



Photo: UN Women/Zakaria Wakrim

## WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

# MOROCCO

### The issue

Since 2018, the Women Count programme has achieved significant results in Morocco in phase I, significant challenges remain, including:

- Morocco's fragmented statistical system lacks coordination, as several institutions oversee the production of gender-disaggregated statistics and sensitive data. This lack of a legal framework and a clear national strategy for the development of gender sensitive statistics is hindering progress on gender statistics in Morocco. Gender statistics users and producers also lack skills and human resources, while vocational training and capacity-building remain limited.
- Irregular production of gender data, including on violence against women (VAW) and women's economic empowerment (WEE) hinders the bridging of important data gaps, the understanding of critical gender inequality issues and the monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- There are limited communication, knowledge-management and knowledge-sharing channels for data producers and users where they can exchange, connect and learn from one another. There is also limited access to regional gender statistics, as the regional statistical system is disparate and fragmented, and large statistical gaps at regional, provincial and local/communal levels need to be addressed.

### Our response

In Phase II, the Women Count programme in Morocco will leverage the achievements under phase I and work to:

- **Create an enabling environment:** Raise awareness and foster better communication within the national statistical system (NSS) to support revision of the National Statistics Law; enhance South-South knowledge-exchange by sharing best practices at national and regional workshops and a global conference; and continue developing tools and guidelines and training national and regional data users and producers.
- **Increase data production:** Support the High Commission for Planning (HCP) on the upcoming Time-Use Survey (TUS), from design through data collection, analysis and dissemination; prioritize gender statistics methodologies and share international best practices; and organize regional workshops and civil society consultations to ensure that data and survey results will guide public policies and strategies in Morocco.
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** Increase coordination and institutionalize user-producer dialogues, notably by organizing national and regional debates for civil society organizations (CSOs) on unpaid work, gender and social norms, VAW and WEE; produce research papers on structural transformations, economic policies and women's economic status in Morocco, and produce and disseminate infographics and user-friendly products (online platforms, animated videos, etc.).

## Thematic priorities



**Economic empowerment:** Given Morocco's strategic pledge to increase women's labour force participation by an ambitious 10% by 2026, and its New Development Model's emphasis on WEE, the Women Count programme will focus on this priority area by: support the upcoming TUS, building on research conducted in phase I, such as findings from the first household satellite account and from analysis of the dynamics within Moroccan households; support a study to evaluate policies promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the labour market as part of Morocco's efforts to identify the most effective policy interventions to promote gender equality and increase women's labour force participation; support an informal economy policy assessment to promote sustainable development and inclusive economic growth through policy reforms.

## Results 2023

### *Creating an enabling environment*

- **HCP data producers boost their capacities and learn from best practices at key international statistical forums.** In 2023, four HCP representatives increased their capacity to use innovative tools and methodologies, notably to develop household satellite accounts and learn from international best practices. This, after UN Women supported their participation in: the International Statistical Institute's 64th World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Canada, in July; and both the 9th UN Global Forum on Gender Statistics as well as 17th meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August. The HCP participants' mission reports stressed that they built their capacities and knowledge of the importance of having relevant indicators to assess gender equality on areas such as: the gender pay gap; choice of field of study; access to management positions, proportion of women in decision-making bodies; electoral participation rates; sharing of domestic work; access to childcare services, etc. They also cited learning about potential data uses to impact public policies and reduce gender inequalities, as well as for awareness-raising and advocacy, as well as the importance of intersectional analysis to understand the cumulative impact of gender and different forms of oppression and discrimination.

### *Increasing data production*

- **A new report on satellite accounts of household production estimates Morocco's 'extended' GDP.** The synthesis report entitled "Satellite Account of Households in Morocco" aims to value unpaid domestic work, estimate household production, and present Morocco's 'expanded' GDP for a more adequate measure of well-being and living standards. Morocco's satellite account distinguishes itself from high-income countries' satellite accounts because it includes unpaid work by women, men and children, utilizing multiple data sources, including the informal sector survey. The report highlights the significant contribution of unpaid domestic work to national wealth and family well-being, which are traditionally excluded from the System of National Accounts (SNA). It estimates that women shoulder 87% of this unpaid work and that the volume of domestic chores borne by girls is 3 times higher than the volume borne by boys (931 million hours vs. 242 million hours, respectively). Further, it finds that if domestic work were to be counted as part of overall wealth creation, this would increase GDP by 19.4% (with women responsible for 16.4% of this increase). The report calls for a more complete recording of household production, nearly 47% of which falls outside the scope of the SNA, and its integration within measures to better reflect economic and social well-being. UN Women technically revised the report, ensuring that gender was mainstreamed, facilitating knowledge-sharing, disseminated its findings through infographics that were printed and shared at a meeting with household satellite account experts from Europe.
- **Data production begins on two new studies on women's economic empowerment and a study on violence against children.** UN Women supported a study to estimate the economic and social opportunity costs of rural women's economic empowerment. This study will enable a multi-dimensional analysis of employment trends in rural areas, focusing on the participation of rural women to gain a better understanding of employment and economic opportunities/challenges in rural Morocco. This study will also, for the first time, quantify the potential economic gains resulting from increased gender diversity in the rural labour market, which will be particularly relevant as the agricultural sector has been particularly hard-hit by the economic and ecological crisis in Morocco. UN Women also supported a study entitled "Evaluation of Policies to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Labour Market: A Macro-Micro Approach for Morocco". This report will enable the HCP to develop a model integrating gender dimensions and domestic work

in order to assess the economic impacts of various policy interventions on gender equality in the labour market and on overall well-being. UN Women also supported the analysis of data on violence against children (the main source of data being the 2019 National Survey on Violence against Women and Girls, which UN Women supported). One of the objectives of this study will be to sensitize and inform users on the impact of violence against children, with a gender lens, to identify contributing factors, including how economic inequality and poverty contribute to child abuse. All three reports will be published in 2024.

- **A new report analysing insights from past time-use surveys into societal relations advocates for family-friendly policies and a redistribution of care responsibilities.** In November 2023, the [synthesis report](#) entitled “Social Relations Between Women and Men: Insights from Time-Use Surveys”, analyses past time-use surveys from 1997 and 2012. It considers women whose workload exceeds 1.5 times the average workload as ‘time poor’, and by this standard it finds that time poverty increased for women in Morocco from 17.1% in 1997 to 18.4% in 2012. The report underscores the need for policies that consider gender-specific needs and balance professional and domestic work and family life with leisure, to enhance women’s participation in the labour market and promote higher levels of production and growth for the benefit of all. The time dedicated by women to care and domestic chores reveals that traditional roles persist, with men socially perceived as providers and women as dedicated to household and family tasks. The report notes that only 21.5% of surveyed women aged 15 and over are active in the workforce, compared to 71% of men, and that 75.2% of inactive women say this is because they are “housewives.” While preparations to undertake a new TUS in Morocco in 2024, the synthesis report is being used to fuel the current national dialogue and discussions around the care economy in Morocco.

## Improving data use

- **Three new knowledge and communication products disseminated at two high-level events are increasing access to gender-related data on the SDGs.** UN Women supported the production of communication products on gender-related SDG data, including: [two video animations](#) on gender-sensitive SDG indicators; a [leaflet](#) outlining gender-sensitive indicators related to the SDGs; as well as a webpage on the SDGs from a gender perspective (to be hosted on HCP’s dedicated gender statistics platform). UN Women supported the dissemination of the user-friendly leaflet, alongside the other reports produced, at two events – a Regional

Gender Statistics Seminar organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UN Women in Casablanca in November, and through a presentation led by the HCP to the House of Representatives on 30 November, thus ensuring wider dissemination of opportune gender-sensitive information.

## Plans for 2024

1. **Creating an enabling environment:** Support capacity-building for HCP representatives on TUS updates in methodology and on gender index international best practices, notably by facilitating exchanges and study trips to Canada for the TUS and to Paris to learn about Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) best practices; intensify awareness-raising initiatives to resume discussion on the need to reform the bill for a statistical law; and upgrade the governance of the coordination mechanism, which is no longer functional, by fostering dialogue and communication within the NSS
2. **Increasing data production:** Strengthen preparation of the upcoming TUS by providing technical support to upgrade the activity classification and ensure that results from recent research and studies are taken into account; support the production of three SDG-related gender indicators; support the production of the first national gender composite index; support the gender analysis of the questionnaire of the National Family Survey in Morocco; support research and data analysis on women in the informal sector economy in Morocco; and, in partnership with the MICEPP, support a national assessment and territorial map of gender mainstreaming in investment projects and the elaboration of a best practice guide on gender mainstreaming in corporate governance (governance of public and private companies).
3. **Increasing data accessibility and use:** Support workshops involving CSOs to ensure that their user needs are considered for the upcoming TUS; develop user-friendly products to disseminate results from: (i) the study to estimate the economic and social opportunity costs of rural women’s economic empowerment; (ii) the study on violence against children; (iii) the study on the evaluation of policies to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in the labour market; (iv) the study to produce the first national gender composite index; and (v) the study to produce three gender-related SDG indicators.