



## OVERVIEW: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II GLOBAL

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### The issue

Progress on national and international gender equality commitments depend on the world's ability to implement effective evidence-based policies that respond to the needs of all women and girls. Yet challenges to collecting and using timely and reliable gender data to this end remain:

- **Weak policy space**, legal and financial environments pose barriers to progress and gender statistics still suffer from chronic underfunding. The [2023 Partner Report on Support to Statistics](#) found that nearly half of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee members allocated either nothing or only a negligible amount of official development assistance to gender-related statistics activities.
- **Critical data gaps** remain that limit understanding of key issues, particularly on topics such as women's economic empowerment (WEE), violence against women (VAW), the gender and environment nexus, and gender-responsive governance also limiting the ability to measure progress towards achieving the gender equality commitments of the 2030 Agenda.
- **Lack of documentation of use cases**, lack of access and limited use of gender data pose challenges.

### Our response

Building on the progress made in Phase I, Phase II of the Women Count programme continued work to:

- **Create an enabling environment:** Strengthening the conditions for sustainable gender data production, use and financing by supporting countries and regions, advancing global standards and methodologies, strengthening inter-agency coordination, building leadership capacity, and positioning gender data in major global and regional policy spaces.
- **Increase data production:** Strengthening countries' capacity to produce comparable, policy-relevant gender data through guidance and tools distilling best practices in priority areas, including time-use surveys (TUS), gender and environment data, and VAW administrative data; and developing methodologies on the production and use of citizen data, administrative data and technology-facilitated violence against women (TF VAW).
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** Women Count expanded access to gender data, knowledge products and impact stories through the UN Women [Data Hub](#), *Gender Data Outlook*, *SDG Gender Snapshot*, and documented use cases. These products strengthened the use of gender data for programming, advocacy, policy dialogue, accountability and future investments, while increasing capacities to use and communicate gender data effectively.

## Key results

### *Creating an enabling environment*

- **Inter-agency collaboration on gender data was significantly strengthened, with UN Women driving major shifts in how the global statistical community integrated gender perspectives.** As Co-Chair of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS), UN Women co-led key initiatives – including the paper “[Positioning Household Surveys for the Next Decade](#)” presented at the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) – advancing priorities such as data interoperability and respondent-centred, gender-sensitive survey design. UN Women also catalysed coordinated action in response to the DHS Program stoppage, proposing short- and medium-term solutions through ISWGHS and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG SDGs). It also co-designed and contributed to the ISWGHS [rapid assessment](#) of the impact of funding reductions on national statistical offices (NSOs) and household surveys, which is now informing a national stock-taking exercise to develop a blueprint for sustainable demographic and health statistics to be presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the UNSC in 2027. As a Steering Committee member for the revision of the United Nations [Handbook of Surveys on Households and Individuals](#), UN Women ensured the inclusion of the handbook's first-ever chapter on mainstreaming gender, promoting an individual-level approach that better captures intra-household inequalities. Building on this work, UN Women is also producing stand-alone guidance on gender mainstreaming in household surveys, which has been reviewed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) and ISWGHS. Through sustained advocacy and engagement in global forums, UN Women also influenced the adoption of gender-environment indicators for the [Global Set](#), contributed to the revised [Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use](#), updating earlier guidance helping countries produce more harmonized and policy-relevant time-use and care statistics, including improved measures of [supervisory care](#), and helped set new global standards for [measuring labour informality statistics](#) together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), giving countries a harmonized basis to capture informal work more consistently, including women's often undercounted forms of informal employment and unpaid contributing family work. Collectively, these efforts strengthened global statistical standards and mobilized UN partners and experts to take concrete action on gender data.
- **UN Women's partnerships generated methodologies to improve the quality and expand the production and use of gender data globally.** The global programme worked with key

partners – such as the ILO, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) – to improve statistical methodologies and gender data quality. This resulted in new [estimates of women’s poverty](#), [intimate-partner violence, non-partner sexual violence](#) and women’s unpaid care and domestic work. They also resulted in new standards for [measuring non-partner sexual violence harassment](#), [recommendations for measuring gender-based violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics](#), and the piloting of the 2022 [statistical framework for measuring femicide](#). Additionally, UN Women and PARIS21 advanced work to strengthen the production and use of gender data, including through the development of a data quality assurance framework for gender-related citizen data, informed in part by the [Participation for Transformation](#) framework’s emphasis on citizen engagement. This work is being taken forward through the Working Group on Gender and Citizen Data, including forthcoming guidance on ethical frameworks for measuring VAW using citizen data and on citizen engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the gender-environment data nexus. Separate guidance on [assessing legal frameworks](#) for gender data will also inform the next update of the *Gender Data Outlook*.

- **Senior leaders and decision-makers across national statistical systems (NSSs) are being equipped to drive gender equality from within.** As part of the Gender Statistics Curriculum, UN Women introduced a new module – [Forging Pathways for Gender Equality in Statistical Leadership](#) – to build a pipeline of women leaders across NSOs and NSS institutions. Through a blended programme combining in-person training, applied learning and a capstone project, participants will be able to strengthen their capacity to identify gender gaps in leadership and develop actionable strategies to advance women’s representation in decision-making roles. Its uptake is already expanding: with the regional project in **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)** adopting the module for piloting in the **Dominican Republic**, while discussions between the regional project in **Asia and the Pacific (AP)** and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) began for a targeted regional roll-out in 2026. This contributes to stronger, more inclusive national data systems that better reflect and respond to the realities of women and girls.
- **Gender data advocacy and strategic engagement have elevated UN Women’s leadership and enhanced visibility of Women Count as a leading global programme for change.** Through sustained engagement in key global intergovernmental and statistical spaces – including the UNSC, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the World Data Forum and Global Forum on Gender Statistics – UN Women has organized and contributed to over 17 high-level events and sessions to consistently position gender data at the centre of global policy and statistical agendas. These efforts have strengthened the recognition of gender data as a foundation for decision-making, amplified the visibility of Women Count as a best practice and reinforced UN Women’s role as a global leader in transforming gender data systems. For example, UN Women with partners catalysed a global [Call to Action](#) at the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [Global Conference on Gender-Environment Data](#), mobilizing governments and partners to strengthen the production, use and financing of gender and the environment data. This momentum directly informed and aligned with the [Belém Gender Action Plan \(2026–2034\)](#), which elevates gender-responsive data as a core pillar of climate policy and mandates strengthened data collection, analysis and use across UNFCCC processes. These efforts are critical to closing persistent data gaps and ensuring that climate policies and investments are grounded in evidence and responsive to the differentiated impacts on women and girls (see AP regional annex for more details).

## *Increasing data production*

- **Global availability of gender-related SDG indicators has increased significantly.** As of the end of 2025, more than 63% of gender-related SDG indicators had data available globally – a considerable improvement over the 42% available in 2021 and the 26% in 2016. On average, eight Women Count countries now have 70% of gender data available.<sup>1</sup>
- **For the first time, countries will be able to systematically measure the occurrence and prevalence of technology-facilitated violence against women using globally agreed standards.** Through Women Count, UN Women and partners (including UNFPA and WHO), advanced global efforts to develop methodological standards on the measurement of TF VAW, resulting in a mandate from the UNSC to develop a global statistical framework on this issue. UN Women contributed to drafting Secretary-General's reports on [gender statistics](#), [TF VAW](#), [female genital mutilation](#) and [trafficking in women and girls](#), as well as General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions on [child marriage](#), [domestic violence](#) and [TF VAW](#). UN Women also conducted rapid global reviews of TF VAW data and Member States reporting, compiling national measurement practices and launching studies on online perpetration and violence against women human rights defenders, with findings expected in early 2026. These efforts will enable countries to generate reliable and comparable data to inform targeted policies, strengthen prevention efforts and hold systems accountable for addressing TF VAW.
- **Guidance has strengthened the quality and collection of administrative data on VAW.** [Global guidance](#) developed by UN Women and WHO has also helped countries improve the collection and use of administrative data to monitor VAW. It was also used to develop national and regional guidelines and protocols on VAW administrative data collection, particularly in the [Caribbean](#) and the Pacific.
- **The global statistical framework on femicide is transforming how countries generate, prevent and respond to the gender-related killings of women and girls.** Endorsed by the UNSC in 2022, the [framework](#) – developed by UN Women, UNODC and UN Women's Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) – establishes internationally agreed definitions and global standards to measure femicide. It has been complemented by the first joint UNODC-UN Women global estimates on femicide, which provided robust, internationally comparable figures on female intimate partner and family-related killings in [2023](#) and [2024](#), strengthening global monitoring and advocacy. Implementation of the framework has expanded to at least 14 pilot countries across five regions, with results consolidated and shared at the [2025 Global Meeting on Measuring Femicide](#). With UN Women's technical support, countries are using the framework to improve data collection and comparability, inform investigations and drive reforms, including [laws](#) requiring the collection and publication of official statistics on femicide in Belgium, strengthening investigation and coordination practices in Georgia, establishing accountability and [reporting](#) mechanisms in Albania, prompting [legal reforms](#) in Ecuador, and [modernizing case management](#) and real-time monitoring approaches in Lesotho. By systematically capturing comparable and actionable data, the framework is helping transform femicide from an undercounted phenomenon into a measurable and preventable form of violence, strengthening accountability, informing legislative and policy reform, and advancing coordinated global action to end killings of women and girls. UN Women and UNODC will submit a global report on the implementation of the femicide framework at UNSC 2027.
- **Countries are now better equipped to produce comparable, policy-relevant care and time-use statistics – strengthening the evidence base to address gender inequalities in unpaid work.** Through Women Count, UN Women advanced global methodological standards by developing [harmonized guidance](#) drawing on experiences from over 25 countries, enabling more consistent and comparable TUS data across NSSs. In parallel, [a multi-country analysis](#) using harmonized microdata from 10 countries generated new indicators – such as time poverty, multi-tasking and mobility – that reveal previously

hidden dimensions of gender inequality and unpaid care burdens. The harmonized guidance is informing regional guidance in AP, supporting Asian Development Bank-related work in Georgia and Bhutan, and informing ongoing country support in Kazakhstan. The multi-country guidance is also being used in LAC as part of emerging work on a proposed Time Use Inequality Index. Both guidance products are being offered as practical tracks under the Nairobi Action Plan for Time-Use Data and Public Policy, particularly to help translate micro-level time-use data into macro-level policy action over 2026–2028. Together, these efforts provide countries with practical tools and new insights to design evidence-based care, labour and social policies, and to better recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work.

- **UN Women advanced global leadership in defining citizen data standards and promoting their uptake and use.** As inaugural co-chair of the [Collaborative on Citizen Data](#), UN Women helped propel global standards and guidance, including the [Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data](#), adopted at the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNSC. In 2025, UN Women and Open Data Watch co-established and co-chaired the [Working Group on Gender and Citizen Data](#) under the Collaborative, engaging 19 organizations on [gender-related citizen data quality assurance](#), ethical frameworks and VAW measurement, Indigenous peoples and environment data, advocacy and sustainable financing. Its work on gender-related citizen data quality assurance is informing the emerging broader citizen data quality framework, while its work on [sexual harassment and citizen data](#) is serving as a take-off point for broader guidance on ethical frameworks. These efforts are helping build institutional, quality, ethical and financing foundations for citizen data to complement official statistics and strengthen gender data systems. Complementing this, UN Women is shaping a forthcoming global guidance product on responsibly leveraging citizen data and other innovative sources to enhance SDG gender monitoring and official reporting.

### *Improving data use*

- **A new systematic approach was developed to documenting and showcasing how Women Count data and evidence are driving real-world change.** UN Women developed a [compilation](#) of use cases where gender data, collected with UN Women support, have driven meaningful change – with examples of how gender data have directly informed policies, legislation, programmes, advocacy or awareness campaigns. Over 37 use cases have documented how evidence from TUS, GES, VAW surveys and rapid gender assessments have led to real-world change – from legislative reforms and new policies to improved public services and increased community awareness. By demonstrating the tangible [value of data](#) in driving impact on the ground and progress on gender equality, Women Count reinforces the importance of investing in and using gender data to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- **The Gender Data Outlook flagship findings are shaping gender statistics programming and future investments.** Produced with PARIS21, the 2024 [Gender Data Outlook](#) (GDO) assessed countries’ gender statistics maturity and capacity across the entire data value chain. Its findings directly informed the prioritization of countries and interventions under Phase III of the Women Count programme and are increasingly being used by UN Women country offices to guide strategic planning and programming. Beyond UN Women, the GDO is influencing partners’ approaches – [iMMAP](#) has drawn on GDO findings to support advocacy on gender-based violence data gaps and evidence-based response in humanitarian settings, including by highlighting links between gender data financing, data accessibility and persistent gaps in VAW data and informing [PARIS21’s new stand-alone strategic goal](#) on data use and impact. The GDO has also helped guide donor priorities, including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Gates Foundation. Regional editions for [Africa](#) and the [Pacific](#) have further strengthened uptake and use.

- **Global monitoring and accountability for gender equality have significantly improved thanks to the *SDG Gender Snapshot*.** The annual [SDG Gender Snapshot](#) produced by UN Women and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has become a flagship advocacy tool widely used across global policy spaces to track progress, identify gaps and inform policy dialogues on gender equality across the SDGs. Its findings have been regularly used by Member States, UN entities and partners to guide advocacy, shape national reporting and prioritize interventions. For example, the snapshot was used to inform [Australia's strategy for gender equality](#) and EU [reporting to CSW](#). Several launches of the report have been organized in Nordic countries, and 7 regional and 10 country snapshots have been produced, inspired by the global report under Women Count.
- **The UN Women [Data Hub](#) surpassed 1 million views and has transformed global access to gender data and knowledge.** In 2025, the Hub recorded more than 1 million annual views from over 230 countries and territories – a notable increase from the 742,000 views in 2024. The Data Hub is now UN Women's second-most popular platform, after the corporate website (unwomen.org). Since 2022, it has substantially expanded access to gender data, knowledge and analytical resources with more than 100 data stories, over 250 publications; and several dedicated platforms. The Hub is now being strategically integrated into UN Women's corporate web presence, further enhancing discoverability, usability, and system-wide coherence on gender data knowledge and assets.
- **Gender data have been used to fuel global advocacy efforts on ending VAW and shape global priorities.** UN Women [analysis of VAW measures](#) captured in the [Global Database on Violence against Women](#) revealed that intimate partner violence rates are 2.5 times higher in States with few comprehensive VAW measures, compared to States with many. UN Women's Zero Violence Action Agenda specifically focused on comprehensive action plans, with [infographics created to support global advocacy](#) ahead of the General Assembly. When the Beijing+30 Action Agenda was launched in September 2025, most of the priority actions announced by States were on ending VAW (70 out of 205). Global database measures analysis of TF VAW further revealed that more than two-thirds of countries are addressing TF VAW at national level. This finding was cited and shaped the focus of the 2025 UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to end gender-based violence campaign, which focused on [ending digital violence against women and girls](#). Building on the 2024 UNiTE campaign and through [G20 advocacy with the G20](#), a position paper on VAW and femicide highlighting global data and gaps, and related [policy roadmap](#) were shared with the G20 in 2025, contributing to the acknowledgement of femicide as an extreme form of violence by the G20 [Empowerment of Women Working Group](#).

## Plans for 2025

Phase III of Women Count will build on the achievements of previous phases while responding to emerging challenges in the global data landscape. Global initiatives will focus on strengthening coordination across the gender data ecosystem, advancing methodological innovation and supporting countries to build sustainable gender data systems. Key activities will include:

- Participating in inter-agency meetings to continue to ensure gender data is prioritized within the global statistical system.
- Producing flagship reports such as the next editions of the Gender Data Outlook, together with PARIS21 and the World Bank and annual Gender Snapshot report with UNSD.
- Providing technical and programmatic support to countries and regions to develop Phase III projects.

- Producing global guidance and tools to contribute to modernizing NSSs using non-conventional data sources (i.e. citizen data, AI, etc.) and integrating gender into global statistical methodologies and standards.
- Providing technical guidance to improve the production and availability of gender data in humanitarian settings.
- Integrating the UN Women Data Hub into the corporate website to ensure greater visibility, centrality of data and positioning for sustainability.

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<sup>i</sup> 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.