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KENYA

The issue

Since 2018, Women Count has significantly contributed to addressing gender data gaps through supporting its production and utilization in Kenya. Despite achieving many milestones, persistent challenges remain, including:

- Weak policy, legal and financial environments pose barriers to sustaining gains. Chronic underfunding for gender statistics and the delayed roll-out of the Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA) to track the public allocation of resources towards gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) has hampered the ability to measure progress.

- Several critical data gaps remain that limit understanding of key issues, including around gender and the environment, women's political participation, women's economic empowerment (WEE), and violence against women (VAW), including tracking of the removal of discriminatory laws and social norms, and the adoption of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality. Currently, Kenya is able to measure 55% of the minimum set of gender-related SDG indicators.

- Inadequate access and limited use of gender data pose challenges for sufficient monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

Our response

Phase II will consolidate and expand on the gains from phase I, more specifically to:

- **Create an enabling environment**: Strengthen and expand partnerships with policymakers for a more robust, coordinated, integrated and sustainable gender statistics enabling environment by mainstreaming gender data in national development plans; improve coordination with the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee (IAGSTC) and Technical Working Committee on Citizen-Generated Data (CGD); and promote gender data production and use, including CGD produced by civil society organizations (CSOs).

- **Increase data production**: Provide technical assistance for key survey questionnaires; assess administrative data systems from an SDG perspective; develop improvement plans or strategies for collecting administrative data on gender-based violence (GBV), education, civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), and agriculture; develop a gender management information system (for all national and international reporting frameworks); develop systems to track public allocations to GEWE (SDG 5.c.1); analyse/reprocess Agricultural Survey data; reprocess the 2015/16 Household Budget Survey (HBS); analyse the 2024/2025 HBS; and revise and update 2020 Kenya's Women's Empowerment Index (WEI).

- **Improve data accessibility and use**: Create and maintain gender data portals on the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) website and Council of Governors (CoG) data portal; facilitate data-visualization competitions for university students; organize and institutionalize user-producer dialogues; disseminate knowledge products at national and county levels; develop the capacity of mid-level policymakers on the uptake and use of gender data; support academic and research institutions to develop research papers on gender statistics; support and train women's rights movements and media on using data for advocacy; support Kenya's reporting on international commitments such as the Voluntary National Review (VNR); and work with parliamentarians and media to promote and monitor gender data use for policymaking.

Thematic priorities

Economic empowerment: Improve the production and use of data on unpaid care and domestic work (SDG Target 5.4) to inform the first national care policy and mainstream gender within the Gender, Youth and Vulnerable Group Sector Plan in the fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV). Scale-up the production of new data on women's financial access and inclusion (particularly on SDG targets 8.2 and 10.2), and on agriculture (to inform SDG 5.a.1).

Governance and participation: Support data collection on social norms and inequalities in partnership with KNBS to track interventions in the social sector of the MTP IV on improving WEE and women's political participation.

Violence against women: Expand partnerships with UNICEF and the University of Nairobi to improve analysis and use of 2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) VAW data to inform policy recommendations.

Results 2023
Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender has been mainstreamed in Kenya's fourth national development plan ([MTP IV 2023–2027](#)), with a dedicated sectoral plan on gender, youth and vulnerable groups that prioritizes gender data and research**. After UN Women partnered with the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action (SDfGAA) to mainstream gender in MTP IV sectoral plans, gender is now mainstreamed throughout the social sector plan, across its six subsectors.[1] The social sector plan now outlines specific interventions such as: 1) a 'gender mainstreaming project' to integrate gender perspectives in policies, programmes and projects, with capacity-building for ministries, departments, agencies and counties (MDACs) on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), and to put the two-thirds gender principle in elected or appointed positions into practice; 2) a Government allocation of USD 381,671 for generating sex-disaggregated data for the next five years, including to guide planning and implementation across all sectors and strengthen linkages with research institutions; 3) a Government allocation of USD 1,984,732 towards developing and implementing the National Care Policy and Roadmap; and 4) other initiatives to enhance WEE and financial inclusion, and address the burden of unpaid care and domestic work in policy formulation, recognition and valuation. The MTP IV's gender mainstreaming was directly informed by guidance notes prepared by UN Women as part of its technical support to the SDfGAA, which identified sectoral gaps in the previous MTP III.

- **Kenya's new Strategy for the Development of Statistics will include CGD for the first time**. As a result of evaluations by the IAGSTC[2] gender data production by alternative sources are increasingly being prioritized within national statistical development plans and strategies. For example, the IAGSTC evaluated the Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KSDS) 2019–2023, recommending that the production of quality CGD be incorporated in the forthcoming KSDS for 2024–2028 to improve planning, coordination and resource allocation by actors within the data ecosystem and inform reporting on the SDGs. Including CGD in the forthcoming KSDS 2024–2028 will increase its uptake and use and improve the availability of data, including gender data, for official reporting. CGD has also been recognized as fit for official reporting on SDG progress, by CSOs and the Government through the VNR. For example, [KNBS has endorsed data on digital learning](#), by sex of the child and head of household, produced by the Usawa Agenda, a non-profit organization, as "fit for the purpose" for SDG monitoring and reporting and these data sets have already been used in preparation of the 2024 VNR in Kenya. In addition, a Technical Working Committee on Citizen-Generated Data (TWC-CGD),[3] was created, whose main role is to strengthen stakeholder collaboration on quality CGD, especially for official reporting on the SDGs.

- **More than 1,500 data users and producers from national institutions, CSOs and local media have improved their gender data analysis and storytelling capacities and are using Women Count tools and training in their advocacy and capacity-building**. UN Women, in collaboration with the SDfGAA and KNBS, strengthened the capacities of a total of 1,590 (537 female and 1,053 male) data users and

producers in 2023, to analyse and use gender data for informed decision-making. Some 22 institutions are now using gender statistics training materials for capacity-building at both national and county levels, to improve the access and use of gender statistics through advocacy and partnerships, namely: four national institutions[4]; eight media outlets from Nairobi, Kitui and Nakuru Counties[5]; and 10 CSOs.[6] For example, the SDfGAA has used these materials to raise-awareness and build the capacities of stakeholders on unpaid care and domestic work in the development of the National Care Policy, to which the Government has allocated USD 1,984,732 over five years. UN Women has supported governmental and non-governmental institutions to develop gender statistics training materials and guidelines on gender data literacy, methods of collecting and analysing gender statistics for SDG reporting, multi-level analysis and communicating gender data for advocacy.

Increasing data production

- **SDG monitoring in Kenya has improved as a result of data collection and reprocessing of existing data**. KNBS, in collaboration with the State Department for Economic Planning, UNFPA and SDG Kenya Forum, with technical support from UN Women, used gender data from the 2022 KDHS and the Kenya Time-Use Report 2023 to update Kenya's National SDG Indicator Framework and its Country Profile on SDG data in 2023, to inform the preparation of Kenya's 2024 VNR and to assess the country's global ranking (123/166) on the Sustainable Development Report 2023. These additional data sources increased the number of gender-related indicators from the current 42 to 44, through the addition of SDG indicators 1.4.2 (on secure tenure to land rights) and 5.4.1 (on hours spent on unpaid care work). As a result, 55% (44 out of the 80 SDG Minimum Set of Gender Indicators) have been produced and published in 2023 (up from 53% in 2022). In addition, out of the 162 indicators in Kenya's National SDG Indicator Framework, gender-related indicators now comprise 28 out of the 44 global gender-related SDG indicators (63.6%) that have been produced and published. In addition, UN Women and partners[7] undertook analysis and reprocessing of the 2022 KDHS data to generate 13 SDG gender-related indicators that were published as part of the 2022 KDHS Report in 2023. The 2022 KDHS data are also being used to generate national and county-level policy briefs on various topical issues related to the SDGs, including on "Gender-based violence in Kenya and its associated factors among women currently in a union", which was selected as one of the key areas for further analysis to generate a policy intervention.

- **Reprocessing of existing data is increasing evidence and filling gaps in different areas**. UN Women, UNICEF and KNBS published the Inequalities in Well-being report based on further analysis of the 2009 and 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Censuses, Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey 2015/16 and administrative data sources. The first of its kind, this study is a major milestone, providing evidence on the distribution of geographical, temporal and intersectional socioeconomic exclusion, poverty and inequality, and their drivers. It sheds light on inequalities for women and children in particular across the following dimensions of well-being – education, economic activity, child protection, health, information, housing and energy, water and sanitation – and overall measures of monetary and multidimensional poverty. The study found that there have been major improvements in Kenya between 2009 and 2019 across most dimensions of well-being, but that women and girls have generally seen less progress than men and boys. It also found that multidimensional poverty is worse in households headed by women, and that gender gaps widen with age (for example, in 2019, it affected 52.5% of women aged 18−34 versus 50.2% of men the same age; 60.4% for women versus 56.7% for men aged 35−59; and 57.9% for women versus 45.6% for men aged 60+). The findings have contributed evidence to support the prioritization of social sector programmes to address the needs of children, youth, women and other population groups in the MTP IV and County-Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

- **Data on women's economic inclusion and access to finance is improving, and funding is increasing for social programmes**. Since 2020, a Social and Economic Inclusion Chapter has been included in the annual Kenya Economic Survey Report, as a result of UN Women's advocacy efforts. In 2023, the Government increased funding for women's socioeconomic empowerment and social protection programmes. It also adopted the maximum two-thirds gender quota to increase women's representation in key private and public sector leadership positions. Further, UN Women collaborated with KNBS to provide technical support to integrate gender perspectives on financial inclusion, including access to credit for agricultural productive resources by women, into the 2024 FinAccess Household Survey questionnaire.

Improving data use

- **Time-use data and a national care needs assessment have informed the draft National Care Policy and are contributing to institutionalizing the regular production of time-use data**. UN Women, in collaboration with KNBS, the SDfGAA, World Bank and Oxfam published the Kenya Time-Use Report in 2023, which provides evidence on the disproportionate amount of time spent by women compared to men on unpaid care (7 times more) and domestic work (5 times more). The TUS data and findings of a UN Women-supported National Care Needs Assessment, were utilized by the SDfGAA, KNBS and UN Women in the development of the draft National Care Policy, which is expected to be finalized in 2024. The draft proposes measures to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibilities within households and families. UN Women provided technical guidance in mapping the 5R's framework (recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward and represent) across the National Care policy action areas.[8] Echoing TUS report recommendations, the policy itself recommends the need to ensure availability of accurate and timely data on time spent on care activities by sex, which will help to ensure the periodic measurement of time-use. KNBS, with technical and financial support from UN Women, has also integrated the implementation of regular time-use surveys in the draft KNBS 2024–2028 and Gender Sector Statistics Plan 2024–2028 as part of the key statistical activities expected to generate evidence for monitoring and evaluation of the National Care Policy.

- **More than 1,300 policymakers at the county level now know how to mainstream gender in budgets and planning and Women Count-supported data are shaping County-Integrated Development Plans**. Kitui County's CIDP for 2023–2027 now includes a sex-disaggregated baseline indicator on the percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted, based on 2022 KDHS data, and Laikipia County's CIDP has integrated KNBS poverty estimates and gender analysis to shape local programming. This, after UN Women, in collaboration with KNBS, ICF International,[9] UNICEF and UNFPA, trained 64 government officials from all 47 counties to disseminate the 2022 KDHS results. UN Women in collaboration with partners,[10] then further supported dissemination through 37 forums that reached 1,307 county-level policymakers, whose capacities were strengthened on mainstreaming gender in pre-budget analysis to inform the development, monitoring and evaluation of policies and plans, such as CIDPs and County Sectoral

Plans. As part of its training, the IAGSTC also guided participants on how to mainstream gender in their CIDPs, which are comprehensive, forward-looking blueprints outlining local development priorities and guiding county-level policy, programming and advocacy.

- **Data portals, coupled with user-producer dialogues and digital storytelling training, are increasing access to gender data**. UN Women provided technical support to KNBS to develop a web portal that has increased the dissemination, accessibility and use of the 2022 KDHS results. The indicators that can be accessed through these portals are crucial for monitoring progress on the SDGs, African Union Agenda 2063, Vision 2030 (MTP IV), and Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), among other international and regional development agendas. In addition, more than 180 data users and producers now know how to access gender data from different KNBS platforms and use it in their work and advocacy, thanks to a User-Producer Engagement Forum organized in July by UN Women, KNBS, the United Nations Statistics Division, SDG Kenya Forum and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. Participants learned about effective data storytelling and policymakers disseminated KDHS survey results at subnational levels using the STATcompiler tool and "Scavenger Hunt" mobile application (a DHS Program App available on the Play Store). The forum also provided inputs for the development of a User Engagement Strategy (to be finalized in 2024) to institutionalize user-producer dialogues.

- **United Nations planning documents have used data from various statistical reports to guide interventions**. UN Women provided technical support to KNBS to produce and publish seven national reports in 2023[11] providing sex-disaggregated data for planning, programming and policy formulation. The publications were used by UN Women in leading the United Nations County Team (UNCT) to revise and update the baseline data in the indicator matrix for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2026, which guides the entire programme cycle of collective UN support and interventions to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Three of these publications (2021 Kenya TUS Report, 2022 KDHS Report, and 2023 Economic Survey Report) were also used in the situational analysis section of Kenya's Common Country Analysis in 2022/23, which informed the development of the UNSDCF 2023–2026).

Plans for 2024

1. **Creating an enabling environment**: Support KNBS to mainstream gender data in the MTP IV National Indicator Framework; revise county-led data and statistics plans; build the capacities of ministries, departments, agencies and local governments to produce SDG indicators and use CGD.

2. **Increasing data production**: Conduct new surveys on social norms and institutions, agricultural and financial access; update the 2020 Kenya WEI and develop 47 County Data Sheets; assess administrative data systems from the perspective of the 2030 Agenda and develop improvement plans; support the development of a gender-management information system; and support the development of systems to monitor the allocation of resources to gender at the national level (SDG 5.c.1).

3. **Increasing data accessibility and use**: Support the SDfGAA to develop their gender data portal; create and maintain gender data portals on the KNBS website and Council of Governors data portal (maarifa centre); support data-visualization competitions between students in academic institutions to enhance gender data portals' dissemination and use; and support academic and research institutions to develop research papers on gender statistics and contribute to reporting processes in counties (on the SDGs/VNR, Beijing+30, CEDAW).

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1   Health; education; labour and social protection; public service performance and delivery management; gender, culture, the arts and heritage; and youth and sports.
2   Established in 2018, led by KNBS in partnership with SDfGAA (as co-chairs), the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee continues to serve as a critical platform to strengthen collaboration between key actors within the NSS.
3   Established in 2023, the TWC-CGD's membership includes: the SDfGAA, Ministry of Health, Health Network (HENET), International Centre for Reproductive Health, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), GROOTS, Open Institute, Twaweza, Kenya National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Education, Usawa Agenda, Ministry of Water, Pan-Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Council of Governors, SDG Kenya Forum, State Department for Economic Planning, academics, UN Women, PARIS21 and GPSDD.
4   KNBS, SDfGAA, KIPPRA, and the University of Nairobi.
5   KBC, Standard Media Group, Pamoja-FM, Nation Media Group, K24 TV, Mutaani Radio, Capital FM, and The Star.
6   GROOTS Kenya, SDGs Kenya Forum, Plan International, Action Aid Kenya, National Council of Churches of Kenya, African Woman and Child Feature Service, Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development, Gender Violence Recovery Centre, National Gender and Equality Commission, and the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness.
7   KNBS, SDfGAA, National Council for Population and Development, the Ministry of Health, Council of Governors, UNICEF, UNFPA, University of Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Bomet University and Nutritional International.
8   Policy action areas include: measuring unpaid care work; employment and labour-related policies/regulations; social protection policies; childcare; health care; social and cultural norms; eldercare; care for persons with disabilities; care-supporting infrastructure; and domestic work/services.
9   ICF International is in charge of the Demographic Health Surveys Programme, globally.
10 KNBS, SDfGAA, National Council for Population and Development, the Ministry of Health, Council of Governors, UNICEF, UNFPA, University of Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Bomet University and Nutritional International.
11 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census analytical report on the labour force and on population dynamics; 2021 Kenya Poverty Report; 2021 Kenya TUS Report, the 2022 KDHS Report, Inequalities in Well-being Report; and 2023 Economic Survey Report.