



IN BRIEF

Photo: UN Women/Eva Sibanda

OVERVIEW: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II

UGANDA

The issue

Since it began in 2017, the Women Count project in Uganda significantly enhanced evidence-based gender-responsive policies, planning, programming and reporting systems, yet challenges persisted, including:

- A weak policy space, with more capacity-building needed for the national statistical system (NSS).
- Limited funding and technical capacity for gender statistics production, including on specialized areas such as women, peace and security and humanitarian action (WPS/HA), violence against women (VAW) and women's economic empowerment (WEE), needed to monitor gender-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national policy priorities effectively.
- Insufficient data dissemination and use, requiring enhanced dissemination and communication capabilities to empower policymakers and users to advocate for gender-data-informed policies.

Our response

- **Create an enabling environment:** UN Women helped guide development and monitored the implementation of the third Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD III) and gender sectoral plans; integrated gender statistics into policies; localized and mainstreamed SDG indicators into plans; strengthened coordination within the NSS through the Gender Statistics Advisory Group and National SDG Data Technical Groups; built the capacities of officials, policymakers, civil society organizations (CSOs) and media for gender data production and use; and enhanced capacities on citizen data to complement official sources.
- **Increase data production:** UN Women supported the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) to conduct surveys and reprocess data; assessed and supported the Government to modernize administrative data-collection systems from a gender-related SDGs perspective; trained ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) to enhance operationalization; and supported the development of citizen data to bridge data gaps on the SDGs to complement official statistics and inform policymaking.
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** UN Women enhanced dissemination through publications, dialogues and social media materials and the visualization of gender statistics on gender web portals to improve accessibility and inform decision-making; promoted research to enrich the Country Gender Equality Profile, Voluntary National Review (VNR), and reporting on the National Development Plan (NDP), Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), and the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Key results

Creating an enabling environment

- **Uganda has systematically embedded gender statistics in national and local development plans, paving the way for sustainable production and use of gender data.** In 2025, UN Women supported the integration of gender statistics in three key national plans and strategies. These include: 1) the [Fourth National Development Plan](#) (NDP IV 2025/26–2030/31), which for the first time features a dedicated intervention on gender statistics and mainstreams gender across the Human Capital Development Programme, with at least nine additional subnational-level Local Government Development Plans for the NDP IV that separately recognize gender equality as a cross-cutting priority; 2) UN Women further provided technical support to the end-term evaluation of the Plan for National Statistical Development III, identifying gaps in gender statistics and informing the design of PNSD IV (2025/26–2029/30); and 3) the third edition of the National Gender Equality Priority Indicators (NGPEIs 2025) strengthened the national evidence base, shaping Uganda’s contributions to the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, informing the Kampala Declaration, guiding validation of the 12th annual *Equal Opportunities Report*, and supporting gender-responsive planning for NDP IV implementation, conflict prevention and countering violent extremism. UN Women, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as co-chairs of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Results Group 1 on Transformative and Inclusive Governance, ensured the inclusion of gender-specific indicators new UNSDCF 2026–2030. Gender statistics were also embedded in the Common Country Analysis, the Joint Programme for Data and Statistics, the Citizen Generated Data toolkit and framework (which are inclusive and focus on intersectionality and those individuals who are most marginalized), and the UN Women Uganda Country Office Strategic Note for 2026–2029. Through sustained advocacy and technical leadership, UN Women ensured that gender data are no longer peripheral but central to Uganda’s national development agenda, driving more inclusive, evidence-based and accountable planning across government and the UN system.

- **UN Women significantly expanded digital empowerment opportunities for girls in Uganda through the establishment of two fully equipped ICT Data Hubs, strengthening the next generation of female digital leaders.** The ICT Data Hubs – launched in 2025 at Wanyange Girls’ Secondary School in Eastern Uganda and Kyebambe Girls’ Secondary School in Western Uganda, each outfitted with 60 desktop computers – are enabling equitable access to digital infrastructure and data-driven learning for alumnae and new learners. This investment is enhancing girls’ digital literacy, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competencies and readiness to participate in the digital economy, while addressing persistent geographic and gender disparities in ICT access.
- **Institutionalized national coordination mechanisms for gender data in Uganda have enabled more coherent, multi-stakeholder collaboration and sustainable production and use of gender statistics across government and civil society.** A total of 8 mechanisms across the NSS¹ were established with UN Women’s technical support and advocacy, improving collaboration between government, CSOs and UN partners, including on citizen data. This strengthened coordination directly contributed to key national achievements such as integrating gender data on migration and forced displacement into the 2024 Census, supporting the Ministry of Agriculture to develop a gender-responsive 10-year action plan, and improving gender analysis in national labour force reports. The National SDG Data Technical Working Group was fully institutionalized within UBOS and the SDG Secretariat, with its meetings now embedded in government planning and budgeting cycles and funded by the Government of Uganda – marking a major step towards sustainability and national ownership. In 2025, UN Women also ensured the integration of gender statistics priorities in the *Fourth UBOS Strategic Plan (2025/26–2029/30)* through its participation in the National Statistics Technical Committee and using gender data to inform gender budgeting efforts for MDAs and local government through participation in the Gender and Equity Budgeting National Task Force. UN Women further strengthened coordination in the energy sector, providing technical support to the Energy Sector Working Group and collaborating with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) to integrate gender data into energy sector planning, reporting and the review of the *Energy Sector Fact Sheet*.
- **In Phase II, UN Women strengthened capacities of 662 data users and producers to increase use of gender data in national policies and planning.** In 2025 alone, UN Women enhanced the skills of 135 gender data users and producers across key national institutions through several training initiatives. This included training 36 National Planning Authority (NPA) staff on integrating gender statistics and the NGPEIs 2025 into NDP IV and on integrating gender perspectives and statistics in planning and budgeting; supporting the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to train 42 personnel from MDAs and local governments on the SDG VNR Gender Diagnostic Assessment and gender-responsive planning and budgeting; and conducting a refresher training for 57 members of the National Gender and Equity Task Force, including three female participants with disabilities, ensuring inclusive participation. Additionally, 47 focal points from WPS-HA-responsible-partner institutions – including the Uganda Police Force, Kampala Capital City Authority, Ministry of Local Government and civil society – strengthened their capacity in gender statistics, metadata development and citizen-generated data for preventing conflict and violent extremism. Collectively, these efforts reinforced Uganda’s ability to apply gender-responsive, data-driven approaches across national planning, budgeting and peacebuilding processes.
- **The first-ever National Gender Statistics Mentorship Programme aims to institutionalize capacity-development across government institutions and civil society.** In partnership with the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) and the MGLSD, UN Women [unveiled](#) Uganda’s first *Gender Statistics Policy Advocacy and Training Manuals*, alongside the launch of a national mentorship programme officiated by the Minister of State for Gender and Culture, Peace Mutuuzo, in 2025. In her keynote speech, she underscored the importance of strengthening gender statistics for policymaking: *“much of the work in decision-making relies on data ... gender statistics play a very indispensable role informing policymakers to shift*

development programmes and accelerate action for gender equality. ... The only equalizer that we have will be data that will speak." The programme began with 10 mentees drawn from 10 key institutions – including UBOS, OPM, NPA, MGLSD, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPEd), Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), NGO Forum Center for Domestic Violence Prevention, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, Private Sector Foundation Uganda, and the National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda – creating a multi-institutional community of practice equipped to champion gender-responsive data use. The mentorship programme and manuals – developed by EPRC with UN Women's support – provide practical, context-specific tools to strengthen data literacy, policy advocacy and the integration of gender statistics into national planning. Together, these efforts institutionalize a sustainable pipeline of gender-statistics champions across Uganda's public sector, civil society and private sector, expanding national capacity to generate, interpret and use gender data to drive equitable, evidence-based development.

- **UN Women strengthened gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) in Uganda by helping embed gender equality priorities more systematically into government planning.** Through active engagement in the Gender and Equity Budgeting Task Force meetings convened in 2025 by the EOC and the in November 2025, UN Women contributed to the technical review, validation and pre-testing of Programme Budget Framework Papers using the Gender and Equity Compliance Assessment Tool. The process brought together NDP IV Programme Action Plan leads from MFPEd, EOC, MGLSD, the Judiciary, local government planners and key sectors such as Agriculture and Energy, strengthening alignment between national development priorities and gender equality commitments. By leveraging the NGPEIs 2025, UN Women enhanced the rigour and visibility of gender considerations within sample Programme Budget Framework Papers assessments. This targeted technical support and knowledge-sharing helped build the capacity of MDAs to design and implement more gender-responsive plans and budgets for the fiscal year 2026/2027, reinforcing accountability and inclusivity in public resource allocation. This work is critical because GRB ensures that public resources are allocated in ways that address the different needs of women, men, girls and boys, ultimately improving service-delivery and reducing inequalities.

Increasing data production

- **Uganda significantly improved the availability of gender data for SDG monitoring, strengthening national reporting on gender equality commitments.** Gender data availability for SDG monitoring increased from 52% in 2022 to 59% in 2024¹ – a 7.3-percentage-point gain – with data now available for 148 of 201 SDG indicators, including 32 gender-specific indicators. The expansion of the gender data ecosystem also enabled Uganda to improve its reporting on gender-related SDG indicators in the [2024 Voluntary National Review](#), increasing from 20 indicators reported on in 2020 to 32 in 2024. The improved availability of sex-disaggregated and gender-specific data has strengthened Uganda's ability to monitor progress, identify gaps and demonstrate accountability to national, regional and global gender equality commitments, including SDG 5, the NDP IV, *Agenda 2063* and the BPfA.
- **More data are now available on governance, peace and security, strengthening the evidence base to inform national planning.** With UN Women's technical and strategic backing, Uganda launched the 2024/25 [National Governance, Peace and Security Survey](#) (NGPSS II) report on 18 November 2025, marking a major milestone in advancing data-driven governance under NDP IV. Building on earlier national surveys, the NGPSS II provides comprehensive data on human rights and access to justice, democracy and electoral systems, transparency and accountability, peace and security and public

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.

perceptions of women's rights in politics, elections and violence against women and girls. The NGPSS II findings revealed that only 55% of women, compared to 67% of men feel safe walking around alone where they live at night. The NGPSS provides baseline data for the human capital and governance and security programmes for the NDP IV, and is expected to contribute to ongoing policy reforms, such as a policy on the care economy. By integrating gender indicators, the NGPSS enhances the visibility of women's experiences and agency within governance and peace processes, strengthening national capacity to design inclusive policies and monitor progress towards stability, accountability and equitable development.

- **The 2024 National Population and Housing Census generated significantly stronger gender data, enabling Uganda to better monitor demographic trends, migration patterns and national development commitments.** With more than 10 million households enumerated, the 2024 Census captured new gender data, including in a dedicated chapter on migration and forced displacement. The findings revealed important trends – for example, women were more likely than men to emigrate for family reasons (5.8 vs. 5.4%) and employment (85.2 vs. 77.8%). The Census also showed that that Uganda has more registered female refugees/asylum-seekers than men (366,437 vs. 334,616, respectively). Gender perspectives were integrated across all stages of the census process, resulting in more comprehensive sex-disaggregated data to inform national planning, service-delivery and SDG monitoring. This progress builds on UN Women's 2023 technical support, which ensured gender considerations were embedded throughout the census – from a full gender assessment of the questionnaire to monitoring of the pilot census – laying the foundation for stronger, more inclusive national statistics.

Improving data use

- **Gender data informed legal and policy reforms on violence against women.** Data from Uganda's first-ever national VAW survey informed multiple legislative reforms, including [amendments to laws on domestic violence, sexual offences and trafficking](#). These included revisions of the *Sexual Offences Bill* introduced in late 2022, to specifically address the kinds of sexual violence women and girls reported in the survey. The VAW survey findings also spurred draft amendments to the *Penal Code*, the revision and fine-tuning of a *Marriage Bill*, and the reintroduction of an *Employment Amendment Bill* to include sexual harassment policies in the workplace, pending and maternity benefits for formal and informal workers (the latter of which was ascended by the President in 2025). The findings also prompted the Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) – which convenes more than 200 Members of Parliament – to consider amendments to the *Domestic Violence Act*, *Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act*, and *Female Genital Mutilation Act*. According to UWOPA Programme Officer Sandra Heather: “The [VAWG survey] data gave us actionable information to address disparities in these laws.”
- **UN Women significantly expanded digital empowerment opportunities for girls in Uganda by supporting the establishment two fully-equipped ICT Data Hubs, strengthening the next generation of female digital leaders.** The ICT Data Hubs – launched in 2025 at Wanyange Girls' Secondary School in Eastern Uganda and Kyebambe Girls' Secondary School in Western Uganda, each outfitted with 60 desktop computers – are enabling equitable access to digital infrastructure and data-driven learning for African Girls Can Code Initiative alumnae and new learners. This investment is enhancing girls' digital literacy, STEM competencies and readiness to participate in the digital economy, while addressing persistent geographic and gender disparities in ICT access. Implemented through a coordinated partnership with the MGLSD, Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, the initiative reinforces national ownership and alignment with Uganda's education, ICT and gender equality priorities. By building foundational digital and data skills among adolescent girls, UN Women is contributing to broader national efforts to advance WEE, innovation and inclusive development.

- **User-producer dialogues are now institutionalized within the Government, strengthening national ownership, coordination and use of gender-data for decision-making.** Through UN Women's strategic engagement, Uganda has embedded regular user-producer dialogues into national statistical and policy processes, ensuring continuous exchange between data producers, policymakers, CSOs and development partners. The Annual Gender Statistics Forum (AGSF) – now fully institutionalized within the UBOS planning, budgeting and reporting cycle – serves as a flagship platform for advancing gender data and accountability. During AGSF VIII in November 2025, evidence such as the newly developed Gender Pay Gap indicator was disseminated, catalysing national dialogue on labour market inequalities and WEE. Complementing this, UN Women, UBOS and the SDG Secretariat co-organized a virtual side event at the 3rd Annual SDG Conference in June 2024, which convened government, civil society and development partners to explore alternative and citizen-generated data, contributing to the emerging Global Copenhagen Citizen Data Framework. Together, these institutionalized engagements have strengthened the relevance, accessibility and uptake of gender statistics across sectors, reinforcing evidence-based policymaking and accountability in Uganda.
- **Collaboration with the Equal Opportunities Commission improved awareness on the importance of gender data for government planning.** UN Women's strategic support to the EOC enhanced the visibility, uptake and application of the 2025 [Equal Opportunities Commission annual report](#) across MDAs and local governments. According to the 2025 *annual report*, 54.35% of government agencies now have national budget compliance certificates on gender and equity, and most ministerial policy statements now prioritize gender and equity issues in their planning and budgeting. The dissemination of such results increased awareness of compliance gaps and progress, reinforcing the report's role as a critical accountability tool for integrating gender and equity considerations into national and subnational planning, budgeting and implementation. UN Women also facilitated targeted stakeholder dialogues to promote effective use of EOC data in sector planning, programme design and performance reporting. These engagements strengthened the capacity of duty bearers to interpret and apply gender and equity evidence, leading to more responsive decision-making and improved integration of equality considerations in results frameworks.

Future plans

UN Women will continue to support the strengthening of gender statistics in the country through support from the East and Southern Africa Regional Office, to continue building on the foundations established during Phases I and II of the programme². Specific interventions will include:

- Strengthening national coordination mechanisms and policy frameworks for gender statistics.
- Improving the production of gender data in priority areas by providing technical assistance for surveys, administrative data systems and emerging data sources, including citizen data, to address persistent gender data gaps.
- Documenting the use and accessibility of gender data for policymaking and accountability.

¹ These include: the creation of the CSO Citizen-Generated Data Leaders' Working Group, the CSO Citizen-Generated Data Technical Working Group, and an interim National CGD TWG; the 2024 revitalization of the Gender Statistics Technical Working Group and the Gender Statistics Advisory Group; the strengthening of the National SDG Data TWG, UN Joint Programme for Data and Statistics TWG, Census Technical Advisory Committee, Human Capital Development Programme's Implementation Action Plan Group, and the Governance and Security Programme Implementation Action Plan Group; and support for two UN inter-agency coordination mechanisms – the UN Results Group 1 of the UNSDCF and the UN Sustainable Development Goals Technical Working Group.

² Plans for Phase III are still being revised and subject to the availability of funding.