



WOMEN COUNT PHASE II GLOBAL

The issue

Progress on national and international gender equality commitments depend on the world's ability to implement effective evidence-based policies that respond to the needs of all women and girls. Yet 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 nearly half of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee members allocated either nothing or only a negligible amount of official development assistance to gender-related statistics activities.
- **Critical data gaps** remain that limit understanding of key issues, particularly on topics such as women's economic empowerment (WEE), violence against women (VAW), the gender and environment nexus, and gender-responsive governance. Without bold commitments to fill these gaps, the ability to measure progress towards achieving the gender equality commitments of the 2030 Agenda will remain impaired.
- **Lack of documentation of use cases**, lack of access and limited use of gender data pose challenges. Data need to inform policymaking, advocacy and accountability for progress 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 surveys (TUS), gender and the environment surveys (GES) and VAW administrative data; and advocate for the development of global standards on the measurement of citizen data, administrative data 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:** Produce new estimates of intimate-partner violence and develop new standards for measuring non-partner sexual violence and TF VAW, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); pilot the statistical framework on measuring femicide, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); produce data on sexual harassment in the workplace, with the International Labour Organization (ILO); advance the measurement of violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics; and support countries to conduct VAW surveys and strengthen capacities to produce and use administrative data to inform laws, policies and programmes to end VAW.
- **Women's economic empowerment:** Deepen partnerships with the ILO and World Bank to support countries to fill critical data gaps on unpaid care and domestic work; develop global guidance to capture key lessons from TUS; and produce a multi-country analysis to generate new, policy-relevant time-use and care-related statistics, offering fresh insights.
- **Gender and the environment:** Develop methodological standards on measuring the gender-environment nexus; produce gender and environment data through specialized surveys and data reprocessing, including data integration with geospatial information; and organize events to exchange best practices, lessons learned and discuss solutions for gender and the environment data production and use, such as at the UN Climate Change Conference, UN Biodiversity Conference and UN Desertification Conference.
- **Governance and participation:** Continue UN Women's work as custodian agency for several SDG 5 indicators, to increase data availability on key areas of women's leadership and gender-responsive governance for SDG monitoring.

Results in 2024

Creating an enabling environment

- **Global inter-agency coordination has influenced experts and UN partners to take action to better integrate gender perspectives in their work.** As Co-Chair of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS), UN Women has taken decisive action in response to challenges such as the stoppage of the DHS Program – delivering a [statement](#) at the 56th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) that identifies key short- and medium-term actions to be coordinated by a Task Force and proposes a rapid assessment of the impact of this stoppage in collaboration with ISWGHS and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). Additionally, as a Steering Committee member of the revision of the 1984 *UN Handbook on Household Surveys*, UN Women ensured its first dedicated chapter on mainstreaming gender in surveys. UN Women's advocacy contributed to the shift towards an individual focus in household-level surveys, enabling a more comprehensive capture of people's lived experiences and intra-

household and intra-household differences between women and men. Traditional household surveys often assume equal access to resources among members, masking gender disparities. For example, household income data rarely account for individual control over financial resources or decision-making, which can obscure economic inequalities between women and men. By adopting individuals as units of measurement and interviewing multiple household members separately, surveys can provide a clearer picture of gendered access to resources, decision-making and economic well-being. This change is expected to improve the quality and inclusivity of gender data and ensure a more accurate representation of individuals. These efforts demonstrate how UN Women's advocacy shapes global statistical practices and ensures that gender data remain a priority in the international statistical community.

- **UN Women's leadership on TF VAW statistics has been recognized through an official mandate to develop a global statistical framework, and its contributions to two new resolutions.** Through Women Count, UN Women has actively engaged National Statistics Offices (NSOs), regional groups of experts on gender statistics of the UN regional economic commissions, and the IAEG-GS on TF VAW. It has also produced a growing body of evidence on data and methodological gaps. These efforts successfully informed discussions and the decision of the 55th session of the UNSC, which for the first time considered data gaps related to TF VAW. As a result, the Commission officially mandated UN Women, along with WHO, UNFPA and other partners, to develop a global statistical framework on the measurement of TF VAW. UN Women also informed the outcomes of several General Assembly resolutions in 2024, through inputs to the Secretary-General's reports on global efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation ([A/79/514](#)) and to end trafficking in women and girls ([A/79/322](#)); as well as its drafting of the report on intensifying efforts to end TF VAW ([A/79/500](#)). It also provided direct support to Member States' negotiations on these respective resolutions, including the TF VAW resolution ([A/RES/79/152](#)), and the child, early and forced marriage resolution ([A/RES/79/158](#)). In addition, UN Women provided substantial technical support for the development of new Human Rights Council resolutions on addressing TF VAW ([A/HRC/56/L.15](#)) and eliminating domestic violence ([A/HRC/53/L.5/REV.1](#)). UN Women also worked closely with the seven entities of the [Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence Against Women](#) (EDVAW Platform) on addressing the backlash against women's rights and gender equality, strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks addressing emerging forms of violence (such as TF VAW and the nexus between climate change and VAW), as well as supporting women's rights organizations and feminist movements.

Increasing data production

- **SDG gender data availability increased to 63% of gender-specific SDG indicators in 2024,** up 7% from the 56% availability in 2023. On average, eight Women Count countries now have 70% of gender data available. That is seven percentage points above the global average.
- **Select findings from the Bahamas' first-ever Women's Health Survey, which asked questions about VAW and was informed by UN Women/WHO guidelines on remote VAW data collection via telephone interviews, were disseminated in 2024.** In the wake of COVID-19, [technical guidance on collecting VAW data through telephone interviews](#) was developed by the [UN Women and WHO Joint Programme on VAW data](#) in 2022. According to Étoile Pinder, President of Sanigest Internacional, the consulting firm that conducted the Bahamas survey: "It really validated our recommendations when your guidance came out. A) the guidance was great and B) our pilot was in-tune because it fed really nicely in with your recommendations. ... it wasn't just us saying it." She says the guidance also helped her team shorten economic questions and make other important adjustments to the survey. The Bahamas survey was conducted in 2022 with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The survey results show that one in

four women (25.2%) in the Bahamas has suffered physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lifetime. An IDB spokesperson told *The Nassau Guardian*: “These statistics underscore the importance of data on women’s health and well-being to inform legislative and policy reforms to create safer communities for both men and women in The Bahamas.” The UN Women technical guidance and its 2021 VAW surveys were also the basis for an article published in *The Lancet*, entitled [“Rapid surveys on violence against women in crisis contexts: decision-making guidance based on the UN Women Rapid Gender Assessment surveys on violence against women during COVID-19.”](#)

Improving data use

- **Gender Data Hub traffic continues to grow, with its user base doubling.** The [Data Hub](#) amassed 742,000 views in 2024, up from 700,000 in 2023 and surpassing the 2024 goal of 500,000 views. Further, the number of users nearly doubled from 176,000 in 2023 to 315,000 in 2024. In addition, 26 new pieces of content were produced and disseminated on the Hub. In a major expansion, the updated version of the [Global Database on Violence against Women](#) found a new home on the Data Hub, increasing the accessibility of qualitative data on GBV measures for a large audience.
- **[Gender Data Outlook \(GDO\) 2024](#) findings are shaping gender statistics programming and future investments.** Produced by UN Women in partnership with PARIS21, the GDO assesses countries’ levels of statistical maturity using a new global framework and corresponding measures for gender data capacity. The results are shaping future efforts, collaborations and investments to strengthen countries’ gender data capacity. For instance, several countries in UN Women’s Europe and Central Asia region will use the GDO findings to shape their Country Strategic Notes and prioritize gender data-related interventions. In the Asia-Pacific region, the UN Women Regional Office and the Pacific Community (SPC) are working together to apply the GDO framework to more Pacific Island countries, with assessment results expected to inform the implementation of the subregional gender data strategy and targeted investments or interventions in gender data. Similar efforts are underway in Africa, where UN Women Regional Offices in East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and the Arab States are jointly producing a report on gender data capacity, drawing on the GDO framework, for publication and launch at the African Forum on Gender Statistics in 2025. Further, GDO findings are being used to assess the progress of country inventions under Women Count Phase II and guiding the selection of priority countries and the design of targeted interventions for Phase III. Recognizing the need to harmonize and align measurement approaches within the broader data ecosystem, UN Women, PARIS21, the World Bank and Open Data Watch are in ongoing discussions to explore coordinated efforts to assess gender data capacity, moving forward. These conversations aim to reduce duplication, promote complementarity and strengthen coherence in global support for gender data systems. In the GDO, UN Women and PARIS21 also analysed 108 statistical laws globally, offering practical insights for countries updating their legislation that will serve to integrate gender-sensitive provisions and strengthen inclusive and effective gender data systems. Due to limited quantitative measures of data use, UN Women and PARIS21 jointly developed a novel typology of gender data use through a qualitative analysis of 58 documented gender data use cases across 30 countries. This complementary analysis offers insights on the key enablers of gender data use: investing in technical and soft skills, tools and capacities to better mainstream gender; improving accessibility and communication; and supporting multi-stakeholder collaboration. The Women Count programme is using the typology to inform efforts to build a repository of use cases where gender data, collected with UN Women support, have driven meaningful change.
- **Data on national VAWG measures are feeding into analysis and evidence on the [Global Database on VAW](#).** National submissions to the 2024 [Secretary-General’s report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women](#) and to the [30-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (BPfA) were

thoroughly reviewed and all measures pertaining to addressing TF VAW were extracted to feed into the Global Database on VAW, now housed under the Women Count Data Hub, for further analysis. In total, 300 measures were collected from 91 Member States across all categories of measures recorded in the database. Among these, prevention measures, laws and services were mainly reported.ⁱ A category was created for the types of measures recorded in the database to classify and easily filter these measures through the new 'TF VAWG' filter. While the previous analysis conducted by UN Women in 2023 revealed that Asia-Pacific was the region with the largest number of measures, this new analysis found that Europe followed by Latin America and the Caribbean were the two regions that reported the most measures since the last review of the BPfA in 2020. These initial findings are being further explored and an analytical report on trends in approaches to end TF VAW will be published in 2025, which will contribute to formulating evidence-based recommendations on addressing policy gaps to end TF VAW.

- **UN Women is leveraging its mandate to maintain an [inventory of UN system efforts to address violence against women](#)**, allowing for inter-agency coordination and accountability of the UN system. In early 2025, UN Women launched an exercise to update the inventory – which is the only existing compilation of updated, comprehensive information on UN activities to end VAWG at country, regional and global level – with expected contributions from 17 UN agencies and funds working on ending VAWG. The update includes emerging issues that may not have been well-reflected in the original BPfA, and notably includes TF VAW as a distinct category of reporting for the first time. The updated inventory will reflect efforts undertaken since the last review of the BPfA and further analysis will be produced to showcase the efforts of the UN system to address TF VAW, with a view to improving coordination and strengthening impact.

Plans for 2025

1. **Creating an enabling environment:** Develop guidance and tools on mainstreaming gender in individual- and household-based surveys, TUS and good practices on citizen data, including its integration into surveys; serve as Chair and Steering Committee member of the Collaboratives on Administrative Data and Citizen Data, respectively; strengthen partnerships and collaboration, for example with the World Bank and ILO to better coordinate country gender data projects for TUS implementation; participate in inter-agency meetings and advocate for mainstreaming gender in the initiatives of the international statistical community; provide technical and programmatic support to countries and regions towards Phase II closure and strategic planning for Phase III; and develop new methodologies on measuring sexual harassment and TF VAW.
2. **Increasing data production:** Collaborate with partners such as the World Bank and PARIS21 on continuing efforts to assess countries' statistical maturity and readiness on gender statistics development; advocate for the implementation of the Statistical Framework on Citizen Data to address critical data gaps that official statistics are unable to fill; conduct a multi-country analysis of time-use surveys to produce new insights using existing TUS data from Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam to better inform sectoral policies and programmes; strengthen capacities and provide technical support for the production of prevalence and administrative data on VAW, including on femicide.
3. **Improving data accessibility and use:** In 2025, a major revamp of the Data Hub will be implemented, introducing a new navigation. Further, a major enhancement, the Women Count in Conflict and Crisis platform, will be released on the Data Hub. There are several additional enhancements underway, including a climate scorecard linked to *Progress of the World's Women*, planned for launch at COP. The Data Hub will also showcase gender-related citizen data resources to make them more accessible. The programme will ensure that these resources are effectively integrated and easily discoverable, aligning with

upcoming Data Hub navigation improvements. This approach aims to provide users, especially CSOs and communities, with seamless access to key insights, publications and best practices on gender-related citizen data. Moreover, the Global Database on VAW will be leveraged at key advocacy events in 2025 to assess progress and call for accelerated action to end VAW.

ⁱ Trends in measures on TF VAW reported by Member States in 2020–2025 include: Prevention (27%), laws (25%), services (21%), research and statistical data (14%), policies (6%), regional initiatives (4%), monitoring and evaluation (2%), budgets and institutional mechanisms (1%, respectively).