The United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania hereafter) is aligning Mainland Tanzania’s Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP II) and Zanzibar’s Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA III) with the global SDG monitoring and indicator framework. This process presents a good opportunity for the Women Count programme to inform and influence the choice of indicators to ensure that the process is gender-responsive.

To inform the Women Count project in Tanzania, a national gender statistics assessment was conducted between February and June 2018 by using a desk review of available documents and conducting key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders in both mainland Tanzania as well as in Zanzibar. The assessment focused on understanding the enabling environment for the functioning of the statistical system, the production and use of gender statistics.
1. Creating an enabling environment

While there are relevant statistical policies, the absence of a gender perspective and challenges in the implementation of existing policies mean that there is limited space to advance gender data. For example, neither national development strategies to achieve gender equality in Tanzania nor the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan 2009/10 and 2013/14 (TSMP) explicitly identify priority areas and interventions to improve the production and use of gender data, including in their monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Another significant challenge relates to coordination. Currently, Tanzania’s two semi-autonomous statistics systems (in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar) have limited coordination, particularly in relation to gender statistics. Finally, one of the biggest concerns in Tanzania relates to the Statistics Act1 which was passed in September 2018 and includes provisions that may result in significant fines, jail time, or both, for anyone questioning the accuracy of official statistics or producing figures that contradict it. Such restrictions go against the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics2 and can have a negative impact on data quality and can erode public trust in official statistics, hence limit its use.

In response to these challenges, the Women Count project in Tanzania will be implemented in partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) in Mainland Tanzania; and with the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), Ministry of Labour Empowerment for the Elderly, Women, and Children (MLEEWC) and Zanzibar Planning Commission in Zanzibar.

Women Count response: Interventions include using the SDGs, FYDP II, and MKUZA III as organizing frameworks for determining the requirements of a well-coordinated and well-resourced gender statistical system by focusing on gaps relating to gender-specific priority indicators; make gender statistics visible in the national statistical system by ensuring that the National Gender Policy, TSMP and NSDS-Zanzibar explicitly includes a gender data action and financing plan; support the integration of gender statistics, including indicators related to social norms and institutions, in the monitoring of national and sectoral strategies and/or action plans; and support strengthening of institutional capacities of key actors in the gender statistics system and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. The fact that between 2018 and 2020, both the national gender equality policy and the TSMP will be revised provides an excellent entry point for the Women Count programme to ensure that there is an alignment between these two instruments, further strengthening the production and use of gender data. Working with the UN System and the international community in general, UN Women will continue to advocate for a further amendment of the Statistics Act to address existing concerns and to ensure that its implementation integrates a gender perspective.

2. Increasing data production

There is existing capacity within the national statistical system to generate gender data and statistics to monitor the SDGs and other gender equality and women’s empowerment commitments. However, there are numerous gaps. Currently, only 16 of 54 gender-specific SDG indicators are fully available in Mainland Tanzania, and 15 in Zanzibar. These account for less than 30 per cent of the total indicators needed (see Figure 1). Most of the indicators produced in Tanzania are disaggregated by sex but few have additional disaggregation. There is a lack of baseline data in unpaid care work (time-use) and violence against women and girls (VAWG). While some gender-specific data has been collected, in some cases, survey reports are not published, such as gender-based violence in the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Moreover, statistical methods and measures to address gender equality are lacking, particularly on social norms and institutions.

Women Count response: The proposed interventions include supporting the re-processing of existing data from censuses, surveys, and routine data systems to address gender data gaps; assessing sources for suitable data production to report on indicators at national and subnational levels; and producing new gender statistics on emerging concerns such as time use, poverty, social norms and institutions, asset ownership and the informal sector; and capacity building and training.
3. Improving data accessibility and use

Both NBS and the OCGS have several web-based statistical databases. However, there is no one-stop-shop or comprehensive source for the latest sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics. This means there is currently no stand-alone database on gender data with both quantitative and qualitative information. Women and Men Facts and Figures is not regularly produced and presently depends on external support. Finally, user-producer forums on gender statistics are not regularly or systematically organized.

**Women Count response:** Improving access through a centralized online database on gender equality measures related to social norms and institutions, featuring both quantitative and qualitative data is therefore a key priority of Women Count in Tanzania. The project will also support the regular publication of reports on gender across the SDGs as a means of developing capacity for gender statistics use and institutionalize user-producer dialogue mechanisms.

**Key Achievements in 2018**

- UN Women supported the NBS to conduct the 2018 national Household Budget Survey (HBS), meaning that Tanzania will be able to adequately monitor progress towards SDG Target 5.4. Similarly, Tanzania, for the first-time ever, will generate new data on monetary poverty, time poverty and the multidimensional poverty of women, all of which will inform the revision of the national gender equality policy in 2019. Additionally, given that the HBS was deliberately designed to address the data needs of at least 85 SDG indicators, the survey will allow Tanzania to address key SDG data gaps and enable further analysis of time use, through the construction of the first household satellite accounts of unpaid care and domestic work.

- A Technical Working Group on Gender Statistics (TWG-GS) was established for members of the NBS/OCGS, key government institutions, civil society organizations and development partners, led by UN Women. There will be one TWG-GSs for the Mainland (to be co-chaired by the NBS and MoHCDEGC) and another for Zanzibar (to be co-chaired by OCGS and MLEEWC). This committee will oversee the quality production of gender data in Tanzania, advise NBS/OCGS to prioritize areas where more gender data is needed, and foster greater coordination between the two statistical offices.

- UN Women secured €400,000 in funding from the Government of Ireland (IrishAid), to conduct a Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) survey in collaboration with the OECD Development Centre in 2019–2020. The SIGI measures discriminatory social institutions such as unequal inheritance rights, child marriage, VAWG, and unequal land and property rights. It will provide a strong evidence-base for positive action on gender equality in Tanzania.

**FIGURE 1**

Measuring Progress in 2018

Progress in the United Republic of Tanzania was driven by the support provided to the National Bureau of Statistics to conduct the 2018 Household Budget Survey and a number of activities were initiated that will contribute to achieving the 2019 and 2020 targets.
**Plans for 2019**

In 2019, Women Count Tanzania key activities will include:

**Enabling environment**
- Integrating gender strategies in the Second Tanzanian Statistical Master Plan;
- Integrating directives for gender statistics production in the Gender Statistics Policy in Tanzania;
- Developing a minimum set of Tanzania National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (TNPGEIs);
- Developing guidelines to produce gender statistics and revise tools, including methods, standards and quality assurance frameworks.

**Data production**
- Supporting the reprocessing of Tier I and Tier II gender-specific SDG indicators from existing Census and survey data as well as routine data systems, including disaggregation at regional and district levels, where possible;
- Support OCGS to conduct a time use survey in Zanzibar;
- Supporting collection and analysis of SIGI data.

**Data accessibility and use**
- Designing and establishing a responsive database within NBS and OCGS websites, hosting national-level gender statistics to monitor global and national commitments, including on social norms and institutions;
- Producing gender statistics profiles and booklets, a publication addressing gender data gaps in Tanzania, a National Gender Profile and a Women and Men Booklet;
- Organizing the annual Gender Statistics Forum;
- Supporting NBS to conduct user-producer meetings to analyse and use the 2017-18 Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar HBS results and support the launch and dissemination of the OCGS’s Women and Men Booklet.

**ENDNOTES**

1 The Statistics Act was passed in September 2018 after the national assessment was completed.
3 In collaboration with the World Bank.