#) select indicators from the [Asia-Pacific Set of Gender-Environment Indicators](#) into the [Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators](#). Working with the United Nations Statistics Division, UN Women also published guidelines on [sampling methods and survey operations](#) and an [Enumerator Manual](#) to support countries to produce quality gender-environment data.

New analysis and dissemination of big data are helping close data gaps and improve planning. New UN Women [gender analysis](#) of the impact of climate change on poverty and food insecurity uses modelling to forecast five scenarios in six countries, finding that under the worst climate scenario, 158 million more women and girls will be in extreme poverty and 236 million more will experience food insecurity by 2050. The findings were developed into an [online tool](#) visualizing the impact of different levels of investments, providing a user-friendly resource for evidence-informed policymaking that was shared with countries in time for their 2024 planning cycles. Various decision-makers, including in **Tonga** and **the Philippines**, say they plan to use it.

A global call to action on gender and the environment data at COP28 is increasing awareness and demand for GES support

Ahead of COP28 in November 2023, UN Women and partners convened a side event where 200 stakeholders exchanged best practices and lessons learned and discussed solutions for the production and use of gender-environment data. It resulted in a [Global Call to Action](#) at COP28 for world leaders, policymakers and key statistical actors to support the production, uptake, financing, management and use of gender-environment data to drive progress on gender-responsive climate and environment

commitments, and train non-governmental actors to use such data. **Tonga's** Minister of Finance [advocated for prioritizing GES data](#) in shaping global climate policy (see Global annex). **Bangladesh** also specifically committed to "enhancing statistical systems to improve climate change, the environment and disaster-related statistics," in its forthcoming NSDS, further cementing the Government's COP28 commitments to use data to inform gender-just climate solutions. Since COP28, there has been an increase in demand from over 20 countries for UN Women's support to conduct a GES and to continue discussions on measuring the gender-environment nexus at other Rio Convention meetings in 2024

IMPACT STORY 3:

TONGA'S FIRST GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT SURVEY SPURS ACTION ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

"The natural disasters that I have experienced are falling ash and acid rain... thunderstorms, earthquakes, cyclones and the volcanic explosions which cause tsunamis," lists 'Eseta Uasila'a from the island of Fotua in Tonga, which is considered the [third-most disaster-risk country in the world](#).

She's among the more than 5,000 Tongans, half of whom are women, who participated in the country's [GES](#) in 2022 (see Figure 4 for key findings). UN Women and the Tonga Statistics Department (TSD) produced a [video](#) to further demonstrate the importance of collecting gender-environment data to improve women and men's lives.



TSD Government Statistician Sione Lolohea says it sought to reach a larger audience, enhance awareness and influence policymakers: "We normally produce numbers and tables and graphs, but when we produce videos, we see that the stories bring the numbers to life. It creates empathy for those communities. It's more memorable."

The report is already being used to review Tonga's Agriculture Sector Plan and in 2024 budget revisions by the Ministry of Finance. The GES is also expected to inform a revision of Tonga's National Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Policy, and other policies, programmes and activities in 2024.

The Women's Affairs and Gender Equality Division of Tonga's Ministry of Internal Affairs says findings are also shaping the way it collaborates with the National Disaster Risk Management Office, including to deliver joint trainings on [gender and protection in humanitarian responses](#) for service-providers and first responders.

Photo: UN Women/Montira Narkvichien

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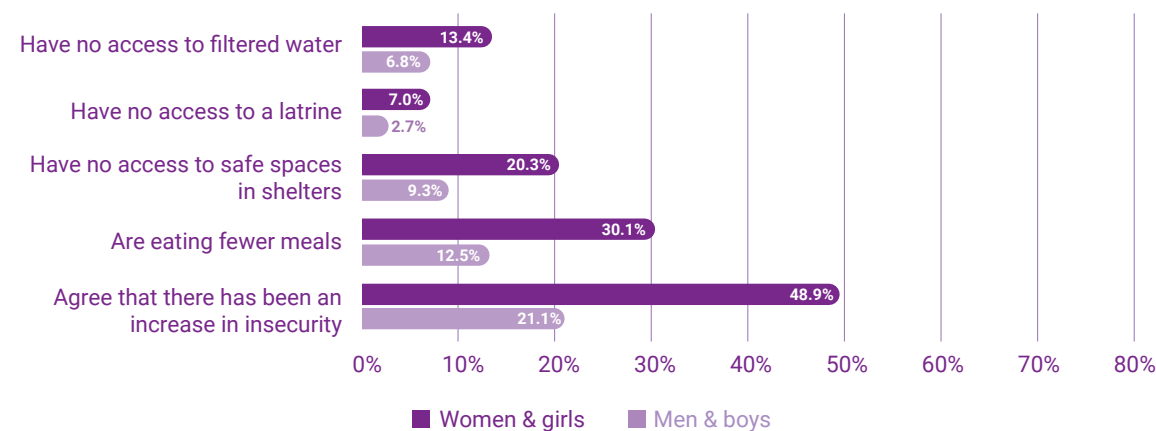
WOMEN, PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

New data on how women and girls are affected by conflict and crises are shaping programmes and response plans

Rapid gender assessments (RGAs) have provided hard-to-get data on the gendered impacts of conflict, natural disasters and other crises. In **Palestine**, an [RGA](#) published within weeks of the onset of the war in Gaza in October 2023 shaped UN Women’s 6-month humanitarian response plan and gave rise to a new UN partnership to deliver priority food aid to 14,716 women-headed households (see Impact story 4). Following the eruption of conflict in **Sudan**

in April 2023, UN Women undertook two RGAs to collect data on women’s and men’s experiences and created a [gender data dashboard](#) to share the findings widely (see Figure 5). As a result of UN Women advocacy, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will now start collecting and sharing sex-disaggregated data on displacement in its Humanitarian Response Report in 2024. In **Niger**, [a survey and Gender Alert](#) on the gendered impacts of the military coup d’état revealed a dire deterioration in women’s living conditions, serving as an advocacy tool for taking gender into consideration in response plans.

FIGURE 5. Data reveal that the conflict in Sudan is impacting women & girls’ safety



Source: UN Women Sudan, 2023. [Interactive Dashboards](#).

Innovative data collection and analysis are improving services for women. In **Colombia**, a new Index sheds light on migrant women’s socioeconomic integration and has prompted initiatives such as vocational and life-skills training in six Colombian municipalities. In **Afghanistan**, the [third factsheet](#) on the changing situation for women and girls in displacement, co-produced by UN Women, has fed into [assessments](#) carried out by the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group.

Global methodological work, coupled with regional and national trainings and research on innovative survey techniques, are helping improve the production of gender data during emergencies or crises. New UN Women [methodological research](#) on the use of list-randomization survey techniques used in the 2021 COVID-19 VAW RGAs is expected to inform and improve the design of future surveys. At the Africa Regional Gender Statistics Forum, more than 100 users and producers of statistics from 37 **African countries** committed to develop tools and methodologies over the next two years to measure emerging issues, including gender data in humanitarian settings.

IMPACT STORY 4:

GENDER DATA ON THE IMPACTS OF THE CONFLICT IN GAZA ARE ENSURING THAT WOMEN ARE NOT LEFT BEHIND IN THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

At a time when urgent humanitarian assistance in Gaza was barely reaching one-fifth of all recipients – primarily men who could cue for it – 14,716 women-headed households were given priority food aid thanks in part to data produced by the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States.

Within weeks of the onset of the war in October 2023, a [Rapid Gender Assessment](#) estimated that there were an additional 3,000 widows and 493,000 women and girls internally displaced by the conflict, who faced higher risks of food insecurity.

“Everybody was hungry and food insecure and, at a time when it was difficult if not impossible to get food into Gaza, it was even more difficult to reach the hard-to-reach, such as women-headed households,” explains Susanne Mikhail, Representative of UN Women’s Regional Office for the Arab States.

The RGA data gave rise to a new gender-responsive food distribution partnership between UN Women and the World Food Programme to reach these women-headed households. The data were also used to develop [UN Women’s 6-month humanitarian response plan](#), which has guided life-saving assistance reaching one-third of all women-headed households in Gaza and supporting the distribution of clothing, sanitary products and baby formula.

A subsequent [Gender Alert](#) developed in December 2023 estimated that 70% of people being killed in Gaza were women and children – two mothers per hour. These data were widely cited in multiple media articles and are also being widely used by humanitarian actors.

“It’s about being able to unveil the story of scale,” says Mikhail. “We’ve contributed to the humanitarian response by highlighting the gender-specific needs of different groups. We continue bringing awareness and evidence and it is being used and is leading the response on the ground.”



Photo: UN Women/Samar Abu Elouf

MEASURING INTERSECTIONALITY THROUGH INNOVATION AND NON-CONVENTIONAL DATA

An increasing number of countries are highlighting the experiences of traditionally marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, through innovative data-collection methods

In **Kenya**, cognitive testing of questions from the Washington Group's mental health survey module helped improve the measurement of disability and are expected to be included in a planned disability survey in 2024. Kenya's reprocessing of existing data also contributed to its [Inequalities in Well-being](#) report, revealing that gender gaps in multidimensional poverty are worse in households headed by women and widen as people age. The findings have been used to inform social sector programmes to address the needs of children, youth, women and other population groups in the country's fourth Mid-Term Plan (MTP IV) and County-Integrated Development Plans.

In **Nigeria**, UN Women provided technical assistance to the NSO to prepare its TUS, which will include a disability module using the Washington Group questions. In **Uganda**, UN Women co-produced a brief in on [strategies to halt the declining labour force participation rates among female persons with disabilities](#). Thanks to a gender statistics training in **Brazil**, 109 people from 28 institutions are now equipped to carry out intersectional analyses of gender and race/ethnicity. And **Colombia**, which has [long championed work on differential and intersectional approaches](#), developed a new minimum set of 12 gender indicators on people with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, location, age groups and type of disability. Colombia's land registration system is also now disaggregated by sex, with a 'non-binary' variable to be introduced in 2024 (see Impact story 5).

Women Count is paving the way for more countries to use non-conventional data for SDG monitoring

Recognizing the criticality of stakeholder engagement in data production and use, the "[Collaborative on Citizen Data](#)" was launched in 2023 to unleash the potential of citizens' contributions to data. A global framework to set the standards on citizen data (CD) is under preparation, with the draft "[Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data](#)" set to be presented at the 55th UN Statistical Commission in early 2024 (see Global annex). In **Uganda**, 36 CSOs have enhanced their capacities to produce and use CD, which will help them report on progress towards the SDGs, and more than 60 NSS and local CSO representatives in Senegal now have the skills to collect and use CD for SDG reporting, thanks to training supported by UN Women in 2023.

In **Mexico**, the Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) together with the National Institute of Women and El Colegio de Mexico, developed the first [National Care Map of Mexico](#). This interactive tool allows users to locate care services but also provides access to statistical information that can contribute to the design of public policies on care. By using geospatial information, together with official statistics, authorities can decide where it is necessary to invest to establish new services, thereby mitigating disparities in care accessibility. The National Care Map is already being used to inform the construction of a comprehensive care system in the Municipality of Monterrey.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, UN Women harnessed big data from social media searches and posts to better understand the impacts of environmental, political and health crises on VAW in the Pacific, using [evidence and lessons from Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga](#). The findings were used to train 50 service-providers from 35 CSOs across the Asia-Pacific region to reach VAW survivors during crises through online posts. In **Libya**, [big data analysis](#) provided the first set of data about online violence against women.

IMPACT STORY 5:

RURAL WOMEN ARE INCREASINGLY REGISTERING THEIR LAND THROUGH COLOMBIA'S GENDER-SENSITIVE MULTIPURPOSE CADASTRE

Unequal land distribution, insecure tenure and land-grabbing were at the heart of Colombia's 57-year-long armed conflict, which displaced more than 6 million people – 58% women. The [2016 peace agreement](#) stipulated first point the need to prioritize rural women's access to land and called for gender-sensitive formalization of land ownership, and data disaggregated by sex and ethnicity to be added to the country's cadastral land information system.

"We almost always see men as those who appear on the titles and deeds of properties, farms and plots," says Liz Merlano López, a female community leader from the Municipality of Morroa, in the Department of Sucre.

According to [calculations](#) by UN Women and DANE, only 36.3% of Colombia's rural properties with a single owner belong to women (versus 63.7% belonging to men), and women tend to own smaller plots (75.1% owning less than 3 hectares, versus 62.1% of men).

"The national Government is using these figures to convert them into goals that allow us to reduce [gender] gaps... to achieve a greater percentage of titled women landowners," explains Johan Andrés Avendaño, Research Director at the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC), the governmental entity responsible for managing Colombia's cadastral system. "That's why the data about how only 36% of women own land, with very fragmented plots, is very important. Because it is the baseline that will allow us to measure the impact of [peace and national development policies]."

With UN Women's technical support, sex disaggregation was introduced in the [Multipurpose Cadastre](#) in 2020, with a 'non-binary' variable to be introduced in 2024. Moreover, analysis by UN Women and IGAC of the first eight municipalities to implement the revamped cadastre in 2021 already reveals a three-percentage-point increase in women's land ownership registration, rising from 39.1% in 2019 to 42.1% in 2022.



Photo: ONU Mujeres Colombia /IGAC.

READ THE STORY

2.2 STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINING THE FOUNDATIONS OF NATIONAL GENDER STATISTICS SYSTEMS

More countries are prioritizing gender data to address gaps in local and national development plans, policies, coordination and budgeting.

Mainstreaming gender data in national development plans and policies ensures a sustained demand and greater likelihood of their use in programmes and policies that benefit women. Thanks to UN Women support, gender is now mainstreamed in **Kenya's** [MTP IV 2023–2027](#) through a dedicated sectoral plan on gender and vulnerable groups that prioritizes data production. In **Colombia**, the [Women and Men: Gender Gaps in Colombia](#) report contributed to the adoption of a new [National Development Plan](#) with a dedicated [gender equality chapter](#) that prioritizes gender data. A national Women and Gender Development Policy in mainland **Tanzania** was finalized in 2023, with a new policy objective and activities to: strengthen information technology to facilitate access to gender data; ensure that all sectors collect, maintain, process, use and disseminate gender-sensitive data; and encourage investment in gender research and development. **Bangladesh** also updated its National Action Plan for the National Women's

Development Policy, which now includes the collection of sex-disaggregated data by all 48 MDAs.

UN Women technical support and coordination are engendering NSDSs. After its first revision in over a decade, the 2024–2030 **Bangladesh** NSDS now includes a comprehensive section on gender statistics, along with actions to strengthen production and use for evidence-based policymaking. **Colombia** approved its first [Law on Official Statistics](#) and the [NSDS for 2023–2027](#), both of which seek to strengthen data production and analysis and specify the need for inclusion and respect for the country's diversity based on an "intersectional and differential approach," which includes a strong gender perspective. **South Sudan** developed its first-ever Gender Statistics Strategy (2023–2033), which has already been used to mainstream gender in the country's second NSDS in 2023. **Georgia** has also mainstreamed gender statistics in its [NSDS for 2024–2027](#) through 16 initiatives to improve the production, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics.

BOX 1.

The Gender Data Outlook with PARIS21 aims to assess countries' gender statistics capacities

The new *Gender Data Outlook* flagship series produced in collaboration with PARIS21 will assess countries' level of gender statistical capacity across the entire value chain: from mechanisms that enable the production of relevant gender data to their access and use for advocacy. This will provide a comprehensive overview of countries' capacities, point out gaps and offer recommendations on actions needed for improvements. The report and technical framework will be officially launched in November 2024.

UN Women is supporting regional frameworks, guidelines and roadmaps, which are strengthening monitoring and the production of gender statistics. NSOs across **Latin America and the Caribbean** now [have guidelines on mainstreaming a gender perspective in all phases of statistical production](#), which were accepted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) and informed the SCA's new [Gender Mainstreaming Tools Working Group](#) for the next biennium (2024–2025). In **Asia-Pacific**, the [Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics](#) was unanimously endorsed by the Heads of Planning and Statistics in the Pacific in October 2023 at their first [official meeting](#) since 2017, further strengthening regional commitment. The Roadmap has already contributed to improving or establishing gender statistics coordination mechanisms in several countries, including **Fiji, Samoa and Tonga**.

New data, analysis and assessments of gender allocations in national budgets are bolstering gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). **Georgia's** first [Gender-Responsive Public Finance Management \(PFM\) Assessment](#) has led to gender data being integrated in the country's new PFM Strategy and Action Plan, adopted in 2023, including to track public expenditures on gender equality and to accelerate progress towards SDG indicator 5.c.1. In **Uganda**, collaboration with the Government has contributed to increasing budget allocations, with the 2023 [Equal Opportunities Commission annual report](#) showing that 41.7% of the national budget for 2023/2024 (UGX 12,711 billion, or USD 3.4 million) was allocated towards gender and equity interventions, up from 40% in 2021/2022 (UGX 11,214.8 billion or USD 3 million). And in **Bangladesh, Belarus, Cameroon and Tanzania**, Governments are now committed to investing in improving the regular production of data to promote the integration of GRB in policies.

Improving gender statistics coordination has been an important part of UN Women's approach. This work is now showing promising signs of sustainability in several projects. In **Uganda**, the UN Joint Programme on Data and Statistics, which pools together all UN support on statistics, was launched in December 2023. Its design was largely influenced by the Women Count framework. The Government is now also funding the national SDG Working Group, which is enhancing coordination and increasing the number of SDGs monitored. In **Asia and the Pacific**, ASEAN established its first coordination mechanism for gender statistics, which aims to accelerate gender data production and use to enable a gender-responsive implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and

improve monitoring of the SDGs and other frameworks. As co-chair, UN Women will support the coordination and implementation of the group's forthcoming workplan.

Training is strengthening how gender data are used for advocacy and decision-making

The skills of 4,188 data users and producers in at least 36 countries have been strengthened, on communicating gender data. In **Europe and Central Asia**, more than 150 representatives of NSOs, State authorities, CSOs, media, think-tanks and youth strengthened their capacities to collect, analyse, disseminate and use gender statistics, including: 48 participants from **North Macedonia** who participated in a [Gender Data Bootcamp](#) in Izmir, Türkiye, where they developed gender data analysis, visualization and dissemination products that were widely disseminated on mainstream and social media, reaching over 38,000 people and more than 100 data journalists from **Kyrgyzstan** who learned to use [data-driven visual storytelling](#) to inform new audiences and potentially inform policy and advocacy.

The gender statistics curriculum produced by UN Women and the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific is being used by NSOs and academia to institutionalize capacity-building. Six new institutions used the [training curriculum](#) to strengthen the capacities of government officials and university students to produce and use gender statistics. **Hong Kong** Baptist University has integrated it into a new undergraduate course on gender data storytelling, reaching more than 120 students so far, and the Hong Kong Journalists Association also used the curriculum to train 25 journalists. A mandatory gender statistics course drawing on the curriculum is now included in a new Gender Studies graduate programme at the National University of **Mongolia**. Academics from the University of Bonn in Germany also used the materials to introduce gender analyses to a group of 25 young professionals from across Africa and **Germany**, and for a lecture on mainstreaming gender in Environmental Research reaching 23 masters students from across Africa. Curriculum materials were used to ensure that gender statistics are part of the core statistical capacities of 42 SDG focal points in **Bangladesh** and 60 new NSO staff in **India**. Moreover, 60 journalists and CSOs boosted their knowledge and skills on how to use gender data for advocacy and policymaking through trainings conducted in **Central African Republic** and in **Mali**.

3 STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR GENDER DATA

Strong, consistent and diversified financial commitments are fueling Phase II of the Women Count Programme.

In 2023, Women Count continued to grow thanks to sustained contributions from long-standing partners and new allies, an increased allocation of core resources, and greater mobilization of resources at country and regional levels. With ongoing support from current Women Count donors, USD 13.3 million was contributed, bringing the total to USD 32.5 million (or 56% of the total global programme budget of USD 58 million) since 2022 (see Table 1). The Government of Sweden increased its contribution by an additional SEK 40 million (approximately USD 3.6 million), bringing Sweden's total contribution to USD 13 million to date. A EUR 1 million grant from the Government of Italy was finalized in June 2023. And a new grant from the Government of Ireland was secured in May 2023, raising Ireland's total contribution to USD 881,000 to date. Finally, in 2023 UN Women initiated negotiations with Agence Française de Développement for a EUR 2.5 million grant, which is expected to be finalized in 2024. These financial commitments have been essential in enabling the continued progress and expansion of the Women Count Programme.

At the country level, in **Tanzania**, UN Women secured USD 81,000 from the European Union to address VAW data gaps using administrative data in Zanzibar. In **Colombia**, USD 165,000 was mobilized from the Government of Canada to advance the caregiving cities project to promote a national care system across the country, which includes a data

component. Additionally, the **Europe and Central Asia** Regional Office secured USD 137,000 for a gender data bootcamp in North Macedonia and USD 60,000 for regional learning and peer exchange with EU Member States on the Acquis Communautaire on statistics, focusing on gender equality indicators and Eurostat's methodology for measuring the structure of earnings.

Core funding is another important source of financing to retain and strengthen the technical capacities of UN Women offices to meet the rising demand for support on gender statistics. In 2023, Women Count secured nearly double the amount of core funding since 2022, with a total of USD 435,000 across nearly all regional offices: USD 168,000 in **East and Southern Africa**, USD 135,000 in **Latin America and the Caribbean**, USD 40,000 in the **Arab States**, USD 80,000 in **Asia-Pacific**, and USD 12,000 in **Europe and Central Asia**. Additional core and non-core resources will be essential to strengthen UN Women's internal gender data capacities and to ensure that the critical gains of Women Count are sustained and expanded to deliver on its ambitious agenda. Predictable multi-year funding is particularly critical for retaining current technical expertise and for continuing to develop the technical capacities of UN Women offices to meet increasing demands for gender statistics support.

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

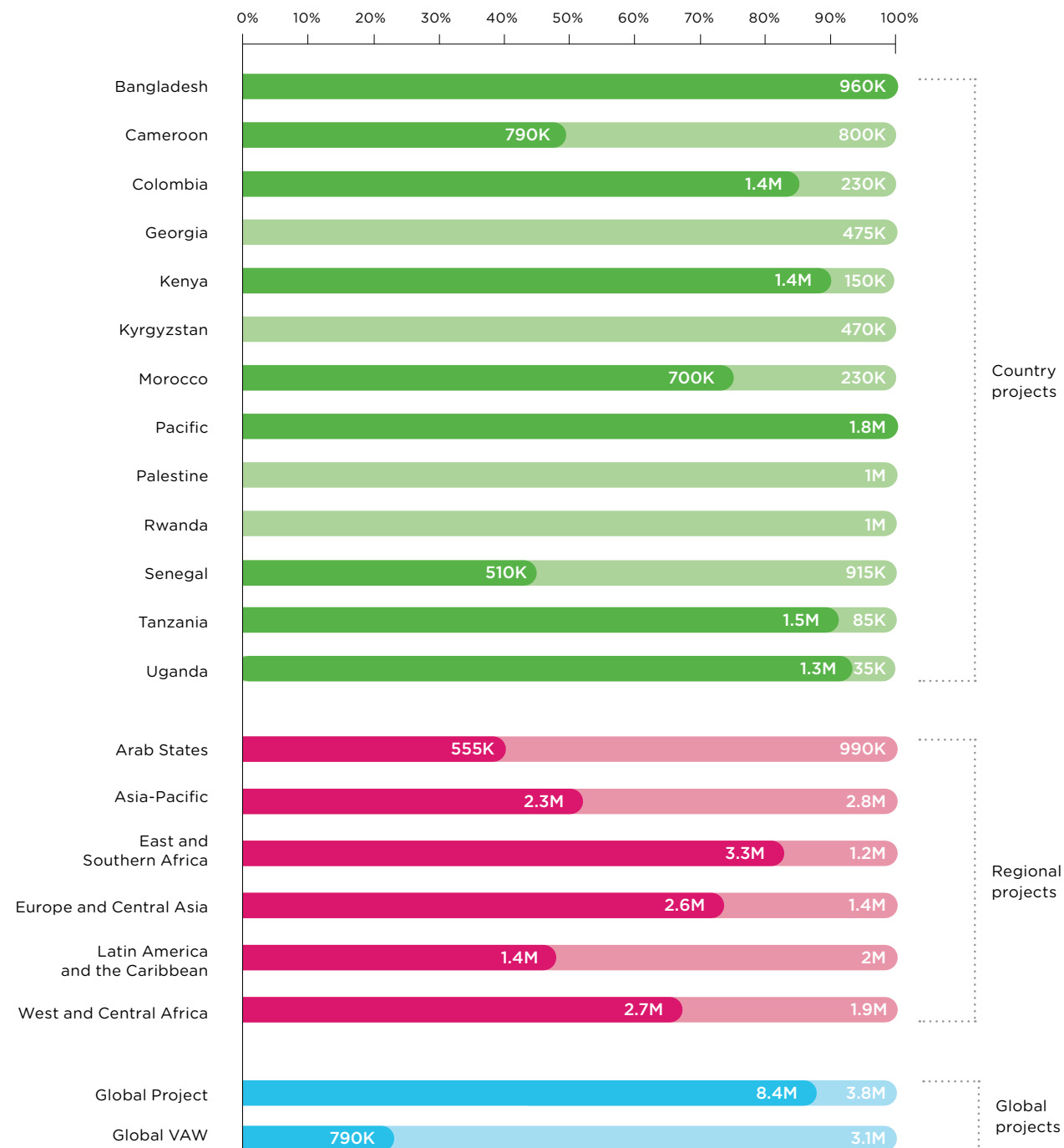
Donor	Value of contributions as per agreement*	Percentage of total contribution	Contributions received from 2021	Contributions received in 2022	Contributions received in 2023	Total contributions received (as of 2023)	Main area of work supported
Australia	4,742,063	14.6%	-	1,699,999	3,042,064	4,742,063	Projects in Asia and the Pacific and the Global Policy Support Project (GSSP)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	9,825,369	30.2%	-	3,228,088	5,146,651	8,374,739	Projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Cameroon, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, East and Southern Africa and GPSP
Canada	114,066	0.4%	-	-	114,066	114,066	Non-earmarked
France	131,943	0.4%	-	131,943	-	131,943	Project in Niger
Ireland	881,668	2.7%	286,697	304,800	290,170	881,668	Non-earmarked, fully flexible
Italy	1,108,891	3.4%	-	-	1,108,891	1,108,891	Senegal, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Somalia, East and Southern Africa and GPSP
Nielsen	5,000	0.0%	-	-	5,000	5,000	Non-earmarked, fully flexible
Republic of Korea	68,337	0.2%	-	68,337	-	68,337	Project in Asia and the Pacific
Sweden	13,010,741	40.0%	5,495,713	1,998,801	2,758,114	10,252,628	Non-earmarked, fully flexible
Other Non-Core Resources**	1,953,615	6.0%	-	1,404,694	548,921	1,953,615	Projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Colombia, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, West and Central Africa, Center of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) and GPSP
Core Resources	689,923	2.1%	-	253,740	436,183	689,923	Project in East and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States and Europe and Central Asia
Total	32,531,615	100%	5,782,411	9,090,401	13,450,060	28,322,872	

*Values are in USD, before 1% levy is applied.

**Other includes resources secured from other programmes and pooled funding sources

4 MONITORING, LEARNING AND EVALUATION

FIGURE 6.
Approved budgets per project, in USD*



Note: *Figures are in USD. The subregional project for Pacific Island Countries is included in the graph for country projects. The regional West and Central Africa project includes support to Nigeria and Niger. The regional Asia-Pacific project includes support to Viet Nam. The regional Latin America and Caribbean project includes support to the CEGS.

UN Women continued to strengthen monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes, adopting a results-based management approach.

The Steering Committee was formally established, bringing together several key partners – such as UN agencies, academia, CSOs, NSOs, programme donors, etc. – for dedicated technical discussions on key areas of Women Count’s work to facilitate collaboration and better coordination. Meetings were convened twice in 2023 around Women Count and its partners’ efforts to scale up data-driven action on unpaid care work and to share technical developments on measuring VAW data (e.g. VAW surveys, TF VAW, and measuring femicide). Donor Committee meetings were convened twice in 2023 to review project progress. During these meetings, the Committee discussed the project’s accomplishments and challenges, and assessed the progress made against planned objectives, identifying potential areas for improvement.

To facilitate programme learning, Women Count’s three-day annual review meeting in Dakar, Senegal, brought together focal points from all implementing offices to: develop a common understanding of the programme and its goals; facilitate greater coordination across and between projects; and promote knowledge-sharing by exchanging best practices and experiences. A virtual workshop on 21–22 February 2023 was attended by 45 participants, including development partners, regional and national partners, CSOs, NSOs, academia and UN Women staff from national, regional and global offices. As the major outcome of the workshop, specific action points were recommended to implement Phase I evaluation recommendations for learning and improving the programme’s structure, approach and results (these action points are included in the evaluation management responses and are publicly accessible at <https://gate.unwomen.org/>). Management responses, implemented and tracked annually, will ensure that evaluation and workshop recommendations are used in future programme decisions.

Corporate evaluations recognize Women Count as a best practice on capacity-building

UN Women’s corporate evaluation on capacity-development recognized Women Count as one of the few UN Women programmes with a dedicated approach and framework to capacity-building. Further, it noted that Women Count’s training on gender statistics has had the most demonstrable results at the institutional level, across multiple countries.

UN Women’s Independent Evaluation and Audit Office also conducted a corporate evaluation of its gender statistics support, concluded in 2024, which finds that UN Women has strengthened its position as a credible voice and partner on gender statistics and Women Count has been central to drive that success. The evaluation recommends for UN Women to build on the strong results of Women Count to expand its work across the organization and in new areas such as humanitarian action. These findings will inform the preparation of UN Women’s Strategic Plan 2026–2030, starting in 2024.

The preliminary findings of the UN Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025 Mid-term Review showed that its gender statistics work, primarily through Women Count, is guided by a more decentralized approach, and that progress on producing and using gender statistics is delivering as expected. The average output attainment rate for 2022 and 2023 was 91 per cent (with 99 per cent in 2023).



PLANS FOR 2024

A key focus for 2024 will be continuing to support countries and regions to implement activities while optimizing interventions as the programme moves towards its penultimate year. The Mid-Term Review in 2024 will critically assess ongoing interventions and guide strategies for the remainder of the programme.

Countries plan to continue implementing activities to: strengthen 20 gender statistics coordination mechanisms; conduct or analyse 34 surveys – including seven on violence against women, five on time use, and four on gender and the environment; increase data use, including through at least 10 national reports; and support 20 user-producer dialogues and 30 trainings.

At the **regional level**, the offices for the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central Africa will continue to provide direct technical and financial support to countries and develop regional statistical capacities. Planned activities include: developing toolkits, conducting regional workshops, supporting data production for SDG monitoring, and continuing work with regional commissions and relevant agencies to improve coordination.

At the **global level**, in addition to providing regular technical support to country and regional offices, the project will focus on several key initiatives. These include: developing guidance and tools for citizen-generated data and time-use surveys; strengthening partnerships with international organizations such as the ILO and WHO to monitor and report on gender-specific SDGs; advocating for global standards for measuring TF VAW; and conducting multi-country analyses to generate new insights to inform sectoral policies and programmes. Furthermore, the programme plans to launch flagship reports like the Gender Data Outlook, in collaboration with PARIS21 at the 2024 World Data Forum in Medellin, Colombia. Lastly, the project will enhance data accessibility through updates to the Women Count Data Hub and promote the use of gender statistics globally for evidence-based policymaking.

ANNEX I.

Budget 2023

Budget Women Count Programme Phase II	2023 Total (USD)	Percentage (%) Direct Costs
Budget by outcome		
Creating an enabling environment	\$3,706,518	56.5%
Increasing data production	\$1,519,921	23.2%
Improving data availability and use	\$1,329,658	20.3%
Total direct costs	\$6,556,097	100%
Total support costs	\$368,489	-
TOTAL	\$6,924,586	

Budget by category			
61100	Salary Costs - National Programme Staff	\$166,194	2%
61200	Salary Costs - General Service Staff	\$152,000	2%
61300	Salary Costs - International Programme Staff	\$2,814,103	41%
71200	International Consultants	\$703,519	10%
71300	Local Consultants	\$291,348	4%
71400	Contractual Services - Individuals	\$339,552	5%
71500	UN Volunteers	\$78,881	1%
71600	Travel	\$505,476	7%
72100	Contractual Services-Companies	\$381,303	6%
73100	Rental and maintenance premises	\$59,925	1%
73300	Rental maintenance info tech equipment	\$20,249	0%
74100	Professional Services	\$14,233	0%
74200	Audio Visual & Printing Production Costs	\$124,390	2%
75100	Facilities & Administration	\$368,489	5%
75700	Training, Workshops and Conferences	\$811,320	12%
Other Costs		\$93,605	1%
TOTALS		\$6,924,585	100%

ANNEXES II - XVI. BRIEFS

ANNEX II. Results Framework

ANNEX III. Global Brief

ANNEXES IV–IX. Regional Briefs

- Arab States
- Asia and the Pacific
- East and Southern Africa
- Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- West and Central Africa

ANNEXES X–XVI. Country Briefs

- Bangladesh
- Cameroon
- Colombia
- Kenya
- Morocco
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Uganda

ENDNOTES

- 1 Final number of countries supported is subject to funding availability.
- 2 Albania, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestine, Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania (henceforth Tanzania). In Côte d'Ivoire, Grenada and Saint Lucia there is strong demand, but the resources needed have yet to be confirmed with their respective governments.
- 3 Bangladesh, Colombia, Fiji, India, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Viet Nam. In Brazil and Morocco there is high demand and high potential, but estimated survey costs need to be confirmed by their respective governments.
- 4 Barbados, Colombia, Dominica, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine and Tunisia. In another nine countries there is high demand, but estimated survey costs need to be confirmed by their respective governments.
- 5 The 15 [thematic reports](#) and 30 [district profiles](#) based on reprocessed Census 2022 data revealed that nationally, people residing in urban areas are four times (44%) more likely to own smartphones than their rural counterparts (11.7%). Further, males aged 10 years and above are more likely to own a smartphone than females, whether in urban (48 vs. 40.8%, respectively) or rural areas (14 vs. 9.1%, respectively).

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