



Photo: UN Women/Carlos Ngeleka

OVERVIEW: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The issue

Despite significant progress in Women Count phase I, at the beginning of Phase II remaining challenges in East and Southern Africa (ESA) include:

- Gaps stemming from a lack of political will, limited institutional capacity, poor coordination, inadequate normative frameworks, the absence of national minimum sets of gender indicators to enable reporting, as well as limited or non-existent data quality assurance frameworks.
- Substantial gender data gaps remain on issues such as women's economic empowerment (WEE), time use, violence against women (VAW), governance, land tenure and gender and the environment. Administrative data systems are generally of poor quality and underused for statistics and reporting. There was a dependence on donor funding to support household surveys for gender statistics, making them unsustainable.
- There was a need to approach gender data and statistics communication, advocacy and the promotion of data use in a more strategic and systematic manner.

Our response

- **Create an enabling environment:** UN Women fostered greater collaboration between regional stakeholders via the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS); expanded partnerships with regional economic communities; supported more countries to assess constraints to mainstreaming gender into national statistics systems (NSSs); developed new National Strategies on the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and gender statistics sector plans; and improved the gender statistics capacities of government, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other key actors.

- **Increase data production:** UN Women supported countries to strengthen quality assurance in all areas of data collection, including to produce or reprocess data in new areas, such as VAW, WEE and the gender-environment-humanitarian nexus; explored the use of non-conventional data sources; put gender indicator sets at regional and national level into practice to improve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring; and modernized statistical operations and business processes, including to improve the use of administrative data to address gaps, through the Collaborative on Administrative Data (CAD).
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** UN Women supported countries to increase the accessibility and use of gender statistics by creating gender data portals and dashboards; improved international reporting – such as on the SDGs, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), Beijing+30 and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) commitments; strengthened outreach and communication; and partnered with academic and research institutions to develop papers and statistical knowledge products.

Where we work

22
countries

Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Key results

Creating an enabling environment

- **Three regional economic communities developed their first-ever gender statistics strategies, contributing to improved harmonization of gender data production and use.** As a result of these strategies, developed with support of UN Women through Women Count, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the East African Community (EAC) are now better positioned to coordinate and sustain the regular production of gender data:
 - The [SADC Gender Statistics Strategy](#), adopted in 2023, has been used by SADC for multi-year planning and resource mobilization. Since its adoption, UN Women has strengthened its partnership with SADC serving as the technical lead for SADC-hosted capacity-building on financial inclusion, VAW administrative data systems and VAW prevalence surveys benefiting Government officials and statisticians from NSOs of the 15 Member States. According to an SADC evaluation of its reporting following this technical support, both its annual GBV (gender-based-violence) reporting framework and Member State reporting quality have been significantly strengthened through clearer indicator definitions, improved metadata and agreed-upon methods for measuring quantitative indicators. By promoting international statistical best practices and delivering targeted training, government officials from all 15 SADC Member States now have practical administrative data skills. According to Jagai Deepchandsingh, Senior Programme Officer for Statistics at SADC: *“The Gender Statistics Strategy was used by the secretariat to inform resource mobilization for gender-statistics-related work with Member States. The work done jointly with UN Women since 2024 has also contributed towards the harmonization of gender statistics practices among member States, especially in the fields of financial inclusion and GBV.”*

- IGAD developed its first-ever gender statistics strategy in 2025, which was adopted by the IGAD partner States Ministerial meeting in early 2026. The strategy is currently being used to develop the IGAD Regional Statistics Development Strategy III 2026–2030 and will help to ensure that gender statistics have a central place therein. The strategy was developed based on extensive consultation with Member States, other partners and a UN Women-supported [study that identified WPS data and capacity gender gaps](#) in the seven IGAD Member States.
- As a result of UN Women’s support for the development of the **EAC’s** first-ever gender statistics strategy (2025–2030), EAC now has a concrete action plan that will guide gender statistics activities and resource mobilization in its eight partner States. This strategy was validated and adopted by EAC director generals in 2025. The subsequent development of the EAC [Harmonized Guidelines for the Compilation of Gender Statistics](#) has further strengthened regional coherence by standardizing approaches to gender data production, analysis and dissemination, improving data quality, comparability and alignment with continental and global commitments.
- **Women Count support catalysed the adoption of national Gender Statistics Strategies in three countries, increasing the visibility and elevating the importance of gender statistics in their national data ecosystems.** Supported by Women Count, all three of these strategies integrate gender statistics into NSDSs, embedding gender data within national statistical priorities. Overall, these investments in normative frameworks have advanced the institutionalization of gender statistics across ESA, improved data availability and quality, and reinforced a growing regional commitment to gender-responsive, evidence-based policymaking. Complementary support for evidence-based gender statistics products has further strengthened data use for policy and decision-making:
 - **Mozambique’s** [Gender Statistics Strategy](#), adopted in 2025, has already contributed to shaping several efforts, including: the creation of the Central Technical Group and the Central Coordination Group for Gender Statistics as coordination structures; the mapping of gender indicators for a future national database; capacity-building ahead of its TUS; and the organization of a seminar on administrative data.
 - **South Sudan’s** first-ever [Gender Statistics Strategy \(2023–2033\)](#), adopted in 2023 with support from UN Women and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), was used to highlight gender in various sections of the country’s second NSDS, which is still being developed.
 - **Zimbabwe’s** 2025 **Gender Statistics Sector Plan**¹ was successfully developed, marking a significant step towards strengthening Zimbabwe’s national gender data ecosystem. The Sector Plan also played a foundational and catalytic role in shaping both the content and priorities of the fourth NSDS (2026–2030), particularly with regard to gender mainstreaming, indicator harmonization, institutional coordination and data system modernization. This has ensured that gender is mainstreamed as well as reflected as a national statistical priority for the next 5 years.
- **UN Women scaled gender responsive budgeting across ESA to ensure gender data informs national budgets and improves transparency on government spending for gender equality.** Gender data supported by Women Count informed the revision of 12 national laws/policies/strategies and plans, including the integration of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) approaches in **South Africa, Ethiopia and Tanzania**. With Women Count support, the Government of **South Africa** published its first-ever gender budget statement in 2025 and its second in February 2026. This was made possible through training on gender statistics and improved GRB by ministries. (See Impact story 8). In **Ethiopia**, UN

Women supported the production of a [toolkit to mainstream gender in budgeting processes](#), which was used to train senior government officials of five pilot departments in 2024 and 12 in 2025. The GRB process not only uses gender data but also produces gender data. During planning, the GRB process forces ministries, departments and agencies to reflect and integrate gender considerations into their planning. Once gender is overtly included in plans and budgets, data are generated on planned expenditures on gender-related interventions, increasing transparency and government accountability. *“Women Count was instrumental in helping to alleviate budget constraints and low visibility of gender and gender data issues,”* said Sorsie Deme, Director of Gender and Social Affairs Mainstreaming Directorate at the Ethiopian Statistical Service. Women Count-supported data and research in **Ethiopia**, such as the 2024 [Country Gender Equality Profile](#), a 2024 [migration policy brief](#) and a 2022 [Gender Asset Gap Survey](#), contributed to multiple [gender-responsive changes in various sectors](#). Informed policies include the draft 2024 *National Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy*, migration laws and policies, and economic and agricultural programmes. Lastly, UN Women supported the establishment of a Community of Practice on GRB in **Tanzania** to facilitate knowledge-sharing and learnings on GRB.

- **At least 1,988 users and producers of statistics from 22 countries across the ESA region now have strengthened capacities to produce and analyse gender data.** This includes 557 government officials who received training across the region in 2025, strengthening national capacities in key areas such as GBV, time use and administrative data, supporting higher-quality data collection and more actionable evidence for reporting and decision-making.
 - Statisticians and government officials in **Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania,² Zambia and Zimbabwe** – built practical skills to generate high-quality GBV prevalence data, strengthen GBV administrative data systems and improve the governance and use of GBV data for reporting and research. According to Emminielle Elizabeth, Senior Statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics of **Seychelles**, the GBV administrative data quality management workshop *“strengthened our understanding ... and provided practical guidance on improving governance, coordination and data-sharing mechanisms for GBV statistics. As a result, Seychelles has taken steps to strengthen collaboration and data systems. Notably, we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Statistics Mauritius, with a focus on gender data.”* She also attended the GBV prevalence survey training in Mauritius, which she says it *“enhanced our understanding of how to design and implement such surveys, including key ethical considerations.”* Furthermore, according to anonymous feedback from one administrative data-holder and participant from **Malawi**: *“We learned that data governance is important in that, it ensures the security, accuracy and usability of data. Also, that data should be relevant to the users.”*
 - In addition, 30 officials in **Rwanda** and 19 in **Somalia** received training on gender data production, uptake and use. Another 161 government officials in **Ethiopia** learned about gender mainstreaming. In **Zimbabwe**, 249 officials benefited from GBV administrative data training, with 125 data collectors trained on administering the Technology-Facilitated Violence Training module as part of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey and 188 data collectors received training on administering time-use survey (TUS) module of the *Quarterly Labour Force Survey*. According to an anonymous post-training evaluation from **Zimbabwe**: *“This was a very insightful workshop focusing on the practical issues that we face in data collection and use.”* Thirty officials from the NSO in **Mozambique** were also trained as trainers who in turn trained data collectors for the **Mozambique** TUS pilot survey, while 20 officials from **Statistics South Africa** received training on data linking.

Increasing data production

- **The availability of gender-specific SDG indicator data for the ESA region more than doubled in a decade, increasing from 30% in 2019, to 41% in 2022 to 62% as of 2025.** This was achieved through advocacy for the production and use of gender data, promoting the inclusion of gender in National Statistics Development Plans as well as the development of gender statistics sector plans and national gender indicator frameworks that integrate SDG indicators where possible, supporting the re-analysis of existing survey data to calculate SDG indicators. The production of the first [ESA SDG Gender Snapshot report](#), co-published with UNECA in 2025, provides a clear picture of progress, persistent gaps and urgent priorities across key domains including poverty, health, education, leadership and decision-making, violence against women and climate justice. The *Snapshot* serves not only as an analytical product, but as a strategic tool for policymaking and advocacy aimed at achieving transformative change for women and girls across East and Southern Africa. The data in the report has been used to shape advocacy messages, media engagement and as a source of key regional gender indicators for the regional thematic leads of UN Women. UN Women invested in developing similar reports for [Ethiopia](#), [Rwanda](#) and [Tanzania](#), which will be published early in 2026. These efforts will improve NSS SDG reporting and enhance the availability of comparable evidence to guide inclusive development policies. Collectively, these investments are expected to elevate the visibility and use of gender data at both regional and national levels, reinforce evidence-based policymaking and contribute to stronger accountability mechanisms for gender equality outcomes. At the same time, SDG reporting has been strengthened, and gender equality is widely recognized as a policy priority in VNRs, with all ESA countries now systematically tracking gender-specific indicators. Across ESA, all 25 countries have submitted at least one VNR report, 88% since 2022, and 59% of these included strong gender mainstreaming and gender analysis.
- **Caregiving and care economy data expanded considerably across ESA during the period 2022–2025, supported by time-use surveys conducted in two countries and TUS data-collection training in a third.** With data collection initiated in 2025 in [Malawi](#), [Zimbabwe](#) and TUS training supported in [Mozambique](#), these three countries will for the first time, have TUS and care economy data available to inform advocacy and strategic discussions on the care economy, enabled by targeted technical and financial support provided under the Women Count programme. These investments address a critical gender data gap by making visible the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work – an area undermeasured but central to gender equality and inclusive economic development. The data are also expected to support more equitable labour market policies, strengthen SDG monitoring and guide national development and gender equality frameworks implementation. The [Zimbabwe TUS report](#) was completed in 2025 and published in early 2026. Data collection was completed in Malawi and data-collection training was delivered in Mozambique in 2025, with both countries' reports expected in 2026. The regional office also provided technical support to [Kenya](#) during county-level training of planning/gender officials, reviewing and providing technical support during the preparation of the TUS report and the assessment of the care economy.
- **The ability to measure VAW, and femicide in particular, improved in several countries.** Between 2023 and 2025, the [UN Women/UNODC Femicide Statistical Framework](#) was piloted and tested in [Djibouti](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#)³ and [Lesotho](#). The testing generated critical evidence to standardize and strengthen femicide data collection, classification and reporting, enabling more accurate measurement and monitoring of femicide. The findings – which identified the need for stronger investment in homicide and femicide data reporting systems, improved data-sharing mechanisms and institutional coordination – are expected to support evidence-based responses, inform national policies, and contribute to more effective femicide prevention and accountability measures. The testing also fostered coordination and strengthened informal networks of researchers working on femicide and producing femicide statistics.

- In **Lesotho**, the Lesotho Mounted Police Services, with support from the Global Fund, developed a case management system for crime statistics that incorporates additional variables identified as gaps during the 2024 femicide pilot study. The new system has been tested and is ready for deployment, but roll-out has been constrained by infrastructure challenges in some districts. And while Lesotho's national definition of femicide is still evolving, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/UN Women definition is being used for statistical purposes.
 - **Somalia** has also strengthened its administrative data production on VAW thanks to financial and technical support from UN Women that resulted in the first-ever crime and GBV statistics report for Benadir State in 2024. At the regional level, UN Women also advanced the institutionalization of quality assurance practices for administrative data, strengthened professional capacity across 15 countries, and contributed to global convergence around standards that enhance gender data credibility and policy relevance through its partnership with SADC on GBV administrative data quality and annual reporting by Member States.
- **Administrative data quality improved significantly in several countries, thanks in part to UN Women's co-leadership as part of the Collaborative on Administrative Data.** Through UN Women's co-leadership of the [Collaborative on Administrative Data \(CAD\)](#), [substantive contributions were provided to strengthen global coordination](#), standards and capacity for gender statistics derived from administrative data. This collaboration has driven system-level improvements in the quality, consistency and usability of administrative data for gender analysis across regions through the development of the [Quality Assurance Toolkit for Administrative Data](#), jointly developed with CAD in 2022 and further refined in 2024. Initially piloted in Kenya, the Toolkit has since been used by UN Women in **Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan**, and most recently in **Mongolia**, and many other countries by other CAD partners, demonstrating its adaptability across diverse statistical systems and contexts. Through its participation in CAD, UN Women has also played a catalytic role in fostering sustained knowledge-exchange among global gender data experts. In 2025, UN Women provided technical leadership by organizing four quarterly "Deep Dive" global webinars, which strengthened a global community of practice focused on improving administrative data quality, namely: [Admin Data Quality Deep Dive I](#): Statistics Norway in June 2025; [Admin Data Quality Deep Dive II](#): *Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística* (Colombia) in August 2025; [Admin Data Quality Deep Dive III](#): Office of National Statistics, United Kingdom in September 2025; and [Admin Data Quality Deep Dive IV](#): Statistics Sweden in November 2025. These webinars promoted South-South and North-South cooperation, facilitated peer learning on modern statistical methodologies, and helped mobilize attention and investment towards more resilient and gender-responsive data systems. UN Women also led the development of additional tools for use by the CAD community on [advocacy for administrative data](#) and [linking administrative data with data from different sources](#). These tools are being used globally to enhance administrative data utilization for statistical purposes.
- **Data availability and guidance on the measurement of gender in financial inclusion expanded.** Comprehensive assessments of [gender and financial inclusion in SADC countries](#) and [selected EAC countries](#) have provided a stronger evidence base to inform policy dialogues, programme design and investment decisions related to women's financial inclusion. The production of the [Gender Statistics in Financial Inclusion](#) toolkit and guidelines further contributed towards highlighting the importance of harmonization and adopting statistical best practices. By consolidating regional data, highlighting structural barriers and presenting actionable recommendations and indicator frameworks, these reports and toolkit have enhanced the quality, consistency and availability of financial inclusion information systems across SADC and EAC countries. The SADC Toolkit was also used as the basis for the development of [Global Guidance on Gender and Financial Inclusion Statistics](#), which was published early in 2026. According to Bobby Berkowitz, Senior Research Specialist with the SADC's FinMark Trust (FMT): "[A key output of UN](#)

Women's SADC support and guidelines was identifying gaps in financial inclusion gender measurement." Based on the toolkit developed by UN Women and SADC, FMT produced supply-side [gender-disaggregated data guidelines](#) and piloted the collection of advanced indicators to address financial inclusion gender gaps through FinScope surveys in **Botswana** and **South Africa**. This marks an important step towards institutionalizing evidence-based tools and more inclusive financial sector reforms across the region.

- **Humanitarian data production has improved thanks to a ground-breaking toolkit and data collected during conflict.** UN Women contributed to increasing access to important gender data and statistical resources for use in humanitarian settings with its development of [Bridging Gaps: Essential Gender data Toolkit for Humanitarian Action](#). Launched at the World Data Forum (WDF) 2024, the toolkit has already been used in **Sudan** and **Ukraine**. Despite the complexity of collecting data during crises, in the wake of the conflict in **Sudan** in 2023, UN Women Sudan Country Office (CO) prepared two rapid gender assessments (RGAs) and created a [gender data dashboard](#) to share the findings, with technical support from Women Count. These valuable sex- and location-specific data on how women, men, girls and boys have been affected by the crisis revealed that twice as many female as male respondents said they lacked access to filtered water and more than twice as many women as men agreed that there has been an increase in insecurity. The Sudan CO used the RGA data to inform their resource mobilization, with two project proposals drafted based on the key gender gaps identified by the RGAs that received funding from the Governments of Japan and Sweden. The Sudan CO also shared its experience on collecting these humanitarian data with the UN Women **Ghana** CO.

Improving data use

- **The [Africa Gender Statistics Forum](#) (AGSF) has become an institutionalized forum for sustained user-producer engagement on gender statistics, strengthening coordination across Africa and translating emerging measurement needs into harmonized tools, stronger networks and country-level advocacy.** Co-hosted by UN Women, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), this unique continental knowledge-exchange platform brings together hundreds of gender statistics users and producers comprising both State and non-State actors. It has become a central mechanism for strengthening gender data systems across Africa by facilitating peer-to-peer learning, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that statisticians, policymakers and researchers remain aligned with emerging trends, innovations and priority issues in gender statistics for national and regional statistical development. According to Mary Chilapondwa Gwaligwali, Principal Economist at the National Statistical Office, **Malawi**, who participated in the AGSF for the first time in 2025: *"I am impressed at the content of the sessions. I have gathered a lot of ideas on how to improve gender data back in my country, particularly on citizen data, which we are now advocating for in Malawi. From the sessions, I have learned that involving data from civil society is crucial and I have understood how to go about this to ensure that we don't leave anyone behind. I am so excited that I have gained a lot from the Forum that I will deliver in my country."* The AGSF has also played a critical role in reviewing and promoting harmonized methodological approaches across countries and driving consensus on solutions to gender data gaps. One of the resolutions of the 2023 AGSF was to produce guidance on gender data in humanitarian settings, an area previously lacking standardized guidance. UN Women led this process, and the [Guidance on gender data in humanitarian settings](#) was launched at the 2024 WDF on behalf [Africa Programme on Gender Statistics](#). This toolkit now serves as a practical resource for generating and using gender-responsive data in crisis contexts and is now being promoted by the UN Women global humanitarian team for use across all regions. Women Count used the opportunity of the 2024 AGSF to launch a [toolkit on gender data uptake and use](#) which was produced in partnership with GROOTS and through practical tips and case studies provide guidance on how to enhance gender data use across all steps along the statistical value chain. The success of the AGSF has also attracted interest from other development partners. From 2026 onwards, UNICEF will join the organizing partners and the Forum is being renamed the Africa Gender and Child Statistics Forum

(AGCSF).

- **The Africa Gender Data Outlook offers a strategic assessment of national gender data ecosystems across the continent and is helping to define strategic planning.** Produced in 2025, building on UN Women's global flagship Gender Data Outlook (GDO), the [Africa Gender Data Outlook](#) analysis and report, which assesses and evaluates the capacity of NSSs across the continent to produce, disseminate and utilize gender data through a comprehensive framework across four dimensions. Launched at the AGSF 2025 in Côte d'Ivoire, this strategic assessment tool identifies strengths, gaps and opportunities in national gender data ecosystems and goes beyond counting available sex-disaggregated data to evaluate the entire gender data value chain, including the institutional and systemic conditions that enable the production, access to and effective use of gender data. The *Outlook* was used to inform the UN Women Regional Strategic Note for 2026–2029, and it was used in the ESA Regional Gender Snapshot report, and it also informed the development of the Women Count Phase III concept note for the ESA regional project.
- **Increased access to gender data in two countries by supporting the development and enhancement of national data portals has strengthened evidence needed for national monitoring and accountability on gender equality.** UN Women supported the [National Gender Information System \(NGIS\)](#) in Ethiopia. This centralized digital platform that aggregates gender-related data from multiple sectors plays a critical role in monitoring progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment, aligning with key policy frameworks such as Ethiopia's 10-Year Development Plan, Agenda 2063, the SDGs and CEDAW. To ensure the system remains relevant and responsive to emerging gender issues, UN Women supported a two-day workshop aimed at reviewing and updating NGIS indicators in 2025. The National Prosecution Authority in Zimbabwe developed its first fully functional, secure and scalable GBV data platform for comprehensive case-management – offering secure data storage, workflow automation, multi-user collaboration, end-to-end case tracking, evidence management and automated reporting. This internal data system for government officials was launched in 2025. As a result, GBV administrative data across the criminal justice system have become more accessible, reliable and actionable, contributing to stronger monitoring, improved accountability and more consistent use of evidence in prosecution and policy decisions. It is also improving GBV reporting, according to the Zimbabwe Republic Police (see Impact story 6).
- **Gender statistics strategic communications, outreach and planning supported media uptake that amplified new gender data and promoted the use of existing data.** Complementary investments in strategic communications, including 25 targeted media campaigns, expanded public engagement and visibility of gender data. Together, these efforts demonstrate a shift towards continuous, system-wide use of gender data for decision-making, advocacy and accountability.
 - Sustained and strategic gender-data-focused regional media outreach and dialogues hinged on key moments⁴ to help raise the visibility of gender issues using data to expand public awareness and spur engagement on gender issues. In 2025, a series of in-depth engagements with the regional news outlet Nation Media Group led to the co-development and co-production of four live television episodes highlighting the state of women and girls in the region, using new and current gender data. The series, which included an intergenerational dialogue and two other shows before a [live TV audience](#), provided meaningful and relevant content for the regional media house while growing visibility for gender data, and, by extension, promoting its use to inform public discourse, policy and decision-making. The three shows achieved more than 18,000 views during the live airing.
 - Communications planning with the UN Women Zimbabwe CO to document and strategically communicate the GBV Administrative Data project was crucial for the possible replication of this UN Women-SADC pilot and its potential scaling up

in other SADC countries. Technical support to the Zimbabwe CO on gender data communications was also instrumental in broadening the understanding of how to package and message GBV data and use it to advocate for policy change and gender-responsive decision-making.

- The Women Count team co-developed a communications plan and led media liaison to disseminate a [report on the economic value of time use](#) in Kenya, which helped disseminate the new data and break the findings down into accessible language to promote their use. Expertise included branding and quality assurance, message development, media liaison for a prime-time international media speaking opportunity for UN Women Kenya ([on CGTN Africa](#)) and media monitoring and reporting to track traction.
- In addition, technical support and communications expertise to the Kenya CO to amplify partner voices on how gender data use is delivering change in Kenya focused on documenting good practices, gaps and prospects for gender data in Kenya as a follow-on from earlier documentation of gender data uses with the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action and the Ministry of Planning/Treasury.
- And in Uganda, Women Count provided data visualization expertise for the UBOS/UN Women *Women and Men in Uganda: Facts and Figures* booklet and national guidance on linking different data types in 2025, as part of a broader mentorship programme on gender statistics with Uganda's Economic Policy Research Centre. These comprehensive training manuals will serve to enhance advocacy skills and help embed gender statistics in decision-making and policy advocacy in Uganda.

Plans for Phase III⁵

Women Count Phase III in ESA will strengthen the enabling environment for gender statistics by expanding data production, accessibility and use through continued strategic engagement with the AUC, ECA, AfDB, UN agencies, NSOs and regional economic communities. It will promote a more systematic approach by integrating gender indicators into development plans, policies, budgets and statistical strategies, while supporting partners to update frameworks, diversify financing, strengthen advocacy and reinforce accountability.

Specific interventions will include:

- Strategic engagement with continental, regional and national institutions to embed gender statistics in policies, plans, budgets and statistical strategies, including support to the evaluation of APGS 2022–2026, the development of APGS 2026–2030, and co-leadership of the AGCSF.
- Modernizing national statistics systems through expanding the use of administrative and citizen data and co-leading efforts under the CAD.
- Support countries to improve the production, analysis and quality of gender data across priority areas – including work, financial inclusion, VAW (including TF VAW and femicide), social norms, political participation, humanitarian contexts, climate change and the informal economy.
- Strengthen partnerships with governments, the private sector and media, to improve access and use of gender data through platforms, tools and user-producer dialogues.

¹ This plan as well as the NSDS 2026–2030 will receive final approval and be signed off by the Director General of Zimstat in 2026.

² Henceforth Tanzania.

³ The Kenya country report is still pending validation.

⁴ Namely International Women's Day, International Day of the Girl Child, and the 16 Days of Activism against GBV.

⁵ Plans for Phase III are still in process of being finalized and subject to funding availability.