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OVERVIEW: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II COLOMBIA

The issue

Despite significant progress in Phase I of Women Count in Colombia, persistent challenges remained, including:

- Limited investment in statistics, driven by global and national conditions, posed barriers to consolidating efforts and sustaining progress. The chronic lack of funding for gender statistics constrained the ability to innovate in statistical operations, mirroring the ability to measure progress towards gender equality and to generate timely evidence to counteract regressions in women's rights.
- Limited resource allocation within the data ecosystem hindered efforts to promote innovation in the production, access, analysis and use of gender statistics, or use new ways to measure gender gaps via non-traditional sources, such as localized geospatial analysis and the generation of citizen data.
- Low inter-institutional coordination between data producers and users complicated the ability to expand and sustain results. Coordination among key actors in the national statistical system (NSS), particularly at the decision-making level, needed strengthening to ensure evidence could inform gender-responsive policies. Limited data production and use capacities at subnational levels, and among different population groups, also left wide information gaps that posed challenges for monitoring gender equality commitments.
- Limited use of administrative records and technological innovations, as well as the reduced interoperability of information sources contributed to persistent data gaps – particularly in areas like gender and the environment, land ownership, humanitarian action and violence against women (VAW) – stunting the development of effective policies on gender equality.

Our response

- **Create an enabling environment:** UN Women supported the creation of networks of experts on gender statistics that can advise groups and institutional structures linked to the statistical system; updated and implemented specialized guides for institutional work; and expanded the gender statistics capacities of data users and producers through a national training programme.
- **Increase data production:** Supported the National Statistics Office on the design and piloting of the first specialized survey on VAW; increased capacities to analyse administrative data and economic surveys; promoted innovation in statistical processes to address key issues such as gender and the environment, women's economic empowerment (WEE), land ownership, political participation and investments in gender equality; supported the territorial monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and undertook geospatial analysis on the care economy to contribute to the design of care systems and the development of Colombia's care map.
- **Improve data accessibility and use:** Produced and widely disseminated new gender data publications to inform and evaluate public policies, especially linked to development plans; expanded alliances with gender observatories to improve the accessibility and use of data with a differential and intersectional approach; shared Colombia's recognized expertise in gender statistics development at regional and international levels.

Key results

Creating an enabling environment

- **Colombia institutionalized the integration of gender, differential and intersectional approaches across its NSS, creating stronger legal conditions for sustained production and use of inclusive data.** Building on the partnership established between UN Women and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), and the technical assistance provided to several of its strategic directorates, Colombia approved its first [law on statistics](#) after seven decades of developing its NSS. This law seeks to strengthen data production, dissemination and analysis based on principles of inclusion and respect for diversity (Article 4.4), incorporating a differential and intersectional approach throughout the entire national statistical process (Article 5.4). The second important regulatory framework was the [National Statistical Plan \(2023–2027\)](#), which defines a new institutional road map for consolidating the NSS and includes the incorporation of differential approaches to generate timely information to address inequalities (Strategy 2). The third is the update of the methodological guide originally developed in 2020 to support differential and intersectional approaches in national statistical production, accompanied by a pedagogical strategy to facilitate dissemination and implementation. As a result of this guide, an institutional coordination strategy is now in place aimed at establishing standards to ensure the application of these approaches in statistical operations, led by more than 30 government entities, thereby expanding the impact of these efforts. Together, these three instruments have updated Colombia's statistical framework, ensuring the integration of a gender perspective in decision-making and strengthening technical guidance to improve transparency in the production and dissemination of statistics.
- **Coordination within the NSS improved through the establishment of nine mechanisms aimed at promoting alignment on national gender data priorities and strategic dialogue between data users and producers.** Through alliances with key partners – including DANE, the National Planning Department (DNP), Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC), the Ministries of Equality and of the Environment, German International Cooperation (GIZ), and both the Canadian and Swedish Embassies – mechanisms were established to facilitate coordination around gender statistics. These included five

interdisciplinary working groups and four inter-institutional technical committees, addressing issues related to: land tenure, political violence measurement, statistical innovation, cooperation programmes and the impacts of environmental crises, involving over 20 civil society organizations (CSOs) and more than 90 women experts. As a result, Colombia advanced strategic statistical processes, including the first comprehensive study on [violence against women in politics](#) in the country, conducted as part of a coordinated effort under the UN Women-led [More Women, More Democracy Strategy](#), which has been recognized for the soundness of its methodological and statistical approach. Strengthened coordination also resulted in an [institutional protocol for citizen generated data](#); gender-responsive environmental accounting analyses; strengthened gender perspectives in [national transfer accounts](#); and [multi-stakeholder dialogues](#) to accelerate gender equality through cooperation.

- **More than 2,500 people now have strengthened their ability to generate, analyse and use gender data – translating new skills and tools for gender-responsive land administration, territorial planning and public policies.** From 2022–2025, four training processes were designed and implemented with key partners such as DANE and IGAC. In 2023, more than 350 professionals from 23 public entities built their capacities to analyse and use gender statistics to inform public policy design, strengthening institutional effectiveness. In 2024, 2,021 data producers from organizations responsible for collecting information for the [Multipurpose Cadastre](#) learned how to incorporate a gender perspective in land registry updates, through the Intercultural School of Geography for Life. Also in 2024, 41 professionals from gender observatories learned how to disseminate and use gender statistics in order to influence policy development at the subnational level. The fourth training process, in 2025, strengthened the capacities of 91 CSO representatives on using gender statistics in territorial planning. Evidence from post-training evaluations shows strong uptake of gender data skills, with 92% of participants finding the competencies relevant and 94% applying them in practice. These findings demonstrate a clear transition from capacity-development to practical use of evidence in institutional and policy contexts. In parallel, the development of the [Guide for integrating a gender perspective into the Multipurpose Cadastre](#) and the *Gender-responsive educational booklet on land tenure* translated technical knowledge into actionable resources. These efforts contribute to the implementation of the 2016 peace agreement, which prioritizes rural women’s access to land and calls for gender-sensitive land formalization and disaggregated cadastral data. A concrete example of this progress in 2025 is that 4 out of every 10 women were registered as the sole interested party in land parcels, this represents significant progress, especially considering that before the “sex” variable was added to land registry records, this ratio was 1 in 10 women. In addition, these capacity-building tools directly supported the consolidation of a network of more than 3,800 rural women acting as social mobilizers, who are now better equipped to monitor compliance and promote women’s access to and secure tenure of land under the country’s comprehensive rural reform. [Women’s registration of land ownership](#) has also been rising. According to trained Afrodescendent leader and social mobilizer Argelia Sisgado: *“In Montes de María, it isn’t easy for women to acquire land. But now, with our knowledge of the Multipurpose [Cadastre] in our territory, women have woken up.”* Together, these outcomes reflect sustained progress towards institutionalizing the use of gender-responsive data to advance women’s rights and gender-equal development outcomes.
- **Colombia strengthened its leadership and advocacy on gender statistics in global and regional spaces, with UN Women’s support, helping raise the visibility of gender data as a strategic priority within national, regional and international data agendas.** This positioning enabled the countries to convene and contribute high-level knowledge exchange spaces, including the [V World Data Forum](#) in 2024 and the [First National Data Forum](#) in 2025. These events promoted technical dialogue, broadened engagement across the NSS and reinforced alliances with institutions working to integrate a gender perspective into the data ecosystem. Building on national-level experiences, Colombia also contributed to regional advocacy through the Statistical Conference of the Americas, led by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

(ECLAC), where it promoted recommendations aimed at strengthening environmental statistics from a gender perspective. This helped lay the groundwork for a new [regional working group](#) composed of national statistical offices and development cooperation agencies to advance efforts in 2026–2027.

Increasing data production

- **Colombia now has 67% of the gender-specific SDG indicators available, representing a 15-percentage-point increase compared to 2021¹.** Through a structured workplan implemented in coordination with DANE, progress was made on estimating data for SDG indicators 5.2.1 (related to violence against women and girls aged 15+ and 5.2.2 (related to sexual violence against women and girls aged 15+ by non-intimate partners). These advances were achieved through the application of alternative methodologies based on administrative records. This process also strengthened inter-institutional coordination with key partners, including the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Legal Medicine, enabling systematic exchanges to support the estimation of these indicators. This has reinforced institutional collaboration within the national data ecosystem, contributing to more robust and sustainable monitoring of VAW. In parallel, through technical accompaniment coordinated with IGAC, analytical inputs were generated to estimate SDG indicator 1.4.2 on secure land tenure. This effort promoted the use of innovative approaches, including machine-learning techniques, to predict the sex variable in administrative databases provided by institutions directly involved in land governance, such as the Superintendence of Notaries. These methodological innovations expanded the availability of sex-disaggregated data and strengthened analytical capacity to assess gender gaps in land ownership. As a concrete outcome of this coordinated action, the [first national study on land market dynamics](#) was developed, generating evidence that identifies structural gaps and sheds light on the challenges faced by women across the country in accessing land. The findings produced actionable recommendations that contributed to the integration of a stronger gender perspective in the Government-led rural reform process. Building on these efforts, the technical assistance provided for SDG monitoring materialized in the development of the first edition of a national [Gender Snapshot](#), incorporating 33 global indicators and 10 national indicators. This product offers a clear and comprehensive overview of the country's progress towards the gender-related targets of the 2030 Agenda and will serve as key evidence for the Voluntary National Review (VNR) to be presented in 2026.
- **The NSS strengthened its capacity to measure VAW, including its prevalence in the political sphere, through two strategically promoted statistical processes due to their high priority for the country.** In partnership with DANE, Women Count technical and financial assistance was provided to design and validate these statistical operations. Within this partnership, the [Women's Situational Survey was designed and piloted](#) in 2025, representing the first statistical instrument developed in the country to measure the frequency and prevalence of VAW while applying specialized protocols on sensitization, self-care and safety. The pilot involved regional statistical offices and was implemented in seven capital cities – Bogotá, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cúcuta, Medellín and Pasto – covering a total of 1,000 households with structured sampling in 105 territorial segments. Evidence generated through the pilot informed recommendations to strengthen the survey's data-collection instruments, emotional containment strategies and communication of results. Most importantly, the pilot validated the survey's relevance and established a road map for its national implementation in 2026. In parallel, through an alliance with the National Civil Registry, the Ombudsperson's Office and the Government of Sweden under the UN-Women-led "More Women More Democracy Strategy", the survey on violence against women in politics was designed and implemented with nationwide territorial coverage. This initiative constituted the most comprehensive

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.

statistical process developed in the country yet to analyse the prevalence of VAW in the political arena. The evidence generated informed the publication [3,000 Voices for Democracy](#) in 2025, which found that 93.1% of female candidates had unpaid caregiving responsibilities, that 78.8% had experienced political violence, and that 46.1% would not participate in future political elections due to the violence they had endured. Based on such findings, the study proposed recommendations, such as the immediate implementation of Law 2453, adopted in 2025 (which aims to prevent, respond to and punish violence against women in politics) and the adoption of protection measures, contributing directly to the accelerated implementation of a [protocol for the prevention of and response to violence against women in politics](#).

- **Rapid gender assessments aimed at closing critical data gaps on the care economy informed the design of three territorial care systems.** Through partnerships established with local authorities, UN Women provided technical and financial assistance to conduct two rapid gender assessments on identified information needs. These efforts were carried out as part of the Caring Cities project, an initiative of the Canadian Embassy in partnership with UN Women. The first assessment, carried out in 2024, focused on analysing the supply and demand of care services in one department (Cauca) and three municipalities (Cumbal, Villavicencio and Quibdó). This process generated new evidence that made it possible to assess each territory's institutional capacity to provide care services, consolidating strategic data that were used to inform the development of a national care map. The second assessment, implemented in 2025, analysed time-use patterns among individuals aged 10 and above in the same territories. This exercise generated new data that enabled the estimation of indicators on unpaid care and domestic work, addressing a critical evidence gap for policy formulation. Among the findings were that 65.2% of men and 35.3% of women participated in paid work, however, only 60.8% of men engaged in unpaid care and domestic work, compared to 93.4% of women. These local-level findings clearly demonstrate that the uneven burden of unpaid work poses a challenge to women's ability to advance their economic empowerment. This evidence was generated specifically to guide the design of territorial care systems and to influence the drafting of regulatory decrees formalizing these systems. Sufficient evidence was generated to inform the design of at least three, in a way that institutionalizes care as a right and positions women as key political actors in ensuring effective governance within these care systems. For example, the [care system designed in Cauca](#) explicitly promotes evidence-generation using a differential and intersectional approach to assess progress in participation and the redistribution of care burdens. The [system developed in Villavicencio](#) encourages multisectoral participation to respond to care needs and incorporates evidence-generation to improve coordination between the supply and demand of care services. Finally, the [care system designed in Quibdó](#) emphasizes a rights-based approach, focuses on promoting social cohesion and human security, and includes mechanisms to generate evidence to monitor progress towards the municipality's established targets.
- **New subnational gender data on disability, care and the environment strengthened evidence-based planning and policymaking, enabling territorial actors to better identify and respond to the distinct realities of women and girls.** Through partnerships established with DANE, UNFPA, GIZ and the Ministry of Environment, a subnational-focused indicator framework was developed to address critical information gaps. The first set, comprising 12 indicators, responds to the need to expand analysis of the living conditions of people with disabilities. Examples of these indicators include the proportion of people with disabilities aged 5 and above, the proportion of caregivers with disabilities within households, and the number of hours dedicated to unpaid domestic work. Resulting findings were that departments such as [Nariño](#) have the highest prevalence of people with disabilities (11.5%), of whom 53.2% are women; that unpaid caregiving and informal employment are among the main causes of disability; and that 6.9% of women provide care for people with disabilities. It was also possible to highlight that in departments such as [Antioquia](#), a total of 118 cases of violence against women with disabilities were recorded in 2025, as well as a total of 330 cases related to neglect or abandonment,

representing 2% of the total cases of reported VAW. The second set, comprising six indicators, addresses gaps in care burdens, while the third set of nine indicators strengthens analysis of the interlinkages between gender and the environment. All indicator sets were developed using a differential and intersectional approach and were supported by structured technical accompaniment that covered both indicator definition and estimation. This approach responded to the identified demand for robust gender statistics to inform subnational public policies, including the design of territorial care systems. This evidence is being actively used by gender observatories and by departmental gender secretariats in territories such as [Antioquia](#), [Cauca](#) and [Nariño](#), particularly to support programme design and the formulation of gender-responsive policies within the Departmental Development Plans of [Antioquia](#), [Cauca](#) and [Nariño](#). These plans were themselves developed based on the evidence generated on the situation of women in each territory, reinforcing a results-oriented approach to policy planning and monitoring.

Improving data use

- **Gender data shaped public policies in Colombia, with evidence on VAW, care and land rights informing concrete legal, planning and administrative measures at national and local levels.** In 2025, [evidence generated on violence against women in the political sphere](#) reinforced the implementation of the [Law on Violence against Women in Politics](#), guiding the development of [measures aimed at preventing and sanctioning this form of violence](#), informed by the evidence generated on the prevalence of this type of violence, as well as concrete recommendations for addressing the intersecting discrimination faced by women in politics. Key recommendations included: the importance of taking measures to advance towards equal participation and representation; the implementation of specific measures aimed at protecting women against political violence; and the promotion of cultural change to stop normalizing violence against women in politics. Under this same evidence-driven approach, technical assistance was provided in 2025 through an alliance with the Municipality of Popayán to support the incorporation of a Municipal Care System into the Municipal Development Plan, an initiative carried out as part of the implementation of the Caring Cities project. This intervention relied on data-based evidence to demonstrate the need to transform the social organization of care at the local level. As a concrete result, [Decree No. 006 of 2024](#) was amended, ensuring that municipal development policy incorporates a care system centred on the recognition and redistribution of unpaid care work. Furthermore, through the alliance promoted with IGAC, new statistical evidence on gender disparities in land tenure was generated, contributing in 2024 to the formulation of an [Executive Decree](#) establishing the first special land allocation programme for women. This programme gives women access to tailored credit lines to finance productive activities that strengthen land tenure and promotes mechanisms to formalize property ownership. Building on land tenure evidence, advocacy in coordination with DANE further led to a [Directive Resolution](#) mandating the registration of the sex variable within the Multipurpose Cadastre in 2024. The incorporation of this variable has helped expand the availability of sex-disaggregated data and strengthen the diagnosis and monitoring of structural gaps in access to and ownership of land. In 2023, the Government of Colombia also adopted a new [National Development Plan for 2022-2026](#), whose formulation was supported by UN Women's alliance with the DNP, DANE and the Legal Commission for Gender Equality of Colombia's Congress. The alliance developed technical documents that were used by civil society and women's organizations to present data-driven proposals during the "Participatory and Binding Regional Dialogues." As a result of this evidence-informed engagement, the National Development Plan incorporated a dedicated chapter entitled "[Change is with Women](#)," with guidelines to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.
- **Knowledge products informed development planning and public policy in Colombia by providing decision-makers with actionable evidence on gender gaps.** Through partnerships with diverse stakeholders, UN Women supported the production of a wide range of knowledge products that contributed to strengthening evidence-based decision-

making. Among these products, is the third edition of the publication [Women and Men: Gender Gaps in Colombia](#) launched in 2024. This flagship report supported the formulation of policies grounded in empirical data and facilitated the monitoring of national and international commitments on gender equality. One of the policies informed by this evidence base was the [National Care Policy](#), which was officially launched in early 2025. The publication was presented during the [Fifth World Data Forum](#) held in Medellín in 2024, supported by a strategic media outreach campaign that generated 43 press releases and resulted in an estimated media return on investment exceeding COP 320 million (USD 85,666). This visibility significantly amplified the reach of gender statistics at the national level. In parallel, the publication of the second editions of the [Gender Profile of Cauca](#) and the [Gender Profile of Nariño](#) in 2024 strengthened the availability of timely, subnational-level evidence to inform departmental public policies. Both documents were used as key inputs for diagnosing the situation of women in each department, an effort that supported the formulation of their respective departmental development plans, reinforcing evidence-based planning processes at the territorial level. In the case of Cauca, the evidence enabled the development plan to mainstream a gender perspective, with strategies to address the structural inequalities faced by women in the department. One of these strategies involves strengthening a gender-sensitive information system called [Tangara](#) to promote access to and use of statistics for informing policy decisions. In Nariño, the development plan now includes a specific work programme to integrate services aimed at ensuring a dignified life for women in the department. In addition, in 2022, the Nariño Gender Observatory used localized data on VAW it produced with Women Count support to successfully lobby the University of Nariño to reopen the Support Unit for Women Victims of Violence (UNAVI), which had closed during the pandemic. According to [Henry Rosero](#), founder and advising professor of the UNAVI: *“Statistics have provided a lot of support, not only with the reopening of UNAVI as such, but they reveal a series of aggressions that occur in the public and private sphere that many women do not report.”* Further strengthening the evidence base, in 2025 the publication [Advances in the Multipurpose Cadastre from a Gender Perspective](#) was released, representing the first technical analytical exercise in the country to present results derived from the incorporation of the sex variable into the cadastral database. It provides evidence demonstrating the tangible impact of sex-disaggregated data on advancing land-related rights and improving the diagnosis of gender gaps in land tenure. A key data that illustrates this impact is the percentage of women who were registered as the sole interested party in land parcels, rising from 13% in traditional records to 42% in updated records that include the sex variable. This represents significant progress in recognizing women as rights holders in land tenure. Additionally, the publication [Land Market Dynamics from a Gender Perspective](#) also released in 2025, constituted the first national study of its kind, serving as a critical technical input to guide agrarian public policy decision-making by providing evidence to better understand gender-based disparities in access to land. Its findings support informed discussion on persistent inequalities and strengthen the empirical foundation required to guide strategies for land formalization, redistribution and the guarantee of rural property rights across the country. According to Johan Avendaño, Director of Research at IGAC: *“the study and the evidence provided should guide future efforts to design better strategies for advancing land formalization with a gender perspective, an initiative that must be coordinated with public entities such as the National Land Agency”*.

- **Digital platforms and data visualization tools expanded access to gender data, making complex information more visible, actionable and usable to enhance women’s understanding of how to claim and defend their rights.** The [Geospatial Viewer on Gender Gaps in Land Tenure](#), developed in 2024 through a collaboration with IGAC enables the visualization of gender gaps in land ownership across different territorial levels, supporting more robust analysis to inform public policies and strategies, particularly under the framework of the Comprehensive Rural Reform Policy. With more than 800,000 recorded consultations, the tool demonstrates sustained use and its usefulness as a resource both for understanding cadastral processes and for supporting women’s advocacy for their land and property rights. In parallel, the strengthening of the [Intercultural School of Geography for Life](#) microsite in 2024 – also in partnership with IGAC – consolidated training materials

to support the implementation of the Multipurpose Cadastre. The platform provides citizens with both theoretical and practical resources to promote learning processes that strengthen community participation in cadastral initiatives. This effort included the development of eight training modules designed for cadastral operators and managers nationwide, ensuring broader access to knowledge and reinforcing capacity development in land tenure processes, as well as a series of [videos](#) about the conflicts women can face when claiming their lands. Finally, the [Colombia Care Map](#), developed in 2025 through an alliance with the Ministry of Equality, DANE and ECLAC as part of the Caring Cities project, has further strengthened public access to gender data. This open-access platform offers georeferenced data on the supply of public care services delivered by national, departmental and municipal governments. The tool supports the design and implementation of territorial care systems while also serving as a practical guide for citizens seeking public care services across the country. By enabling searches by type of service, population served and operating hours, and by providing information on economic activity, accessibility conditions and contact details, the platform contributes to more informed decision-making and improved access to care services. The development of these platforms was carried out in coordination with key partners to ensure their operational sustainability and long-term use.

Plans for Phase III

UN Women Colombia will seek to address challenges that persist within the NSS through knowledge- and experience-sharing to strengthen institutional collaboration and the investment needed to scale up the impact of supported initiatives². Accordingly, it will focus on consolidating capacities and generating the conditions for sustainability through a targeted intervention approach, leveraging opportunities arising from catalytic actions that promote the participation of a broader range of actors in the country's data ecosystem. Specific interventions will include:

- Strengthen institutional mechanisms to improve interagency coordination that promote the development of evidence-based public policies.
- Strengthen data availability and use in priority areas such as women's economic empowerment, social protection, digital transformation, the eradication of violence, and the nexus between humanitarian action, peacebuilding and sustainable development, using a geospatial approach.
- Develop innovative tools and methodologies to close information gaps in the intersections between gender, the environment and climate change, generating evidence and strengthening the measurement of inequalities through the System of Environmental Economic Accounting. This includes the development of innovations in statistical processes, based on citizen-generated data, the application of artificial intelligence, and the implementation of small-area estimates techniques
- Develop and implement a strategy for the use of gender statistics for policy formulation and implementation through a transformative communication approach, including data visualization tools that position the benefits of gender equality for a more just society.
- Promote sectoral investment initiatives through strategic partnerships aimed at generating innovative solutions to strengthen the production, access and use of gender statistics in key economic sectors (energy, transportation, digitalization, health, and mining), including the development of initiatives with new partners such as the private sector and the promotion of innovative financing mechanisms to support actions aimed at closing information gaps and fostering conditions for sustainability.

² Plans for Phase III are in the process of being finalized and are subject to the availability of funding.