



IN BRIEF: UGANDA

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

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Following the launch of the Women Count programme in 2016, Uganda was the first country to implement a national project, with support from DFID, as part of its Strengthening Evidence Based Decision Making II Programme (SEBDM II), Output 4¹, which ends in March 2019. Support from the Women Count global programme, which started in May 2018, builds on those early efforts, including a national assessment of gender statistics conducted in 2016. The challenges identified in Uganda include the following:

1. Creating an enabling environment

Gender statistics are not adequately included in the legal and policy frameworks for statistics. Although a stand-alone strategy to produce gender statistics was developed in 2012, it is still not fully integrated into Uganda's Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD), currently in its second iteration. Thus, there has been inconsistent and unpredictable financial and technical support to produce gender data. Furthermore, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)

currently lacks enough gender-specialized human resources to provide continued liaison with and technical support to Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs), the efficient integration of the gender statistical system, as well as the process of validating gender data produced by MDAs data, which is essential to guarantee the quality of SDGs data, remain key concerns.

With the support of UN Women, the Government of Uganda adopted and endorsed the National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEI) since 2016. The set of 106 indicators is being used to monitor progress on gender equality, including the National Development Plan II (2016-2020). With the localization process currently underway to identify the set of indicators that will be used annually to monitor and report on SDG progress, vigorous efforts are necessary to ensure that the selected indicators integrate and include NPGEIs as much as possible.



Women Count response: UN Women will focus on addressing gaps in legal frameworks, policies and practices that limit the sustained production and use of gender data at all levels and informing reforms and reviews underway, including revising the strategic objectives and activities for gender statistics in the Extended PNSD II. As a planning and monitoring tool, the NPGEIs will be key to mainstreaming gender within the national statistical system (NSS). Therefore, the project will continue to support efforts that are already underway to strengthen the capacity of UBOS and MDAs, including ensuring that the relevant indicators are integrated in sector workplans. The project will also continue to support coordination between data users and producers.

2. Increasing data production

The recent adoption and localization of the SDG framework and the NPGEI in Uganda have highlighted significant data gaps that need to be filled for periodic gender-responsive SDG monitoring and reporting. Gender data is quite limited (see Box 1) and even where it can be obtained from surveys, data is limited to national, regional and sub-regional levels and is not disaggregated at district level, limiting its usability. Furthermore, much of the available gender-related statistics in Uganda are descriptive, with little in-depth analysis done, including basic multi-level disaggregation. Finally, there are severe capacity gaps in most MDAs, including staffing levels, lack of appreciation of gender statistics and limited skills levels to produce gender data.



Women Count response: Interventions include supporting new surveys in key areas such as time use, violence against women and girls and governance peace and security where there are key data gaps; supporting MDAs to update data collection tools, methods and standards; periodically supporting the reprocessing of existing data to update the NPGEIs and supporting more in-depth data analyses of existing and upcoming surveys.

3. Improving data accessibility and use

Uganda has made a lot of progress in improving data dissemination but significant barriers to access such data remain. Some stem from the fact that statistics are not processed and disseminated in a user-friendly manner, while others can be attributed to the lack of institutional, financial and technical capacity to validate and widely disseminate the data through online platforms. UBOS' coordination with and reporting to international statistical partners is critical to ensure that Uganda's gender statistics are in line with international statistical standards. However, the lack of capacity to report systematically and periodically to the international statistical system, leads to data discrepancies between national and international sources, undermining trust in official statistics.



Women Count response: Interventions include supporting the production of analytic reports on women and the NPGEIs/SDGs; disseminating SDG data through publications, including a Population Census Gender Monograph; institutionalizing various user-producer dialogues including the Annual Gender Statistics Forum (AGSF); supporting the wide dissemination of data, policy briefs and research and conducting tailor made trainings on gender statistics for data users and producers.

BOX 1

Gender data gaps in Uganda

- Baseline information is only available for 50% of the indicators in Tier I.
- while 15% can readily be obtained from reprocessing existing survey data.
- and 35% are not readily available.

Source: National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEIs) updated in 2018 and published in 2019 (NPGEIs 2019).

Key Achievements in 2018

- UBOS developed a Strategy for the Development of Gender Statistics² that was integrated in the Extended PNSD II.³ Through UN Women's technical and financial support, UBOS assisted 29 MDAs and 16 local government entities to develop and implement statistical plans to increase the production and use of gender data, resulting in a complete mainstreaming of gender in the NSS.
- UBOS and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) harmonized the National Standard Indicators (NSI) framework with the SDGs and targets. The result was an increase in the number of NPGEI from 106 to 140, all of which are now integrated in the NSI and are routinely monitored. This was made possible by UN Women's support to create the national multi-sector SDG Data Technical Working Group to lead efforts by UBOS and OPM to validate and harmonize SDG indicators and identify data requirements and gaps. Future technical and financial support will focus on strengthening the capacity of 18 government sectors that have been clustered and aligned with each of the corresponding 17 SDGs.
- With UN Women's technical and financial support, UBOS conducted its first ever Time Use Survey in 2017-18. The results, expected in 2019, will be widely disseminated, including through policy dialogues and round table discussions.
- Following the National Governance Peace and Security Survey (NGPSS) conducted in 2017 by UBOS, UN Women supported the data analysis and publication of the report in 2018. The survey which produced data on topics such as democratic governance, peace and security, rule of law, human rights, transparency and accountability helped to inform and monitor the Government of Uganda's legal and administrative commitments to good governance and address key data gaps on SDG 16 indicators. As a result of UN Women's support and advocacy, gender equality concerns were addressed in this survey for the first time, including attitudes and perceptions towards: gender equality, paid and unpaid work, women's interest and participation in politics, and violence against women in public and private spheres.
- Through UN Women's support to reprocessing of data from recent surveys and administrative data systems, UBOS is now able to produce data for 57 per cent of the NPGEIs (80 of the 140 indicators), bringing the government closer to its objective of increasing the production and use of gender data in policy, planning and monitoring of gender equality.
- Building on the international capacity building programme pioneered by Statistics Sweden, 35 data producers are being supported by UN Women to improve their gender statistical skills. A similar training for 17 persons from civil society organizations also took place in 2018. In each case, the trainees are developing issue papers through a long-term mentorship programme. The results will be presented during the second phase of the training scheduled in February 2019.
- UN Women brought together over 80 users and producers by organizing the second Annual Gender Statistics Forum on 29 November 2018 in Kampala. The Forum was attended by UBOS, other representatives of Government, development partners, civil society organizations, researchers and academia. At the Forum, the gender module of the NGPSS 2017, along with three issue papers on policy implications of the findings, were presented and disseminated. The issue papers will feed into a national policy dialogue in 2019.

FIGURE 1

Measuring Progress in 2018



Progress was achieved in Uganda due to the successful collaboration with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics to conduct several surveys. However, some planned activities such as training of producers and users did not take place and several knowledge products slated to be published in 2018 will only be completed in early 2019.

Plans for 2019

In 2019, the Women Count Uganda project will focus on the following activities:

Enabling environment

- Providing technical support to review PNSD II and finalise PNSD III to align it with the National Development Plan III in 2020;
- Training gender statistics specialists in the NSS that provide technical support and facilitate liaison among sectors for the inclusion of gender components and NPGEI in strategies and the revised PNSD;
- Supporting improved coordination of gender statistics in the NSS.

Data production

- Supporting the review and updating of administrative data collection tools, developing metadata and methodologies for the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS);
- Conducting a stand-alone violence against women and girls survey to collect baseline prevalence data, including preparatory activities such as finalizing the

tool, methodology and pre-testing of the questionnaire to inform the design and conduct the main survey planned for 2020;

- Supporting data analysis and producing reports for Tier II indicator 5.c.1 on proportion of budget allocated to gender; and indicator 5.5.1.b on women in local government in Uganda, in line with global standards.

Data accessibility and use

- Providing technical and financial support to OPM to coordinate monitoring and reporting on the SDGs by ensuring the inclusion of gender-responsive data;
- Producing Sector Profiles (analysis reports) on Women and Girls aligned with NPGEIs and SDGs;
- Holding the third Annual Gender Statistics Forum during Statistics Week and arranging and advocacy symposium;
- Conducting tailor-made trainings on gender statistics for data producers and users on how to translate data into evidence.

ENDNOTES

- 1 UK Aid. 2019. "Strengthening evidence based decision making in Uganda II." Accessed 30 May 2019. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-200795/documents>
- 2 Uganda Bureau of Statistics. 2017. Strategy for the Development of Gender Statistics 2018/19 – 2019/20: Illuminating the path towards gender equality in Uganda.

- 3 Uganda Bureau of Statistics. 2018. Extended Strategic Plan for Statistics 2018/19 – 2019/20: Enhancing data quality and use. <https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UBOSExtendedSSPII.pdf>