



Photo: UN Women/Joseph A. Meki

WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

CAMEROON

The issue

Despite great progress on gender data in phase I of Women Count, the following challenges persist:

- Policy and financial environments are unstable. Funds for data collection laid out in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2021–2030, are yet to be mobilized and uncertainties exist about whether this will happen. Despite numerous trainings provided for the National Institute for Statistics (INS) and ministry staff, there are still many weaknesses in technical statistical skills, especially in the integration of gender in statistical operations and data analysis.
- Important gender data gaps remain in key thematic areas, including women's economic empowerment (WEE), violence against women (VAW), and gender and the environment.
- There are critical challenges in converting gender data into policies or using them for advocacy, research and informed decision-making, with poor dissemination of gender statistics at both national and local levels, insufficient dialogue between users and producers of statistics, lack of data literacy and insufficient skills or interest in converting gender statistics information into programming by ministries or municipalities.

Our response

In phase II, Women Count will scale-up phase I achievements, by specifically working to:

- **Create an enabling environment:** Address all priority areas, especially VAW, WEE, women's political participation and gender-responsive governance (WPP/GRG), in collaboration with other UN agencies and development partners; support the development of the gender module for the 2021–2030 NSDS; and support the monitoring of all Cameroon's gender-related commitments, to ensure that expected results can be achieved sustainably.
- **Increase data production:** Prioritize the production of gender data on VAW, time-use, and gender and the environment, in order to close existing data gaps in these areas, with special attention to administrative data, harnessing the existing network of gender statistics focal points in ministries and State institutions.
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** Prioritize all four thematic areas in producing and disseminating decision-maker-oriented policy briefs and knowledge products, via scientific events, media and other online databases on gender statistics; inform and strengthen collaboration between media professionals and statistical institutions; strengthen the network of journalists of gender data and the SDGs established in phase I and build on its achievements to leverage the dissemination of gender data; and strengthen relationships with, and the capacities of, journalists and civil society organizations (CSOs) and decision-makers at national and local levels to use gender data in their advocacy and other communication activities, using various channels.

Thematic priorities



Economic empowerment: Produce and disseminate the report on the second time-use survey (TUS), gathered through the Labour Force Survey, and support thematic reports based on national surveys and censuses, about women and the labour market, poverty, education and health.



Violence against women: Support the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) to include a module on violence against women, with data collection beginning in 2024.



Governance and participation: Develop statistics based on administrative data on women's participation in politics and governance.



Gender and environment: Support the first-ever survey on gender and the environment in Cameroon.

Results 2023

Creating an enabling environment

- **Ministries are producing gender situational analyses to inform their programming and mainstream gender in budgeting processes.** At least three line ministries (Health; Decentralization and Local Development; and Social Affairs) produced gender situational analyses in 2023, with more to evaluate their programmes nationally in 2024. UN Women has promoted the integration of gender statistics within gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), encouraging line ministries to produce these situational analyses to inform the mainstreaming of gender in public programmes. The validation of the gender marker, an important tool for operationalizing GRB, will allow ministries to assess whether they are properly mainstreaming gender. All ministries in Cameroon have been asked to perform gender situational analyses, the results of which they will use to revise their respective programmes, if needed.
- **New indicators are being developed to monitor the National Gender Policy and National Development Strategy.** In 2023, UN Women partnered with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF) to support the development of indicators to monitor the forthcoming National Gender Policy (pending its official adoption), including by organizing a workshop on the gender marker. To be finalized in 2024, the indicators will be used to assess the whole gender situation in the country, also in line with the National Development Strategy and the SDGs. Although a Minimum Set of Gender Indicators was developed in 2019, in phase I of Women Count, the

National Gender Policy's new indicators will become the mainstay for all future reporting on gender equality and women's empowerment.

- **Nearly 150 users and producers of data have increased knowledge of gender analysis and mainstreaming and are applying it to develop thematic reports.** In 2023, a total of 146 data producers and users were trained on themes related to gender statistics: introduction to gender analysis, gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive management for development results, new orientations of official statistics in Cameroon and their implications, etc. INS staff are already using the knowledge and skills acquired for gender analysis in the elaboration of a thematic report on gender and the labour market.
- **Cameroon's participation in various gender statistics forums is leveraging South-South collaboration to inform future surveys and reports.** UN Women supported the participation of an INS representative, and another from MINPROFF, in the Africa Regional Workshop on Gender Statistics held in Morocco in November 2023. These participants gained knowledge about the care economy, which will be useful for elaborating Cameroon's time-use survey report in 2024. UN Women also supported the participation of an INS representative at the Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data in Dubai in November, which will be useful for the future design of Cameroon's first national survey on gender and the environment.

Increasing data production

- **With survey responses checked and coded to ensure greater data accuracy, the forthcoming TUS report is poised to bolster reporting.** UN Women financially supported a workshop to clean the database of the time-use survey findings derived from the 2021 labour force survey, namely by checking and properly coding respondents' activities using the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS) framework. Data from the report, to be published in 2024, are expected to be used to produce a household satellite account and to monitor progress on the forthcoming National Gender Policy.
- **A module on VAW has been added to the forthcoming MICS survey.** Thanks to UN Women technical support throughout 2023, through a series of workshops and the development of data-collection tools, a new module on violence against women and girls has been added to the MICS survey, to be rolled out in 2024. Merging this survey with the MICS will allow nationally relevant data to be gleaned while using existing resources. The resulting data will be used to monitor

the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence and inform other gender-based policies and strategies.

- **MINPROFF's new Statistical Yearbook, based on reprocessed administrative data, has been produced thanks to the reinforcement of their statistical information system and statistical unit.** The Statistical Yearbook highlights huge educational and employment gender gaps, including that: net educational enrolment for 19–24-year-olds is 43.5% for males versus 29.7% for females; the literacy rate for 15–24-year-olds is 87.5% for males versus 70.1% for females; and the employment rate for males aged 10+ is 65.6% for males versus 58.3% for females. In 2023, UN Women supported the production of the Ministry's Statistical Yearbook, primarily based on administrative data from public institutions that deal with education, health, women's participation, budgeting, etc. Indicators include school enrolment rates, completion rates, dropout rates and student counts in vocational education, as well as indicators on fertility, contraception, pregnancy and birthing care, senior positions held by women, etc. Women Count supported the establishment of a statistical information system that will collate information for the yearbook every year. It also provided technical and financial support for the validation workshop for the Yearbook. The data collected will inform the monitoring of Cameroon's gender-related national and international commitments. A statistical information system has since been set up at MINPROFF, with the aim to produce this Yearbook yearly. MINPROFF collaborated with the INS, Central Bureau of Population Studies, Bureau of Elections, and several line ministries to produce the Statistical Yearbook.

Improving data use

- **SDG monitoring is being bolstered by the release of new labour force data and promotion through a network of journalists.** A major release of official statistics was done in 2023, namely of the [Labour Force Survey Report](#), which provided data for six gender-related SDG indicators (5.5.2, 8.3.1, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.7.1 and 8.8.2). Findings include that 61.4% of men are active in the labour force, versus 47.3% for women. UN Women also helped disseminate the data through its Gender Data Journalists Network (GDJN) established in phase I, who were invited to a workshop to share and explain the data. A thematic report on gender and the labour force is also forthcoming, with financial and technical support from Women Count. The GDJN has also covered various other themes, such as women in crisis zones, women in the mines,

women in agriculture, and gender-based violence, including through its own [network X account](#).

Plans for 2024

1. **Creating an enabling environment:** Extend support to finalize the monitoring-and-evaluation indicators for the National Gender Policy, and to develop the gender module for the ongoing NSDS (as the gender component formerly proposed for the NSDS during phase I was ultimately not retained); launch an initiative for integrating gender into local statistics; support the development of the user guide for official statistics in Cameroon; support the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender Statistics; and support capacity-building on the use of civil registration data and citizen-generated data to produce gender statistics.
2. **Increasing data production:** Encourage knowledge production on gender issues; integrate gender analyses into data on violence against women and girls; and support the production of: administrative data from the MINPROFF statistical system, the TUS report, local gender data obtained in the pilot phase of the Population Census, the report on SDG indicators in Cameroon, situational analyses of gender mainstreaming in ministries, as well as for gender mainstreaming in managing local administrations.
3. **Increasing data accessibility and use:** Promote the dissemination of gender data; build the capacities of planning and monitoring-and-evaluation units of institutions dealing with gender and using gender statistics to better mainstream gender in policies and in statistical production; continue reviewing Cameroon's Data Portal and link it to UN Women's regional Data Hub; strengthen user-producer dialogues at the strategic level and in all statistical production operations; support the development of the user guide for official statistics in Cameroon; and organize activities to disseminate existing products and produce new gender data knowledge products for significant events (International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism, etc.)