



IN BRIEF

Photo: UN Women Senegal

OVERVIEW: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II SENEGAL

The issue

Women Count has made significant contributions to improving the production and use of gender data in Senegal. However, despite this progress, challenges remained, including:

- Weaknesses in the political, legal and financial environment hindered progress and chronic underfunding of gender statistics limited the ability to innovate in statistical operations, creating significant gaps in measuring progress towards gender equality.
- Several gaps persisted in data production, with certain areas lacking disaggregated data, limiting understanding of key issues, such as gender and the environment, women's economic empowerment (WEE) and violence against women (VAW).
- Lack of access and limited use of gender data at the subnational level posed challenges for adequate monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

Our response

- **Create an enabling environment:** UN Women continued strengthening coordination within the national statistical system (NSS) through the Multipartite Gender Committee, expanding its membership to include civil society organizations (CSOs). Gender was mainstreamed in the 4th National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2024–2028. And the capacities of data users and producers improved, including via techniques to collect, analyse and use gender statistics at national and local levels.

- **Increase data production:** UN Women supported the NSS to tackle persistent data gaps through increased data production; conducted the first stand-alone survey on VAW and first national survey on gender and the environment; integrated gender analysis in the Census 2023 data; created a gender index on the extractive sector to fill thematic data voids and provide a more nuanced understanding of gender-related challenges; and supported the development of high-level expertise in the field of gender statistics by offering two masters' scholarships to students of demography.
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** UN Women expanded partnerships with CSOs to improve data accessibility and use; produced new publications and disseminated them to track progress on gender equality; informed the formulation, implementation and evaluation of key public policies as part of the NSDS 2024–2028; and supported the Ministry of Family, Social Action and Solidarity (MIFASS) to set up a dynamic platform between ministries, allowing all users free access to different gender data and knowledge products generated by ministries, in order to promote the better use of administrative gender statistics.

Key results

Creating an enabling environment

- UN Women expanded partnerships with CSOs to improve data accessibility and use; produced new publications and disseminated them to track progress on gender equality; informed the formulation, implementation and evaluation of key public policies as part of the NSDS 2024–2028; and supported the Ministry of Family, Social Action and Solidarity (MIFASS) to set up a dynamic platform between ministries, allowing all users free access to different gender data and knowledge products generated by ministries, in order to promote the better use of administrative gender statistics

Increasing data production

- **As of 2025, Senegal was able to report on 75% of SDG 5 indicators (98% with proxy), well above the global average, reflecting substantial progress on the production of gender-sensitive data¹.** This was made possible by various efforts throughout Phase II, in which Senegal significantly strengthened the availability of gender statistics by producing new evidence in previously underexplored areas, including violence against women and the gendered impacts of environmental risks. These efforts have contributed to closing key gender data gaps and improving national monitoring of both the SDGs and gender equality commitments.
- **The first national survey on VAW generated robust evidence on the prevalence and different forms of violence experienced by women across the country, influencing public policies and programmes.** The [survey findings](#) highlighted the magnitude and multidimensional nature of physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence, revealing that 31.9% of women aged 15 and above experienced at least one form of VAW in the 12 months preceding the survey, with higher prevalence in urban areas compared to rural areas (36.8 vs. 24.9%, respectively). These findings are having a direct impact on policies and programming, informing the development of the MIFASS 2025–2029 sectoral policy and the ongoing development of the second *National Action Plan to Combat Gender-Based Violence*. The Ministry is also using the survey findings to inform its interventions on ending VAW under existing programmes, to advocate for budget allocations and to

¹ UN Women is completing a broader review and update of its methodology for calculating SDG data availability for gender-specific indicators, including to better align with the UNSD data availability methodology. Therefore, estimates for 2026 are not available. Updates on the revised methodology, when available, will be posted on the UN Women Data Hub.

develop new programmes to address other types of violence exposed in the survey – namely, on technology-facilitated violence and violence against women in politics. The findings have also been widely used in advocacy, research, policymaking and programming (see Impact story 4).

- **Senegal generated its first nationally representative evidence on the differentiated exposure and vulnerability of women and men to environmental and climate-related risks.** Published in December 2025, the [National Survey on Environmental Risks and Population Vulnerability from a Gender Perspective \(ENREVG\)](#) revealed that 95% of the population aged 15 and above had experienced at least one environmental risk or disaster in the previous 12 months, highlighting the widespread exposure of communities to climate and environmental shocks and their implications for livelihoods, health and access to natural resources. These data also provide critical insights into how environmental degradation, climate change and access to natural resources affect women’s livelihoods, health and economic opportunities, which are expected to inform emerging national debates on climate resilience and gender-responsive environmental policies in 2026.
- **The first dedicated chapter on the socioeconomic situation of women based on the 2023 Population Census highlighted gaps and informed funding strategies.** ANSD’s [comprehensive chapter](#) on the sociodemographic, economic and social status of women in Senegal, published in July 2024, provided detailed evidence on gender disparities in education, employment, health and social protection, making it a foundational resource for national planning. These data have been widely used in presentations by government authorities, policymakers and international donors. UN Women also presented the situation in Senegal to the Luxembourg Cooperation Office (LuxDev), insights that were used as a baseline to shape gender considerations in priority sectors for LuxDev’s Cooperation Intervention Programme

Improving data use

- **Time-use data strengthened evidence-based policymaking, while garnering international recognition.** Senegal’s [TUS](#), conducted by ANSD with UN Women’s technical and financial support, and published in 2022, has been widely used in [advocacy, policy and programme revisions](#). According to Astou Diouf Gueye, Director of Equity and Gender Equality for the MIFASS (formerly MFFPE), such findings spurred the Ministry to reconsider certain policies: *“We’ve had a women’s empowerment policy for a long time. But the TUS results made us see that aspects of the policy need to be improved. ... We realized the need to amplify the policy, integrating [time-use] aspects to correct its imperfections.”* The 3R Programme (recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work), being implemented by UN Women Senegal in collaboration with MIFASS, also leveraged TUS findings to strengthen advocacy, promote policy reforms and raise awareness on unpaid care work, including by engaging 348 religious, traditional and community leaders in awareness-raising, and influencing municipalities local development plans to integrate unpaid care work. The 3R Programme also supported the refurbishment of 18 childcare centres, directly benefiting 1,292 children via improved learning conditions. In 2024, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation used TUS findings in its [2023 Gender Profile Analysis Report](#), further reinforcing the survey’s value as a key data source. Senegal’s [2022 Voluntary National Review](#) also included data on the proportion of unpaid work (SDG indicator 5.4) for the first time.
- **Citizen data on women in the extractive sector shaped industry policies, government priorities and evaluations.** The development of the Women in Mining (WIM) CSO’s [Gender Index](#), produced in collaboration with UN Women and ANSD, quickly became a reference for understanding gender inequalities in the extractive sector, [informing national dialogue, policies and funding](#) on women’s participation in mining. At the national level, the Ministry of Energy, Petroleum and Mines (MEPM) used the evidence generated through the WIM Index to assess the situation of women in the mining sector. Based on these findings, the Minister confirmed the allocation of 30% of the Local Development

Support Fund to initiatives aimed at strengthening women's economic empowerment in mining communities and instructed technical teams to ensure the effective deployment and monitoring of this commitment. According to Awa Thiaka Dieng, Coordinator of the Gender and Equity Unit within MEPM: *"To be able to make decisions, it's essential to have data, and it's data that drive decision-making."* According to WIM President Diop, the Index data and sensitization have also shaped industry practices: *"Companies are increasingly open and are even now including women from affected communities in planning and in their initiatives,"* adds Diop, calling this an important cultural shift within an industry that "used to be entirely closed". The Index findings also contributed to the gender chapter of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative [national report](#), with results shared at a regional knowledge-sharing webinar in early 2026.

- **The dissemination of gender data has been strengthened through new online gender statistics platforms.** The establishment of a web-based gender statistics platform hosted by the MIFASS (<https://deeg-lesfemmescomptent.sec.gouv.sn>) centralized gender data across sectors and improved access to evidence for policymakers, researchers and CSOs, facilitating more systematic use of gender statistics in policy discussions and programme design. At the national level, the deployment of an *SDG SDMX* statistical platform (<https://sdgsenegal.github.io/>) within ANSD improved the interoperability and dissemination of official statistics, in line with its purpose of harmonizing data to strengthen the monitoring of gender-related SDG indicators. According to Youssouf Djitte, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Family: *"The development of web-based gender statistics platforms has enhanced the dissemination and accessibility of gender data, providing policymakers and other stakeholders with centralized evidence to better inform policy dialogue and programme design."*
- **National dialogue on citizen data contributed to expanding the national gender data ecosystem by promoting collaboration with civil society organizations.** Through a [National Dialogue on Citizen Generated Data](#) in June 2025, ANSD reaffirmed its commitment to supporting CSOs and other actors to improve the quality and credibility of their data, while exploring mechanisms to integrate these complementary data sources into the NSS. According to Atoumane Fall, Chief of ANSD's Department of Demographic and Social Statistics: *"This dialogue enabled me to better understand citizen-generated data and to identify relevant and complementary data produced by civil society. It also reaffirmed ANSD's readiness to build a national framework aligned with the Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data, adapted to Senegal's context."* This shift reflects a growing openness within the NSS to innovative data sources that can help address persistent gender data gaps and strengthen evidence-based policymaking. This shift reflects a growing openness within the NSS to innovative data sources that can help address persistent gender data gaps and strengthen evidence-based policymaking.
- **Data user-producer dialogues were institutionalized in Phase II.** ANSD, MIFASS and key academic institutions – including *Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale* (IPAR), Université Cheikh Anta Diop and Université Gaston Berger – convened regularly to review emerging gender data priorities, discuss methodological challenges and promote the use of evidence in research and policymaking, with organization and support from UN Women. According to [IPAR](#): *"This edition introduces an innovation by strengthening links with research through a partnership with IPAR under the LEEPS project (Learning Together to Advance Evidence and Equity in Policymaking), illustrating a commitment to the co-creation of knowledge."* This strengthened collaboration with the academic community represented an important step towards a more dynamic national gender data ecosystem and greater trust in official statistics.

Future plans

Building on the achievements of Phase II, Women Count Phase III project in Senegal programme will focus on consolidating sustainable national gender data systems while addressing emerging data gaps. Specific interventions will include:

- Strengthen coordination mechanisms between national statistical offices, gender ministries and key policy institutions to ensure that gender statistics are systematically integrated into national planning, monitoring and gender-responsive budgeting processes.
- Strengthen the use of administrative data systems across key sectors – such as health, justice, labour and social protection – to generate regular, cost-effective and sex-disaggregated indicators that can complement survey-based data and improve the timeliness of gender statistics.
- Explore the potential of innovative data sources and digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and big data, to enhance the production, analysis and dissemination of gender data, through collaboration with national statistical institutions and research centres to support the development of Gender Data Lab approaches, fostering innovation and strengthening analytical capacities within national statistical systems.
- Improve collaboration between data producers, policymakers, CSOs and academic institutions, to accelerate the availability and use of high-quality gender statistics to inform policies and advance gender equality.