Photo: UN Women/Amanda Voisard

WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

GLOBAL

The issue

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. Yet significant challenges to collecting and using timely and reliable gender data to this end remain:

- Weak policy space, legal and financial environments pose barriers to progress and 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 of more gender data being mainstreamed through development policies.

- Several critical data gaps remain that limit our understanding of key issues, particularly on topics such as women's economic empowerment (WEE), violence against women (VAW), the gender and environment nexus, and governance and participation.

- Lack of access and limited use of gender data pose challenges. Data need to inform policymaking, advocacy and accountability for delivering results on global gender equality and women's empowerment commitments.

Our response

- **Create an enabling environment**: Provide programmatic and technical guidance to countries and regions to implement gender statistics activities; and organize and participate in major global and regional events to promote global advocacy on gender data.

- **Increase data production**: Produce guidance and tools distilling best practices in key areas, including time use, gender and the environment surveys (GES) and VAW administrative data; and advocate for the development of global standards on the measurement of citizen data (CD) and technology facilitated violence against women (TF VAW).

- **Improve data accessibility and use**: Improve access to data, knowledge products and stories through the Women Count Data Hub; and increase capacities to use and communicate gender data.

Thematic priorities

Violence against women: Develop new standards for measuring intimate-partner violence and TF VAW, building on the existing partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO); femicide, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); sexual harassment in the workplace, with the International Labour Organization (ILO), etc.; and support countries to conduct VAW surveys and explore the use of administrative data to provide timely evidence to inform policies and programmes to end VAW.

Economic empowerment: Deepen partnerships with the ILO and World Bank to support countries to fill critical data gaps on unpaid care and domestic work; and produce global guidance and multi-country analysis to distill lessons learned on time-use surveys (TUS).

Gender and environment: Develop methodological standards on measuring the gender-environment nexus; and organize events to exchange best practices, lessons learned and discuss solutions for the production and use of gender and the environment data, such as at UN Climate Conferences.

Governance and participation: UN Women will continue its role as custodian agency for several Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 indicators, to increase data availability on key areas of women's leadership and gender-responsive governance for SDG monitoring.

Results 2023
Creating an enabling environment

- **Global inter-agency coordination has influenced experts and UN partners to take action on gender data.** With UN Women as Co-Chair of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) as well as the Steering Committee of the Revision of the 1984 UN Handbook on Household Surveys, gender data and intersectionality will be included as part of the revised handbook for the first time. This is expected to improve the quality and diversity of regular gender data collection in household surveys. As a result of UN Women's continued advocacy through its participation in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) and Expert Group on Environment Statistics, some of the indicators from the Asia-Pacific core set of gender-environment indicators will be adopted for the

Global Set in 2024, replacing existing indicators for which methodology has not been developed. This will support countries to improve the collection and use of gender-environment data (see Asia-Pacific annex for more). UN Women also contributed to global work on harmonizing and modernizing time-use surveys (TUS) 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 work.

- **Women Count continues expanding UN Women's global footprint on gender data to more regions, including through global efforts**. After expanding to the Latin America and the Caribbean region in 2022, Women Count initiated another new regional project in the **Arab States** in 2023. As a result, the programme was supporting at least 65 countries in 2023 (for a total of 110 countries since 2016). As a result of UN Women's technical support, in collaboration with the ILO and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), at least four countries in the Caribbean (**Grenada**, **Dominica**, **Saint Lucia**, and **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**) will include time-use questions in their Labour Force Surveys in 2024/2025 for the first time. Time-use modules are likewise planned to be added in other existing surveys of at least four more countries (**Indonesia**, **Malawi**, **Republic of Moldova**, and **Zimbabwe**).

- **UN Women and partners are driving global efforts to improve the measurement of technology-facilitated violence against women (TF VAW).** In response to the rise of existing and emerging forms of violence against women facilitated by technology, UN Women is leading global efforts to develop methods of measuring this type of violence, in partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the WHO and National Statistics Offices (NSOs).[1] Exploratory studies conducted by UN Women to pilot-test innovative methods using web surveys in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, qualitative and legal research, and the use of unconventional data sources like search engine and social media analytics in Libya and in Asia and the Pacific will enable better tracking and inform future responses. UN Women also engaged groups of gender statistics experts convened by the UN regional economic commissions in 2023 to socialize global developments and get their inputs in the development of methodological standards to fill gaps in the definition and measurement of TF VAW.[2] This has secured buy-in from regional actors, which is an important step towards globally agree methodological standards for measuring VAW. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe agreed to

have a dedicated session on TF VAW at its next Group of Experts on Gender Statistics Meeting in 2025. The measurement of TF VAW will also be introduced as an agenda item at the next session of the UN Statistical Commission in early 2024. This will further promote the accurate, reliable and comparable production of data on the extent of TF VAW to effectively inform and monitor targeted policies and programmes.

- **UN Women continues to influence global conversations on gender data, championing a call to action on gender and environment data.** UN Women has strengthened awareness of the importance of gender data by organizing and participating in global advocacy events during the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), UN General Assembly, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 9th Global Forum on Gender Statistics (GFGS), 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), etc. On the margins of COP28 in Dubai in November 2023, UN Women and partners[3] convened a 2-day "Counting on a sustainable future: A global conference on gender and environment data," which brought together more than 200 representatives from Member States, UN agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia and NSOs to exchange best practices, lessons learned and discuss solutions for the production and use of gender and environment data. An outcome of the conference was a Global Call to Action 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. Since, there has been an increase in demand from over 20 countries for UN Women's support to conduct a GES, support the uptake and implementation of the Call to Action, and continue the discussions on gender-environment data in 2024 at the other Rio conventions on biodiversity and combating desertification (see Chapter 2 for more). In addition, the 9th GFGS provided an opportunity to share UN Women's development of a training module on statistical leadership, which resulted in a decision to exchange experiences between Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and organize a side event at the 55th Session of the UNSC in 2024, to further promote coherent efforts globally and across regions.

- **At least 667 participants have already started a new online course for public servants and policymakers on how to use data to inform policies and programmes to end VAW.** Launched by UN Women and WHO, in collaboration with Apolitical, the free course is offered on Apolitical's peer-to-peer learning platform, an online community for people working in government and closely supporting

government. By completing this new course, public servants and policymakers will gain knowledge about methodologies and the vital role of data in addressing VAW. According to one participant: "*This knowledge will empower me as a gender-based officer to make more informed decisions, implement targeted interventions, and contribute effectively to initiatives aimed at combating violence against women*". The four-part course covers: what is considered VAW data, and why it is essential; types of data, collection methods, and considerations for managing and reporting (particularly related to prevalence surveys and administrative data); underreported and underresearched knowledge gaps for capturing diverse women's experiences of violence – such as older women, women with disabilities, and migrant and Indigenous women; and methodological challenges and innovations regarding data collection, such as in times of crisis (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic and in humanitarian emergencies), as well as ethical and safety concerns.

Increasing data production

- **More than half of gender-related SDG data are now available globally, after having crossed the historical halfway mark for the 2030 Agenda.** At least 56% of the SDG gender indicators now have data available globally. All eight Women Count programme countries have exceeded the global average for SDG gender data availability: 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). UN Women has contributed to these positive efforts through continued support in these countries to collect timely data on key areas to improve SDG monitoring.

- **Research on the effectiveness of innovative survey techniques reveals how to reliably estimate the prevalence of IPV using remote survey methodologies in the context of emergencies or crises.** In 2023, Methodological research analysed the validity of the use of list-randomization survey techniques in producing intimate partner violence estimates in the 2021 VAW rapid gender assessments (RGAs) conducted by UN Women in 13 countries. List randomization was among several innovative survey tools used to protect the safety of respondents (and interviewers) at a time when remote data collection was arguably the most feasible approach to fill much-needed VAW data gaps during the pandemic and related lockdowns. This methodological research is expected to guide future VAW survey implementers in

designing effective survey questions to produce robust prevalence IPV estimates.

- **The newly established Collaborative on Citizen Data is paving the way for more countries to use non-traditional data.** In recognition of the continuing critical data gaps for monitoring the SDGs and official statistics more broadly, and the potential of inclusive data to support effective reporting and policy development, the "Collaborative on Citizen Data" was launched in 2023 to unleash the potential of citizens' contributions to data. UN Women is co-chairing the Collaborative and spearheading the focus on groups traditionally left behind in statistics, such as women and girls, LGBTIQ+ people, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples. Despite its potential, unleashing the full power of citizen data faces challenges related to e.g., building trust among actors in the data ecosystem, ensuring the quality and long-term sustainability of data collected by non-State actors, strengthening the statistical capacity of CSOs, and securing the ability of NSOs to support and foster non-traditional data initiatives. In response to these challenges, the Collaborative is leading the participatory development of a global framework to set the standards and guide the way forward on citizen data, with a draft "Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data" to be presented at the 55th UN Statistical Commission in early 2024, which includes an operational definition of citizen data, the guiding principles and strategies for effective citizen engagement, practical approaches to enable the sustainable coordination, production and use of citizen data, and a road map for its implementation.

Improving data use

- **An essential pillar in UN Women's digital presence, the Gender Data Hub is primed to incorporate the Global Database on Violence against Women.** The Data Hub amassed 700,000 views in 2023, far exceeding the 487,000 views in 2022 and surpassing its goal for the year. The Hub published 50 new content pieces, including publications, stories, news, a visualization of good practices on SDG 5.1.1 (on legal frameworks) and a dedicated page on gender and environment resources. Further, the Hub has been recognized as one of the three pillars of UN Women's digital presence, and as a result is expanding to incorporate the Global Database on Violence against Women, another of UN Women's most prolific portals and a mandated initiative to track measures on VAW.

Development began in 2023 and is scheduled for launch in mid-2024. The Global Database provides users with easy access to up-to-date information on measures undertaken by governments to address different types of VAW and to strengthen the knowledge base for assessing the effectiveness of policy responses. The database includes more than 7,000 measures across 193 countries. In 2023, the Global Database attracted more than 560,000 users, including policymakers, researchers and academics, activists and the general public. A revamped Global Database will be launched on the Hub in 2024, with improved usability and the aim of expanding access to more data and resources.

- **Countries now know how to improve the production and use of administrative data on violence against women.** In 2022 UN Women and WHO, produced global guidance on improving the production and use of administrative data on VAW. Since then, the guidance has been instrumental to creating an international standard for the collection and use of VAW administrative data, establishing a minimum VAW administrative data set and has been influencing national and regional guidelines and protocols on VAW administrative data collection, particularly in the Caribbean and the Pacific. To further promote the uptake of the guidance, a number of knowledge products were produced to support countries to strengthen administrative data systems, including an animated explainer video on administrative data, which amassed 2,000 views on YouTube, and two briefs (one on how to design a survivor-centred administrative data system and one on why the collection of administrative data is important to end VAW).

- **The Gender Data Outlook with PARIS21 assesses countries gender statistics capacities.** A new flagship series entitled the "Gender Data Outlook", 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 where countries stand in their capacity to translate gender data investments into policy change, especially focusing on countries where the Women Count Phase II is being implemented. To inform the development of the report, an in-depth review of existing statistical capacity-measurement efforts was developed with guidance from the Technical Advisory Group. Prepared in 2023, the report and technical framework will be officially launched in 2024.

Plans for 2024

1. **Creating an enabling environment**: Develop guidance and tools on good practices on citizen data, TUS as well as the production and use of new or more policy-relevant time-use-related indicators; participate in inter-agency meetings and strengthening partnerships, for example with the ILO and WHO to monitor and report on the gender-specific SDGs; and provide technical and programmatic support to countries and regions to implement phase II projects.

2. **Increasing data production**: Continue to advocate for the development of global standards on the measurement of citizen-generated data and TF VAW; conduct a multi-country analysis of time-use surveys to produce new insights using existing TUS data to inform sectoral policy and programmatic actions.

3. **Improving data accessibility and use**: Launch the Gender Data Outlook flagship report in collaboration with PARIS21, assessing countries' statistical maturity on gender data and capacity and introducing a typology of gender data uses; and update the Women Count Data Hub to improve its functionality and the accessibility of data, knowledge products and stories.

---

1   Other global initiatives contributing to the process includes the Action Coalitions on Gender-Based Violence and on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, the E-Safety Commissioner of Australia, the Association for Progressive Communications, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and the University College of London.
2   Panel sessions on the measurement of TF VAW were organized by UN Women in 2023 at the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECA) Group of Experts on Gender Statistics meeting, at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), at the Pacific Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics, and at the Joint AfDB-PARIS21-UNECA-UN Women Africa Regional Workshop on Gender Statistics.
3   The Office of the COP28 Presidency, the UN High-level Champion for Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).