



Photo: UN Women/Tayfun Dalkılıç

## IN BRIEF

## WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

## The issue

Since 2018, Women Count has played a pivotal role in advancing the quality and uptake of gender data in Europe and Central Asia (ECA). Despite these gains, persistent challenges remain:

- Weak policy, legal and financial environments pose barriers to progress. Chronic underfunding for gender statistics limits the ability to innovate in statistical operations and will create significant gaps in the ability to measure progress towards gender equality.
- Several critical data gaps limit understanding of key issues, including on gender and the environment, women's unpaid care and domestic work, violence against women (VAW) and intersecting inequalities.
- Lack of access and limited use of gender data pose challenges for evidence-based policymaking and monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Our response

In phase II, Women Count will work to:

- **Create an enabling environment:** Mainstream gender into national statistical systems (NSSs) through gender data assessments, the development of national strategies, action plans, programmes and priority gender indicators, and create customized hands-on curricula on gender statistics to deepen education.
- **Increase data production:** Support NSSs to collect gender data on women's economic empowerment (WEE), women's political participation (WPP), unpaid care and domestic work, VAW and gender and environment, through surveys and by reprocessing existing data to inform interventions; explore the use of administrative records and promote non-traditional data-collection methods to produce new data on key areas.
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** Expand partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector to improve data literacy among policymakers, youth, academia and women's rights advocates to fuel strategic advocacy on the most pressing gender issues at both country and regional levels; train NSSs to diversify the products and channels for the dissemination and communication of gender data.

## Where we work



# 9 Countries

Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo,<sup>1</sup> North Macedonia and Uzbekistan.

## Thematic priorities



**Gender and environment:** Develop a minimum set of indicators to measure the gendered impacts of climate change as part of the National Priority Gender Equality Indicator Framework and integrate them into strategic advocacy.



**Economic empowerment:** Undertake a full-scale Time-Use Survey (TUS) in Armenia; launch TUS modulars in household surveys in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova; support research on valuing women's unpaid care in Georgia; and build NSS capacities to reprocess and analyse existing household and census data to generate evidence to inform targeted policies and investments.



**Violence against women:** Support Kazakhstan to finalize its report on the second national VAW study; help Belarus and Kyrgyzstan design and launch their first-ever national VAW prevalence surveys; strengthen data analysis and reporting in Kosovo via the country's Domestic Violence Case Management System Database; support a VAW prevalence survey in Moldova in 2025 (subject to funding); test unconventional ways to measure femicide in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; and study harmful social norms on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Kyrgyzstan.



**Governance and participation:** Integrate the topic of women's role in governance and political participation in gender datathons, bootcamps and exhibitions, inviting participants to craft compelling gender-data-driven media and art products to inform strategic advocacy on this topic.

## Results 2023

### *Creating an enabling environment*

- **Two inter-agency task forces and a new partnership to improve gender statistics are improving NSS coordination in Kyrgyzstan.** The National Statistical Committee of the [Kyrgyz Republic](#) (NSC) and UN Women signed a [memorandum of understanding](#) to strengthen the production, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics in Kyrgyzstan until 2028. The agreement will contribute to the effective monitoring of the National Gender Equality Strategy and of international commitments, including the SDGs. The parties mutually commit to: jointly develop a National Roadmap on Gender Statistics and a Gender Equality Indicator Framework; conduct TUS and VAW surveys; test new data-collection methods; and produce joint knowledge products to advance gender data use. The Ministry of Labour, Social Development and Migration formed a new Inter-Ministerial Task Force to coordinate Kyrgyzstan's [Country Gender Equality Profile](#). This Group reports to the National Gender Council, the highest authority in the country's gender machinery chaired by the Vice-Prime Minister on Social Issues, which has seized this opportunity to collect data for the forthcoming Beijing+30 national review. The NSC also reactivated the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Gender Statistics, initially formed in 2020 due to UN Women's advocacy, and directed it to study existing data-collection processes to identify gaps and recommend a strategy to increase gender data availability and better track progress towards the SDGs. UN Women advocated for the reactivation and inclusive membership of the group, encompassing a wide range of data producers and users, and conceptualized the group's approach in developing a National Roadmap for Enhancing Gender Statistics. This contributes to fostering dialogue between policymakers and the NSC and aligning their gender data needs with the production of official gender statistics, leading to more effective decision-making to improve the lives of women and girls.

- Belarus mainstreams gender into two major programmes on employment and social protection after a gender data assessment.** As a direct outcome of the gender data assessment conducted by UN Women in 2022–2023 – which recommended expanding the number of indicators used to identify the most vulnerable populations, to include more gender statistics and analysis to measure targets and beneficiaries of State programmes – the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of **Belarus** will be using these findings to mainstream gender analysis throughout the monitoring and evaluation of two of its major sectoral programmes on [employment](#) and [social protection](#). Moreover, the assessment findings and recommendations are informing the development of the national roadmap on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) and a corresponding action plan aimed at bolstering gender statistics produced by the National Statistical Office of Belarus and other data producers.
- Georgia mainstreams gender statistics in its National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and annual action plan.** UN Women worked with the National Statistical Office (NSO) of **Georgia** (GEOSTAT) to integrate gender data priorities into its [NSDS for 2024–2027](#). During the consultation phase, UN Women also played a key role in mainstreaming gender by embedding 16 concrete activities related to improving the production, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics into the annual Action Plan for NSDS implementation for 2024–2025. Activities will include: institutionalizing user-producer dialogues; producing new indicators on WEE through data reprocessing; measuring and valuing unpaid household work; conducting structure of earning pilot survey; strengthening gender data access and literacy to boost data use; as well as expanding cooperation with other NSOs in the region. UN Women provided technical expertise to propose specific interventions in the action plan, contributed to the situational analysis, and shared international and regional recommendations on gender statistics, highlighting best practices on integrating gender considerations into statistical business processes.
- 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 through regional training and awareness-raising events:** 27 NSO representatives from across the region greatly enhanced their understanding of: challenges and needs in VAW research; data user engagement; cognitive testing; the use of administrative data; and methodological and ethical considerations in collecting VAW prevalence data at a half-day [workshop on VAW data collection](#). Held in Geneva, Switzerland, and organized jointly with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in May 2023, the workshop included a dedicated session on measuring technology-facilitated violence against women (TF VAW). Post-session evaluations reveal that 96% of participants found it either “useful” or “very useful.” Following the workshop, the NSO of **Belarus** has embarked on developing methodology to conduct the country’s first-ever VAW prevalence survey by integrating global and regional best practices learned at the workshop. In September, 48 participants from **North Macedonia**, including youth, media, CSOs and gender advocates, built their skills in gender data analysis, visualization and dissemination at an intense five-day [Gender Data Bootcamp](#) held in Izmir, Türkiye. Participants were grouped into 10 multidisciplinary teams that developed gender data products on VAW, WEE and WPP topics. As a result, three winning teams refined and published their gender data products, including two infographics and a series of animated videos focused on [women’s unpaid care work and participation in the workforce, access to justice for survivors of domestic violence, gender stereotypes in school education](#) in North Macedonia. Further, the products were widely disseminated through traditional and social media channels reaching over 38,000 people, as well as through the networks of individual team members and their affiliated organizations, spanning governmental and non-governmental institutions. And in November, 11 media representatives from **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan** and **Uzbekistan** strengthened their gender data analysis skills and ability to craft compelling data-driven media products on key gender issues in Central Asia at a Gender Datathon hosted at the Tbilisi DataFest 2023. Through a competitive pitching exercise and subsequent in-depth review, three outstanding gender data products were identified unveiling inequalities in women’s political participation in Kazakhstan, child marriage and menstrual poverty in Kyrgyzstan. With dedicated mentorship support from UN Women and ForSet, winning participants refined their products for publication and dissemination through renowned local and subregional media platforms.
- UN Women established a new partnership with the Global Data against Femicide Initiative.** The partnership seeks to foster knowledge transfer and promote good practices on the production of femicide data in three countries across Central Asia. The Initiative’s co-founders



delivered a session at the Gender Data Bootcamp in Izmir, focused on fundamental feminist principles of gender data collection, analysis, visualization and use, highlighting specific examples from femicide research in Latin America, to guide participants in crafting their gender data products and developing effective dissemination plans.

- **Georgia’s first gender-responsive public finance management (PFM) assessment leads to gender data being integrated in the country’s new PFM Strategy and Action Plan.** To track public expenditures on gender equality, ensure financial accountability and accelerate progress towards SDG indicator 5.c.1, UN Women established a strategic partnership with Georgia’s Ministry of Finance (MoF). Under this partnership, [Georgia](#) undertook its first [Gender-Responsive Public Finance Management Assessment](#) and subsequently integrated gender equality in its PFM Strategy and Action Plan adopted in 2023.

## Increasing data production

- **More gender data to track SDG 5 are available in the ECA region than ever.** Rising from 18% in 2015 to 59% data availability in 2023, there has been particularly high progress across Eastern Partnership countries, the Western Balkans and Türkiye. Of the 18 countries in the region, 15 have at least half of SDG 5 gender data available; 83% of the data needed to measure VAW by an intimate partner (SDG indicator 5.2.1) are now available, although regularity of data collection remains an issue; conversely, only 39% of data required to measure women’s unpaid care work (SDG indicator 5.4.1) are currently available.
- **Armenia collects time-use data to spur investments in the care economy, with training and mentoring for coders, interviewers and supervisors.** The Statistical Committee of the [Republic of Armenia](#) (ArmStat) and UN Women partnered to design and implement a nationwide full-scale time-use survey, [launched](#) with the signing of the partnership agreement in July 2023. Data collection began in October 2023 and will be completed in May 2024. As part of this collaboration, UN Women [strengthened the capacities](#) of 33 interviewers on time-use survey methodology and data-collection tools. In addition, 13 supervisors and coders received extensive training on the international classification of time-use surveys (ICATUS-2016), with follow-up mentorship on treating special cases and considering the national context. The findings will be used to inform: the country’s Gender Strategy 2024–2028, particularly the section related to paid care services; specific measures in the Employment Strategy 2024–2030 to support working mothers; as well as strategic advocacy to promote the ratification of ILO Conventions 156, 183 and 189, focusing on workers with family responsibilities, domestic workers and maternity protection. The new data will also help assess progress towards achieving SDG target 5.4.
- **Georgia’s second VAW prevalence survey findings offer valuable comparative data to inform evidence-based decision-making.** UN Women partnered with GEOSTAT to finalize and publish the [results of the second nationwide VAW prevalence survey](#) in Georgia in an analytical report accompanied by statistical tables for wider use by key stakeholders. Published in December 2023, the findings of the 2022 VAW survey building on the [initial study in 2017](#), and significantly expand its scope to include additional forms of intimate partner violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment, stalking, as well as attitudes and social norms related to violence against women. The results show that [half \(50.1%\) of women aged 15–69 in Georgia have experienced at least one form of violence](#) in their lifetime. In particular, intimate partner violence affects 22.9% of women who were ever in a relationship, while 24.5% of women have been sexually harassed, often by people they know. The study also shows that [social norms regarding VAW are changing](#), with fewer people justifying spousal violence (1.8% of women and 3.8% of men, down from 22.0 and 31.1% respectively, in 2017). Georgia’s two rounds of VAW prevalence studies contribute valuable comparative data for identifying trends and measuring violence prevention and response efforts. Data from the survey will be used to track progress on SDG nationalized indicators, as well as those under the Violence against Women and Girls/ Domestic Violence (VAWG/DV) Action Plan 2022–2024. In addition, the data will be utilized to set baselines for the National VAWG/DV Prevention Action Plan 2024–2025 currently under development. The data will further inform the design of awareness-raising intervention, identifying target groups, drafting campaign messages and distribution channels. These findings will also inform evidence-based decisions in line with SDG target 5.2 and respond to data-collection obligations under Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention.
- **Kazakhstan’s NSO prepares VAW survey report and strengthens NSO and CSO skills for analysing VAW data.** Women Count partnered with Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of [Kazakhstan](#) (QazStat) to analyse data collected in the country’s second nationwide VAW prevalence survey and prepare it for the analytical report to be published in 2024. To this end, QazStat

strengthened its capacities to analyse and interpret VAW prevalence data using SPSS software, through a five-day hands-on training by UN Women from 27 November to 1 December 2023. The inclusion of women's non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the training enhanced the contextual understanding and usability of the data. Post-training, 71% of participants reported having an increased awareness of VAW, and 86% noted an enhanced level of practical skills in using specialized software for data on VAW. The report will be an essential step in fulfilling the State's obligation to generate quality gender data to track progress towards SDG target 5.2 and to uphold the country's gender data collection commitment within the [GBV Action Coalition](#).

- **Kosovo enhances its domestic violence reporting system and publishes new gender-specific indicators online, making them widely available.** With support from UN Women, the Ministry of Justice in [Kosovo](#) enhanced its Domestic Violence Case Management System by enabling data analysis and reporting functionalities, resulting in the [generation and publication of key gender-specific indicators](#), such as the number of reported cases, sociodemographic characteristics of survivors, and the survivor-perpetrator relationship. In 2023 the Ministry of Justice published for the first time these indicators using database set up in 2020, which aggregates information from service-providers, such as law enforcement, the judiciary, legal professionals, social workers and shelters, and aims to improve support and protection services for survivors of domestic violence by enhancing inter-agency coordination, efficiency and data-driven decision-making.

## Improving data use

- **Georgia's time-use survey findings are being used to redistribute care responsibilities and reduce women's burden on childcare.** [Georgia's](#) first-ever TUS, implemented by GEOSTAT with UN Women support in 2022, generated internationally comparable data that were used by TBC Bank and Terabank in their internal campaigns encouraging male employees to make use of the companies' [fully-paid parental](#) leave of up to 6 months. Moreover, using the TUS report and other UN Women data, TBC Bank developed and rolled out mandatory training modules on gender equality and time poverty, attended annually by more than 10,000 TBC employees. Beyond these private sector uses, Georgia's TUS findings are also shaping the country's Public Service Law through a [Gender Impact Assessment \(GIA\)](#), jointly published by UN Women and Georgia's Civil Service Bureau in 2023. The GIA identifies and analyses

the main barriers to women's leadership in public service and makes evidence-based legislative and policy recommendations on how to improve the law, including the proposal for introduction of non-transferable paid paternity leave for public sector employees. A working group will be established in 2024 to develop a legislative amendment package based on GIA findings.

- **Kyrgyzstan increases awareness of progress on gender-related SDGs through a new publication and interactive quiz.** The NSC and UN Women ECA released the [SDGs and Gender](#) publication, along with four thematic infographics, at [an event in March 2023](#) that gathered 54 representatives of government agencies, CSOs, academia and international organizations. The report highlights data such as the fact that women spend almost 5 times more time than men on unpaid domestic work and that there were 3 times more survivors of domestic violence in 2021 than in 2015. As a result of its wide dissemination, the findings from the report informed a nationwide [campaign](#) by Helvetas and Development Policy Institute challenging the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work reaching over 1.2 million people in [Kyrgyzstan](#). The findings also shed light on progress towards the implementation of key national strategic documents, including the National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030 and the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2022–2024. As part of the report launch, more than 100 media, youth, academics and CSO representatives also [participated in an interactive quiz game](#), 'Women and Men in Kyrgyzstan: Facts and Figures' in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to increase data literacy and awareness on gender equality.
- **Data and research produced by UN Women were used in an NGO appeal to Georgia's Constitutional Court on women's pensionable age.** The NGOs used the data to argue that women's pensionable age should be maintained at the current age of 60, rather than changed to age 65, as for men. The Parliament of [Georgia](#), in particular the Gender Equality Council, was also involved in this advocacy. UN Women provided crucial technical support to Parliamentary staff, who also used relevant data from the [TUS report](#) and a related [research paper](#) in their joint advocacy. UN Women also provided technical support to the Association of Young Lawyers of Georgia (GYLA) in drafting a written opinion for the Court on the State Pensions Law, in which UN Women contributed a chapter presenting gender statistics on women's unpaid work and the challenges of balancing care work, the gender disparity in labour market participation rates, as well as women's access to assets and their representation in business. [This document](#) was submitted to the court and will be officially published.

- **Albania's Ombudsperson is now integrating gender-related indicators on human rights violations in annual reports.** In 2021, the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) embarked on a strategic partnership with the People's Advocate (Ombudsperson) to harness the potential of administrative data to integrate gender perspectives into [Albania's](#) human rights monitoring. UN Women provided technical support on establishing internal process for compiling data and producing new gender indicators to track human rights violations. These efforts resulted in a set of indicators that have been published annually by INSTAT in the statistical publication [Women and Men in Albania](#). The new indicators have already been used by the People's Advocate in their latest [annual report](#) presented to Parliament. This has increased the public accessibility of information about human rights violations, bringing data closer to a broader spectrum of users, including policymakers, researchers and the general public.
- **Data journalists in Kyrgyzstan use innovative multimedia formats to inform new audiences about gender inequalities.** UN Women partnered with young data journalists, popular media outlets and academia to shed light on gender inequalities and potentially inform policy and advocacy through [data-driven visual storytelling and capacity-building initiatives](#). The resulting stories have garnered significant attention, reaching from 25,000 to 190,000 people each, with one of them being recognized by the Global Investigative Journalism Network as one of the [Top 10 data stories](#).
- **Women Count conceptualized, designed and implemented a variety of dissemination and communication initiatives to support countries to promote gender data literacy and raise awareness of gender inequalities.** These initiatives collectively reached more than 139,000 people and generated at least 49 media clippings through content created for social media and UN Women's website, including: a social media campaign with [four animated video reels](#) addressing gender stereotypes in [North Macedonia](#); and a [web story](#) raising awareness of the prevalence of VAW in [Georgia](#); a social media campaign featuring [23 data cards](#); and two website articles (<https://bit.ly/48PxDeh> and <https://bit.ly/3PHbfNJ>) to raise awareness on gender data on women's employment, unpaid care work, political participation and VAW in [Kyrgyzstan](#); and a social media campaign with [12 data cards](#) to raise awareness on gender inequalities in [Kazakhstan](#).

## Plans for 2024

1. **Creating an enabling environment:** Finalize a gender data assessment of Uzbekistan's NSS; develop and/or revise the national gender data roadmap and national priority gender equality indicators in Albania, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan; bolster resource mobilization; and expand partnerships with development actors and CSO sector.
2. **Increasing data production:** Support the design and implementation of full-scale VAW surveys in Kyrgyzstan and Belarus; finalize a full-scale dedicated time-use survey in Armenia and start collaboration on implementation of time-use module in Belarus; design and pilot the Structure of Earning Survey in Georgia; strengthen an analytical module for the Domestic Violence Case-Management System by expanding the list of gender indicators, and prepare a publication analysing domestic violence trends in Kosovo; launch a mapping and assessment of key sources of administrative data in Albania; reprocess and analyze Labour Force Survey to generate new indicators on WEE (Albania, Georgia) and mainstream gender into Census data analysis and dissemination plan (Albania, Kyrgyzstan and North Macedonia); support non-conventional data-collection initiatives on femicide in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, research on victim-blaming attitudes in Kyrgyzstan.
3. **Improving data accessibility and use:** Launch and promote the use of the Gender Data Portal in Kyrgyzstan and the Time-Use Data platform in Georgia, and integrate a dedicated regional Gender Data and Statistics webpage within UN Women's regional website; develop data and research knowledge products, such as the Country Gender Equality Profile in Kyrgyzstan, TUS Report in Armenia, Georgia's TUS Methodological note, countries and sub-regional gender snapshots and factsheets (Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan); support the work on valuation of unpaid care work and costing of violence in Georgia, finalize the second VAW survey report for Kazakhstan; develop statistics training modules in Albania and Kyrgyzstan; conduct the gender datathon in Albania and gender data art exhibition in Central Asia; offer targeted training session to data producers and users (Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan) prepare social media campaigns to launch knowledge products; and compile at least two use cases and two case studies documenting promising practices on gender statistics for knowledge-sharing and potential replication.

1 All references to Kosovo should be understood in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).