



Photo: UN Women/Rashid Hamis Kindamba

OVERVIEW: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II TANZANIA

The issue

Despite many achievements during Phase I of Women Count, several gaps remained at the start of Phase II:

- Limited awareness of the importance of gender data and a lack of financing across the national statistical system (NSS) were critical barriers to progress, particularly for local governments.
- Technical challenges limited the production of gender statistics in new areas, requiring training for statistical agencies on gender statistics, particularly in national ministries and local governments.
- Gender-sensitive surveys on violence against women (VAW), time-use, gender and the environment, and on women in local government, were needed to increase the availability of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, as some of the current values were based on outdated data.
- New and emerging areas – such as big data, citizen data, and gender and the environment – required significant methodological work and capacity-building.
- The limited data literacy of policymakers and other potential users to analyse, use and advocate for gender data to inform policies continued to hamper progress.

Our response

- **Create an enabling environment:** Supported the implementation of key national strategies and plans; enhanced the institutional capacities of key statistical actors (both users and producers); and activated inter-agency coordination mechanisms through the Gender Statistics Working Groups.
- **Increase data production:** Strengthened the capacities of the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in Zanzibar and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in mainland Tanzania; provide financial and technical guidance to produce quality data on demand-driven areas, such as unpaid care and domestic work, VAW, climate change, and social norms and institutions; and reprocess existing data in censuses, surveys and data systems to fill gender data gaps and inform reporting on international gender equality commitments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), etc.
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** Supported OCGS and NBS to develop a centralized and responsive online database, hosting national gender statistics to improve the monitoring of global and national commitments; strengthen the capacities of users to analyse gender data; and regularly produce factsheets, infographics, gender snapshots, working papers, reports and booklets on gender across the SDGs to unpack the significant narratives/drivers of gender issues to improve monitoring.

Key results

Creating an enabling environment

- **Tanzania and Zanzibar increasingly prioritized gender data across national planning, policy frameworks and public financing, embedding evidence-based decision-making into core government systems.** Gender statistics developed under Women Count were integrated into Tanzania's Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III), ensuring that national priorities are monitored using sex-disaggregated indicators. Mainland Tanzania's new *Women and Gender Development Policy*, launched in 2024, institutionalized gender statistics for the first time, committing the Government to strengthen gender data systems, improve access to gender-sensitive information across all sectors and embed gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) into fiscal laws, budget circulars, expenditure frameworks and national planning instruments. In Zanzibar, the *Zanzibar Strategy for the Development of Statistics* – developed and implemented with UN Women's technical and financial support – mainstreamed gender data across the statistical system and prioritized sex-disaggregated and intersectional data for monitoring the *Zanzibar Development Plan* and the SDGs, with USD 150,000 allocated in 2025 for gender statistics activities. National commitment to gender data was further demonstrated when the Government of Tanzania allocated USD 500,000 for the nationwide Gender and Environment Survey, marking the first dedicated domestic financing for gender data following sustained advocacy by UN Women. Together, these policy shifts and investments signal a major step towards institutionalizing gender data as a foundation for planning, policymaking and resource allocation.
- **National coordination for the production and use of gender data was significantly strengthened, with Zanzibar establishing more coherent, gender-responsive statistical**

systems that improve the quality, consistency and use of gender statistics for national planning and global reporting. In 2025, UN Women provided technical and financial support to reinforce Zanzibar's inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics, ensuring that data producers across government generate high-quality, harmonized gender data to monitor key national frameworks – including *Zanzibar Vision 2050*, the *Zanzibar Development Plan (2021–2026)*, the SDGs, *Agenda 2063*, CEDAW and the BPfA. Bi-annual coordination meetings now bring together ministries, the OCGS and sectoral stakeholders to jointly review data needs, address quality gaps and align methodologies. This platform has strengthened collaboration, improved data consistency across institutions and enhanced the capacity of the statistical system to deliver reliable gender data for evidence-based policymaking and accountability.

- **In Phase II, the capacities of at least 283 data producers and users were strengthened through trainings improving their ability to collect, analyse and use gender data across sectors.** In 2025 alone, 142 officials received targeted training, including 85 police officers (45 women, 40 men) from the Gender and Children Desks in Zanzibar, who improved their skills in GBV data collection, methodological standards, technology-facilitated violence against women (TF VAW) and femicide reporting. UN Women also trained 10 statisticians and gender officers from the OCGS and the Ministry of Gender on the full methodology on VAW data, covering ethical and safety protocols, sampling design, tool review and survey manual development. In addition, data collectors for the disability survey were trained across 10 regions in mainland Tanzania, strengthening the quality and consistency of disability-inclusive data. Collectively, these trainings enhanced the ability of institutions to generate reliable, disaggregated data and apply it to policymaking, service-delivery and the monitoring of gender equality commitments.

Increasing data production

- **Gender-related SDG data availability improved – reaching 69% ¹– in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, improving monitoring and national reporting on gender equality commitments.** Gender data were used to inform Tanzania's [2023 Voluntary National Review](#) (VNR) and in the forthcoming *Gender Snapshot Tanzania 2025* – pre-launched on International Women's Day and scheduled for full publication in early 2026 – which was drafted, validated and finalized through a multi-stakeholder consultation with 35 participants in Dodoma in June 2025. The Snapshot consolidates key SDG gender indicators and emerging priorities and is expected to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and SDG monitoring, once released. In Zanzibar, the *Status Report on Gender-Related SDG Indicators* was finalized, with its launch planned for 2026. The report presents the status of 47 SDG indicators, disaggregated by sex, age, location, region and district; 37 of these are from the minimum set of gender indicators, meaning 69% of gender-related SDG indicators were reported. This product provides a critical tool for tracking progress on “leaving no one behind” and informing evidence-based programmes and policies.
- **Availability of local-level gender and disability data in Tanzania expanded significantly, providing unprecedented insights to guide district- and village-level planning, service-delivery and policy development.** With support from UN Women, Tanzania generated new, granular data on the challenges faced by women with disabilities through a disability survey and continuous data-collection system implemented across local governments. The survey tool – drafted and tested in Dar es Salaam and Pwani – has now been integrated into the national Persons with Disabilities Management Information System under the Vice-President's Office, enabling quarterly data collection at district and ward levels. These data are expected to inform the forthcoming National Disability Policy (currently being drafted by the Prime Minister's Office, which also managed the disability survey), as

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.

well as to inform the National Action Plan on VAWG. At the same time, 66 gender-related indicators across four thematic areas (VAW, leadership, economy and by laws) were finalized and institutionalized within the information system used by all local government authorities, creating a sustainable system for routine production of sex-disaggregated data. This initiative has strengthened local data management, established an online platform for access and improved the evidence base for targeted interventions. This supports women's economic opportunities, GBV response, service-delivery and women's participation in public life. UN Women provided both technical and financial support to develop the tools and ensure their integration into national and local systems.

- **The first-ever national Gender and Environment Survey is underway, [positioning Tanzania as a regional leader](#) in generating sex-disaggregated climate and environmental statistics.** In partnership with NBS and the Vice-President's Office, UN Women continued to provide technical support to Tanzania's *Gender and Environment Survey* (GES) – the country's first dedicated effort to collect sex-disaggregated data on climate change, natural resource use and environmental resilience. In 2025, UN Women supported enumerator training and pilot testing, ensuring that gender perspectives were fully integrated into survey tools, field protocols and data-collection methodologies. The survey is still underway, with full data collection and analysis progressing across all agro-ecological zones. Once finalized, the GES will provide Tanzania's first nationally representative evidence on how women and men are differently affected by climate risks and environmental pressures, with a view to informing national climate policies, SDG 5 and SDG 13 monitoring, and implementation of the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan II.
- **The availability and quality of VAW data improved substantially across Tanzania thanks to the new surveys and modernized administrative systems generating timely, disaggregated evidence.** In mainland Tanzania, the country's first-ever stand-alone *Violence against Women Survey* – conducted in five regions in 2024 using WHO methodology with UN Women's support – generated critical new data on physical, sexual and TF VAW (with 22.4% of respondents reporting having experienced physical intimate partner violence; 15.5% sexual intimate partner violence; and 10% of girls reporting having experienced TF VAW in the past 12 months). The reports for the separate VAW surveys conducted in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar will be publicly launched in 2026. Also in Zanzibar, with Women Count support, OCGS shifted from annual releases to regular monthly data publications and releases of administrative data on GBV. Disaggregated by sex, age, residence and district, based on police data, these have provided detailed insights on types and locations of violence and services accessed. Stakeholder feedback also directly strengthened data systems: at the request of the Vice-President's Office and Ministry of Justice, OCGS began disaggregating GBV data by disability status and tracking prosecution and conviction rates. The improved administrative data system has also created a robust time series dating back to 2021, enabling trend analysis and evidence-based decision-making. (see more on uses below).

Improving data use

- **VAW administrative data are raising awareness, increasing violence reporting, improving service-delivery and informing national policies and planning.** The monthly Zanzibar VAW administrative data releases have convened around 60 stakeholders from government, police, justice institutions and the media, strengthening transparency, accountability and data use. The releases were widely disseminated by media, including community radio stations. Such coverage reportedly [increased the number of GBV cases being reported to police](#). In 2024, 1,809 GBV cases were reported across Zanzibar – a 28% increase compared to 2020, before OCGS began sharing these data with media. According to Inspector Ali Said at Zanzibar Police Headquarters' Statistics Unit: *"The partnership between OCGS and UN Women has contributed to this increase and also helped members of the Police Service to have a broader understanding of GBV."* A regular radio listener of Tumbatu FM, Fatma Haji Silima, further illustrates this increased awareness: *"Before, I didn't know where to report cases of violence. Now, I have the information and confidence to*

help others in my community do the same." The Zanzibar Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children has also used these data for community sensitization and to ensure that GBV prevention efforts are informed and targeted. These data are being used to develop targeted responses and strategies, such as GBV sensitivity training for police and the establishment of five new one-stop centres in Zanzibar in 2024. Where these monthly GBV data show an uptick in incidence, additional police surge support is being provided in identified hotspots. Gender data are also informing yearly budget motions in Parliament, advocating for more resources for the police to combat GBV. The data have also been instrumental in engaging the private sector to contribute resources, such as motorcycles for regular patrols and support for the construction of additional police posts to boost security. These data are also informing interventions under the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children.

- **Gender Equality Profiles for mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar are informing policies, programmes and legal reforms on gender equality and women's empowerment.** Developed in collaboration with the Ministries of Gender in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, and reviewed by the African Development Bank, the profiles provide actionable recommendations and are already being used to guide evidence-based policy dialogue, programme design and future legal reforms. UN Women supported the development, updating and finalization of the twin *Gender Equality Profiles*, which combine multiple national data sources – including Demographic and Health Survey, Population Census, Labour Force Survey and administrative data sets – to provide in-depth analysis of gender inequalities across 12 thematic areas. The mainland profile highlights persistent gaps such as women's higher illiteracy rates (21.3 vs. 14.1% for men), lower political participation (36.9 vs. 63.1%) and high lifetime prevalence of violence against women. The Zanzibar profile reveals stark disparities in land ownership (66.8% of men vs. 24.4% of women), unemployment (32.8% of women vs. 18.5% of men) and heightened vulnerability of women to climate change. By consolidating diverse data sets into accessible, policy-ready analysis, the *Gender Equality Profiles* have expanded the availability and usability of gender data, strengthening national capacity to monitor progress on gender equality and women's empowerment and inform decision-making across government and development partners.

Future plans

Despite the conclusion of Tanzania's stand-alone Women Count project, UN Women will continue to support through East and Southern Africa Regional project the strengthening of gender statistics in the country, building on the foundations established during Phases I and II.