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OVERVIEW: WOMEN COUNT PHASE II EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

The issue

Despite significant progress during Phase I of the regional Women Count project, remaining challenges in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) included:

- Gaps stemming from a lack of political will, limited institutional capacity, poor coordination, inadequate normative frameworks, the absence of national minimum sets of gender indicators to enable reporting, as well as limited or non-existent data quality assurance frameworks.
- Substantial gender data gaps remained on issues such as women’s economic empowerment (WEE), time use, violence against women (VAW), governance, land tenure and gender and the environment. Administrative data systems were generally underused for statistics and reporting. There was a dependence on donor funding to support household surveys for gender statistics, making them unsustainable.
- There was also a need to approach gender data and statistics communication, advocacy and the promotion of data in a more strategic and systematic manner.

Our response

- **Create an enabling environment:** More countries mainstreamed gender into national statistical systems (NSSs) through gender data assessments, the development of national strategies, action plans, programmes and priority gender indicators, while strengthened subregional coordination and knowledge-exchange in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistical Division created customized hands-on curricula on gender statistics to increase the national capacity of governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), researchers and media.
- **Increase data production:** UN Women supported NSSs to collect gender data on WEE, women’s political participation, unpaid care and domestic work, various forms of VAW

and quantifying its economic and social costs through surveys and by reprocessing existing data; explored the use of administrative records; and promoted non-traditional data-collection methods to produce new data on key areas.

- **Improve data accessibility and use:** More countries increased the accessibility and use of gender statistics by creating gender data portals and dashboards; improved international reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Beijing Platform for Action and Voluntary National Reviews (VNR); strengthened outreach and communication; and partnered with academic and research institutions to develop papers and statistical knowledge products, including through innovative visual formats and events leveraging the power of gender data through art and storytelling.

Where we work

12

countries

Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo,¹ Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova,² Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Key results

Creating an enabling environment

- **Strategic partnerships and inter-agency coordination strengthened the regional architecture for gender statistics, helping reposition gender data from a stand-alone technical exercise to a shared institutional priority for policymaking, accountability and SDG monitoring.** Through collaboration with regional actors such as UNECE, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), national statistics offices (NSOs), line ministries, CSOs and others, UN Women supported the development and dissemination of [methodological guidance](#), training manuals and [technical tools](#) that enabled countries to adopt more standardized approaches and improve the harmonization, comparability and use of gender data in the region. These partnerships also created platforms to institutionalize knowledge-exchange, including three [regional workshops](#) – including two led by UNECE in 2023 and 2025 in Geneva, **Switzerland**, including an assessment of critical gaps in measuring technology-facilitated violence against women (TF VAW) and creating a repository covering 42 NSO practices that are informing the development of the global statistical TF VAW framework. A [High-Level Gender Statistics Conference](#) in **Georgia** in 2024 resulted in the NSOs of 18 countries in the region committing to advance gender-responsive planning and strengthen peer learning. As a result, more countries are embarking on new data-collection initiatives and formal knowledge-transfer has been established between **North Macedonia, Türkiye and Italy**, as well as between **Armenia and Georgia**. In parallel, UN Women’s engagement through the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics strengthened cooperation on methodological coherence, ethical standards, data comparability, and innovation across countries while enabling cross-country exchanges and collaboration. UN Women and UNFPA also developed a set of harmonized recommendations for mainstreaming gender perspectives into data analysis and dissemination processes for censuses and household surveys, validated with [20 statisticians from 10 countries](#), and aligned with global normative frameworks.
- **Institutional capacity for the sustained, high-quality production of gender statistics was strengthened across the ECA region through targeted training for more than 900 data users and producers.** In 2025 specifically, more than 430 statisticians and other data

producers strengthened their capacity to independently design, produce and analyse complex gender data through regional and national training and hands-on mentoring. At least 18 countries also strengthened their capacity through regional exchanges on VAW measurement, administrative and citizen data use, and SDG-aligned methodologies. Targeted technical support at country level also enhanced core methodological competencies. In [Armenia](#) and [Belarus](#), specialized training on time-use surveys (TUS) resulted in the completion of both countries' nationally representative full-scale TUS. In [Belarus](#), [Georgia](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Moldova](#), training on VAW survey methodologies strengthened the technical, ethical and operational capacities required to implement their [first comprehensive VAW prevalence surveys](#) in line with international standards. In [Albania](#), a structured training curriculum on gender statistics production and use significantly strengthened national capacities for evidence-based policymaking. The UN Women-Statistical Institution for Asia and the Pacific Gender Statistics Training Curriculum was adapted to the national context by the Inter-Institutional Working Group on Gender Statistics, while integrating European Union (EU)-level tools and methodologies. Gender data literacy initiatives in 2025 included training 12 staff from the Agency for the Support of Self-Local Government and 126 participants across 10 municipalities during the fourth round of Local Gender Action Plan meetings.

- **At least five countries mainstreamed gender data in their national statistical development strategies (NSDSs) or other local and national planning, reinforcing long-term institutional ownership, improving coordination and prioritization of gender data.**
 - In [Albania](#), renewed collaboration with the [National Institute of Statistics](#) (INSTAT) and the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Working Group on Gender Statistics, comprising 32 institutions, resulted in improved uses of gender data in local planning, budgeting and accountability. This led to the development and adoption of gender indicators across budgeting and social protection planning, including 95 proposed indicators, with 31 integrated into sectoral budgeting, 52 into the national [Social Protection Strategy 2024-2030](#) and 12 into its [SDG Roadmap](#), contributing to more inclusive local policymaking and an intersectional [Local Governance Action Plan](#). The Agency for the Support of Local Self-Government expanded the number of gender-related indicators in the [2025 Municipal Performance Report](#), enhancing accountability for gender equality outcomes at the local level. Gender equality requirements were also embedded in municipal planning cycles, with 10 municipalities developing Local Gender Action Plans to strengthen their capacity to generate and use local data, creating a standardized, data-driven framework for monitoring gender equality outcomes at the local level. To sustain this progress, INSTAT identified 40 new indicators to be produced on a regular basis and UN Women and INSTAT also developed an administrative data assessment tool, building on the [United Nations Statistical Division-UN Women toolkit](#), to be piloted in 2026 with the National Agency for Employment and Skills, focusing on registered unemployed job-seekers and job vacancies. <https://qeverisjavendore.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/SMP-2024.pdf>
 - In [Georgia](#), the NSO mainstreamed gender and integrated 16 gender-focused activities into the [National Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024-2027](#) and related [action plans](#). These activities have strengthened the production, analysis, dissemination and use of gender data, such as the unpaid household work satellite account and Structure of Earnings Survey (SES). It also facilitated the organization of user-producer dialogues on unpaid care, WEE indicators, VAW, pilot surveys for the SES and gender data literacy initiatives aligned with EU acquis requirements. With UN Women's sustained advocacy, Georgia's NSS established an Inter-agency Gender Statistics Working Group under the NSDS. Support to Georgia's first [Gender-Responsive Public Finance Management Assessment](#) further strengthened the production and use of gender data in public finance planning, expenditure tracking and accountability systems, enhancing the

institutionalization of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). According to [Natia Gulua](#), Head of the Budget Department at the Ministry of Finance of Georgia: *“This initiative is a major step forward in incorporating gender equality into Georgia’s budget cycle. The adoption of the Gender Tagging Methodology will improve the consideration of gender equality issues during budget planning.”*

- In **Kyrgyzstan**, the 2024 [National Roadmap for Enhancing Gender Statistics](#) strengthened cross-sectoral coordination among more than 20 ministries and agencies, and established a national framework for gender data priorities, including defined indicators, baselines and targets to guide long-term system development and policy use of gender statistics. These same 20 actors were since engaged in producing the [Country Gender Equality Profile](#) in 2025, and in user-producer dialogues ahead of Kyrgyzstan’s first stand-alone [VAW survey](#).
- **Uzbekistan**’s first [Gender Assessment of the National Statistical System](#) informed an internal medium-term action plan for coordinated data production in 2024, laying the foundation for more systematic integration of gender into national statistical processes, with the hopes of informing the country’s next NSDS in 2026. Its findings were used to inform programmatic work and resource mobilization, with a dedicated data collection and use component integrated into an EU project on WEE launched in 2025.
- In **Belarus**, the findings and recommendations of a 2022–2023 gender data assessment informed the development of the national roadmap on GRB and a corresponding action plan and bolster advocacy on expanding the number of indicators used to identify the most vulnerable populations in the country by expanding data disaggregation.

Increasing data production

- **The availability of data on all gender-related SDG indicators has increased in the ECA region, reaching 64% in 2025.** Countries across the ECA region substantially expanded the production of high-quality, policy-relevant gender statistics, addressing critical data gaps and strengthening the evidence base for SDG monitoring. When it comes to data specifically on SDG 5, regional gender [data coverage in the UNECE region has nearly tripled](#) over the past decade – up from 18% in 2015, [to 62% by 2025](#). Moreover, 15 out of 18 countries now have at least half of the SDG 5 indicators available for national monitoring and policymaking.
- **Data and evidence on violence against women expanded significantly across the region, strengthening national responses.** UN Women’s support and regional partnerships have enabled a sustained shift from ad hoc surveys to institutionalized, methodologically robust gender data production, particularly through expanded gender-related household and population-based surveys. Four countries conducted VAW prevalence surveys and other dedicated initiatives to generate robust, nationally representative evidence, including through administrative data, citizen data and improved VAW case management and reporting systems. These advances are significant given that only three countries in ECA (**Albania, Georgia and Kazakhstan**) have completed two rounds of VAW prevalence surveys since 2015, while seven have now completed one round, underscoring both progress made and the continued need to institutionalize regular VAW data collection.
 - In **Georgia**, the [second national VAW prevalence survey](#), published in 2023, expanded measurement to include intimate partner and non-partner violence and social norms, providing comprehensive and policy-relevant evidence (see uses in section III). Georgia also completed a [VAW costing analysis](#) in 2025, estimating the total cost at USD 0.9 billion, equivalent to nearly 3% of gross domestic product (GDP). The analysis showed that doubling current investment in VAW prevention and services (USD 43 million) would still represent only 10% of the

cost of inaction, providing a strong economic rationale for scaling up investments and integrating VAW considerations into GRB. Georgia's VAW survey findings were [used by civil society and the private sector](#) to strengthen awareness, spur policy dialogue on survivor support and economic rehabilitation, and incite donations to shelters.

- **Belarus** released its [first nationally representative VAW prevalence estimates](#) in 2025, establishing critical baseline data for programme and policy design. The study found that [one in three women experienced psychological violence](#), while 13.9% faced physical, 13.2% economic and 3.1% sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. *"The household survey became the country's first large-scale national study on VAW, with a robust sample of 10,500 households. Belarus was also the first country in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to examine the prevalence of technology-facilitated violence,"* highlighted Inna Medvedeva, Chair of the National Statistical Committee of Belarus, while presenting the survey findings.
- In **Kyrgyzstan**, NSO staff strengthened their technical capacities to [design and implement VAW surveys](#), with UN Women support, enabling the production of reliable and actionable evidence to fill persistent data gaps, including through its upcoming VAW survey (in 2026). *"This survey is a critical milestone in fulfilling Kyrgyzstan's commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda,"* said Nazira Kerimalieva, First Deputy Chair of the National Statistical Committee. *"These commitments require the collection and use of reliable, representative and comparable statistical data on violence against women to inform effective public policy, monitor progress and advance women's rights."*
- **Moldova** [piloted its first national VAW survey](#) in 2025, with the rest of the survey to be completed in 2026, generating initial evidence to guide prevention, service-delivery and advocacy. According to Viorica Timbalari, Director General of the National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Moldova: *"Administrative data do not always capture the experiences that remain unreported. This survey will help fill that gap."*
- To fulfil one of its five commitments made under the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence, **Kazakhstan** was supported to conduct the second-round VAW survey by including additional forms of intimate partner violence and new forms of VAW, such as sexual harassment and stalking. Completed in 2025 with support from UN Women, the survey revealed that one in three women experienced psychological, physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner while one in five women were subject to excessive control by a partner in the last 12 months.
- **The production of femicide and gender-based homicide data advanced considerably, strengthening the evidence base for prevention, advocacy and policy.**
 - In **Albania**, the People's Advocate and INSTAT established a [structured system to generate femicide data](#) from crime records and social service-providers in line with the UN statistical framework on femicide, underscoring critical gaps in criminal justice response and survivor protection (see section III for more on uses). In [2024](#), the scope of analysis was expanded to include attempted killings, incitement to suicide and intentional serious injuries. In total, 18 cases of extreme violence were recorded across these categories. Of these, five involved killings of women and girls, three of which were classified as femicides. The long-standing partnership with the People's Advocate also resulted in the systematic publication of eight specific indicators related to human rights violations in INSTAT's annual statistical release [Women and Men in Albania](#), its annual crime statistics

publication, as well as into the Ombudsperson's annual report to Parliament, marking a significant shift in institutional practice towards evidence-based human rights accountability. In 2024, 485 complaints were submitted by women – 40.2% about violations of children's rights, the right to due process (10.9%) and property rights (7.8%).

- In **Kosovo**, the Ministry of Justice enhanced its [Domestic Violence Case Management System](#) by enabling data analysis and reporting functionalities, strengthening inter-agency coordination across law enforcement, judiciary, legal aid providers, social workers and shelters. As a result, [gender-specific domestic violence indicators](#) were published for the first time in 2023, including data on reported cases, sociodemographic characteristics of survivors and survivor-perpetrator relationships, significantly improving the availability and usability of administrative gender data for national decision-making.
- In **Kazakhstan, Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**, [standardized femicide databases](#) were developed using innovative administrative and non-conventional sources, including media reports and court rulings, with over 50 harmonized variables to enable cross-country comparability. The resulting evidence was published as a country factsheet, alongside a practical toolkit on conducting femicide research.
- **Critical evidence gaps on women's economic participation, unpaid care, pay gaps and entrepreneurship were reduced, strengthening the evidence base for more responsive WEE policies and programmes across the region.** This includes the production of the first-ever full-scale TUS in **Armenia** and **Georgia**, and a second-round TUS in **Belarus**, generating internationally comparable data on unpaid care and domestic work to inform national policies, programmes and strategies, as well as other important evidence and tools developed in **Moldova**. Collectively, these efforts have enhanced the availability and use of gender data across the region, informed policies on work-life balance, family leave and improved the measurement of progress towards gender equality and WEE.
 - In **Armenia**, [TUS results](#) informed the [Gender Strategy 2025–2028](#), [Employment Strategy 2025–2031](#) and advocacy for the ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 156, 189 and 183, enabling policymakers, CSOs and other partners to address unpaid care and labour participation of working mothers. The findings are also being integrated into a UN Women *Care Landscape Analysis in Armenia* and will inform a UN Women training on care work in 2026 in Yerevan. The microdata will also support the development of *Armenia's Demographic Strategy 2025–2041* and inform UNFPA's national transfer accounts report (May–June 2026). According to Tatevik Stepanyan, Armenia's Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, who attended the launch: *"This survey helps make visible the work that often goes unseen – especially unpaid care and domestic responsibilities. By understanding how people spend their time, we can build policies that better support families, economic participation and quality of life. Armenia, through its policies, aims to create an environment where women will not be forced to choose between work and family."*
 - In **Georgia**, reprocessed Labour Force Survey data and the [first-ever full-scale TUS](#) produced new gender indicators published in [Women and Men in Georgia 2024](#), revealing persistent structural inequalities in time allocation and employment, with women five times more likely than men to be outside the labour force due to household and care responsibilities. These findings are increasingly recognized in macroeconomic and labour market diagnostics and are being institutionalized within routine statistical production and policy appraisal processes. A pilot SES and a [satellite account of household production](#) further quantified gender pay gaps and unpaid care work, estimated at 20.5% of GDP, with women performing 82.4% of this work. This evidence is now being used in governmental decision-making processes (see section III for more).

- In **Belarus**, [TUS findings](#) and their dissemination increased visibility of women's unpaid contributions and contributed to SDG [5.4.1](#) monitoring. UN Women and UNFPA are also planning a full-fledged public information campaign on unpaid care work, based on the TUS data in 2026.
- In **Moldova**, a [national framework to assess women's entrepreneurship](#) generated new data on women-led businesses that were used to review and establish targets to measure progress on promoting and supporting women's entrepreneurship – one of key objectives of the [National Programme for Promoting Entrepreneurship and Increasing Competitiveness for 2023–2027](#). The data resulted from reprocessing and linking business surveys with administrative data (tax authority, earning, population register). According to new data, 3 out of 10 enterprises are led by women, indicating persistent gender disparities in entrepreneurship. Most women entrepreneurs are aged 35–44 (33.9%) and 45–54 (22.9%), suggesting delayed entry into leadership, often linked to structural barriers including unequal care responsibilities and limited access to finance, networks and business support, particularly for younger women.
- **UN Women supported humanitarian data-production initiatives in crisis contexts to rapidly generate gender-sensitive evidence that has informed responses.** By combining administrative data, surveys and non-conventional data sources, including from border police, Women Count contributed to strengthening the overall availability of timely and disaggregated gender statistics in humanitarian settings such as the ongoing conflict in **Ukraine**. In **Moldova**, the [first national estimates of Ukrainian refugee demographic profiles](#) were produced in 2022 using administrative data on refugee inflows and outflows. This demonstrated the value of integrating administrative records as a non-conventional data source for gender-responsive displacement statistics. Women Count also supported a [CSO needs assessment for Ukraine](#) and a [mapping of local CSOs in refugee response in Moldova](#). In parallel, a joint [survey on the needs of Ukrainian refugees and third-country nationals](#) with the International Organization for Migration tracked population mobility, vulnerabilities and needs. The results informed refugee response programming, strengthened the integration of gender equality in multisectoral response plans, and supported resource mobilization from Sweden and Switzerland. Together, these initiatives generated timely, policy-relevant evidence in a humanitarian context, ensuring that refugee response systems were more gender-responsive, inclusive and grounded in real-time data.

Improving data use

- **Across ECA, gender statistics were increasingly translated into action, shaping public discourse and policies, and driving behavioural and institutional change.** UN Women supported a shift from data as a technical output to data as a strategic public good used by governments, civil society, media, academia and the private sector, which has resulted in significantly expanded data uptake across policymaking, advocacy and public engagement. This was achieved through strategic, data-driven communications translating complex evidence into clear, engaging narratives for policymakers, media and the public. UN Women ensured that gender data moved beyond technical audiences into mainstream public discourse to inform concrete policy and institutional change. Across the region, data-driven communication contributed directly to documented policy and institutional change processes informed by Women-Count-supported evidence and advocacy, contributing to legislative discussions, budgeting processes, institutional reforms and national SDG monitoring.
 - In **Albania**, femicide and VAW data [informed parliamentary debates and Ombudsperson reporting](#), contributing to efforts to strengthen legal frameworks and advance legal protections. Building on these findings, with UN Women's [technical support](#), Albania established the [Observatory on Femicide](#) in 2024 – the first of its kind in the Western Balkans – to systematically track cases, strengthen

evidence on patterns and risks and generate actionable policy recommendations. The Observatory is also advancing advocacy for the legal recognition of femicide as a distinct criminal offence, reflecting a shift from data collection to institutional accountability and prevention. **Albania** also made progress on confronting TF VAW, with its formal definition and related protections enshrined in a new law (see Impact story 5).

- In **Georgia**, time-use and labour market data informed GRB discussions and policy dialogue on unpaid care, non-transferable paid parental leave reforms, influenced a policy shift towards shared care responsibilities and contributed to the establishment of a working group to prepare legal amendments. They were also used in a [Gender Impact Assessment for the Public Service Law](#) supported by UN Women, informing revisions such as gender-sensitive recruitment measures and family-friendly and flexible work arrangements. TUS data also supported advocacy to maintain the retirement age for women at 60, based on unequal labour force participation and unpaid care burdens. Overall, these data are changing how decisions are made in Georgia by linking information on work, care and income into a more integrated system for labour market decision-making. TUS and gender data were also used by companies such as TBC Bank and Terabank to expand men's uptake of paid parental leave, [introduce flexible work arrangements](#), and to train more than 10,000 employees a year on gender equality and time poverty. In addition, a new Care-Responsive Workplaces certificate mentorship and training programme was created for Women's Empowerment Principles signatory companies, reaching 22 participants in 2025. The programme included TUS findings and prompted discussions on the economic value of unpaid care work.
- In **North Macedonia**, data storytelling training strengthened the uptake of gender statistics, making the invisible visible and leading to the [formal integration of gender-disaggregated data into State audit methodologies](#). *"I used to think of data purely as a technical tool – now I see how, when presented clearly and visually, it can drive public engagement and institutional change,"* says Blagoj Angelovski, from the State Audit Office. *"We've started discussing how to look at audit findings not only from a legal or financial perspective but also in terms of how policies impact women and men differently. That's a big shift for us."*
- **Across ECA, gender data disseminated through digital platforms, social media and flagship regional initiatives reached over 14 million people and generated more than 240 media clippings, increasing awareness, visibility and engagement on gender inequalities and evidence-based solutions.** To achieve this, UN Women led and supported [over 35 gender data communication campaigns](#) across 18 countries and territories, mobilizing strong engagement around priority themes including VAW, unpaid care work, WEE, political participation, femicide, social norms and gender stereotypes. These campaigns ensured sustained and structured visibility of gender statistics across national and regional communication ecosystems. These efforts leveraged innovative and creative approaches – including multimedia storytelling, visual communication, data art, datathons and interactive digital products – and systematically mainstreamed gender data into regional flagship moments such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, International Women's Day and other UN observances. This ensured sustained visibility of gender data and reinforced its role in shaping public awareness, discourse and behaviour change. UN Women also supported the ["Share the Care"](#) campaign in **Georgia** in March 2025. Drawing on TUS and [Unpaid Household Work Satellite Account](#) data, the campaign used clear public messages promoting the redistribution of care responsibilities. Strategic partnerships with media, influencers and the private sector amplified reach, generating nearly 5 million views and coverage in 11 major media outlets, demonstrating how data-driven communications can catalyse public engagement and norms change around the care economy. Private sector uses further amplified impact. Companies – including Veli Store, Alta and Pharmadepot – disseminated campaign materials through customer

networks, while Bosch, in partnership with its exclusive Georgian retailer Elite, used TUS findings in a [national creative campaign](#) challenging gender stereotypes in household labour. Aired across digital platforms and 18 retail locations nationwide, the campaign reached over 8 million views.

- **Datathons, bootcamps and collaborative analytics initiatives strengthened practical data skills among policymakers, civil society, researchers, media and young analysts.** These initiatives expanded the community of skilled data users and bridged the gap between technical data and policy application.
 - **Albania's [first gender datathon](#)** in 2024 strengthened gender data literacy and collaboration among 50 youth, activists, researchers and women's rights organizations, building skills in data feminism, analysis and visualization and producing award-winning ideas – including on TF VAW – which were refined into a published [data-driven brief](#) and other policy-relevant outputs with UN Women mentorship, demonstrating participants' new capacity to translate gender statistics into evidence for advocacy and decision-making. This experience was recognized in the [UNECE in-depth review](#) on statistical data literacy, where Albania, through INSTAT, was featured as a case study, highlighting the datathon as a promising practice for advancing statistical literacy. Moreover, the outputs of the datathon on [technology-facilitated violence against women and girls](#) were further utilized during the national 16 Days of Activism campaign in Albania. Several social media cards were developed based on these findings, contributing to raising awareness and promoting data-driven advocacy on this emerging issue (see [Impact story](#)).
 - In **Georgia**, a 2023 [gender datathon on time use](#) brought together designers, data analysts, journalists and students to work with findings from the [2020–2021 TUS](#). With mentorship from UN Women and ForSet, partners produced three multimedia products visualizing [women's unpaid care and domestic work](#), [time poverty](#) and the [social norms](#) driving unequal divisions of household work. These products were widely disseminated through UN Women and partner communication channels, extending the reach of TUS data beyond technical audiences through creative storytelling. Complementing these efforts, an [interactive quiz on women's time use](#), developed with a national media platform *on.ge* in 2023, reached over 15,300 people, significantly expanding public engagement with TUS findings and raising awareness of gender inequalities in time use.
 - In addition, [24 researchers gained](#) data analysis skills through intensive training on TUS through a mentorship programme in 2025 that resulted in four articles covering gendered leisure time, fathers' childcare engagement, time pressure and shared domestic time published in 2026 in the [Caucasus Analytical Digest N147](#). Another [20 CSO representatives](#) working on gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced their capacities in data collection, analysis and evidence-based advocacy through intense training contributing to gender-responsive policy and advocacy efforts.
 - A [gender data bootcamp](#) in **North Macedonia** contributed to the aforementioned institutional change within the State Audit Office – demonstrating a shift from ad hoc use to structured institutional uptake. The bootcamp engaged more than 50 participants from CSOs, media, academia and public institutions, enabled the production and dissemination of [six data-driven products](#) addressing access to justice for survivors of domestic violence, women's unpaid care work and gender stereotypes in education that collectively reached more than 41,000 people. Academic participants integrated gender data and visualizations into statistics curricula, research and blogging, while CSO participants applied bootcamp knowledge to drive youth-led advocacy and public campaigns on domestic

violence, unpaid care, menstrual health and period poverty, and harmful gender norms. The bootcamp has also inspired mentorship programmes for more than 16,000 girls across all 108 high schools in North Macedonia.

- In **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan**, data journalism initiatives translated complex data sets into compelling narratives among media practitioners and supported the production of evidence-based media content on [period poverty](#), [child marriage](#) and [women's political participation](#). These were widely disseminated via social media and collectively reached over 82,000 people across the region, demonstrating stronger capacity among journalists to use gender statistics to shape public debate and challenge harmful social norms. In **Kyrgyzstan**, [innovative multimedia storytelling](#) approaches further expanded outreach to new audiences, with individual stories reaching between 25,000 and 190,000 people. One story was recognized by the Global Investigative Journalism Network as a [Top 10 data story](#), highlighting the growing quality and influence of data-driven reporting.
- A [Gender Data Quiz](#) in **Kyrgyzstan** broadened gender data literacy beyond specialist audiences through an interactive public engagement tool, transforming findings from the national [SDGs and Gender publication](#) into an accessible, gamified format that engaged over 100 participants and allowed them to test their knowledge on care work, WEE and VAW, strengthening understanding of gender gaps and demonstrating the value of innovative approaches to promoting evidence-based gender discourse.
- **Gender data art and creative storytelling approaches were used to translate gender data into emotionally resonant and accessible narratives that increased public understanding and engagement.** The "[Tirek: The Thread of Her Life](#)" exhibition in **Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan** transformed gender data into [14 artistic storytelling artworks](#) that highlighted lived experiences of gender inequality. Complementing this, "[Art Kazan: Where Art Meets Data](#)" further demonstrated the power of merging artistic expression with statistical evidence. The initiative, including an [in-person art residency](#), used creative installations and visual storytelling to reinterpret gender data in accessible and engaging formats, expanding public dialogue on gender equality and social norms, and leading to behavioural changes. The artworks attracted over 6,000 visitors, while the broader campaign reached approximately 400,000 people through digital and outreach channels. The initiative also received extensive regional media coverage, generating around 60 clippings across leading outlets, including *Akipress*, *Astana Times*, *Kaktus Media*, *Batyr Jamal* and *The Times of Central Asia* (see Impact story 10).
- **Gender data were systematically translated into more than 46 analytical and policy-oriented knowledge products, strengthening evidence-based decision-making, advocacy and SDG monitoring across the region.** Across the region, UN Women-supported work resulted in the development and dissemination of thematic briefs, SDG-aligned analytical reports, methodological guidance and visual evidence summaries. These products addressed key policy areas such as unpaid care and domestic work, women's labour force participation, VAW and gender gaps in social protection systems. More than 60,000 users accessed these knowledge products and more than 12,500 downloads were recorded, including reports, gender snapshots, briefs, infographics and interactive data tools, through UN Women regional and country platforms, demonstrating strong demand for accessible and actionable data. The highest-performing products included the VAW Survey in Georgia, TUS in Georgia, *Gender Snapshot for Europe and Central Asia*, and the "Tirek" data-art catalogue, alongside the first-ever femicide research in Central Asia.
 - In [Armenia](#) and [Georgia](#), analytical briefs derived from TUS data directly informed GRB processes and employment policy discussions, particularly in relation to unpaid care work and women's labour force participation.

- In **Belarus**, the key indicators on [unpaid care work](#) and [VAW prevalence](#) contributed to [national policy dialogue](#) and improved institutional understanding of structural inequalities.
- Country-level SDG reports in [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Kazakhstan](#) used both survey and administrative data to generate actionable evidence for national SDG monitoring and policy decision-making processes, strengthening the integration of gender statistics into formal reporting systems and development planning.
- In addition, evidence syntheses for advocacy drawing on femicide and VAW in [Albania](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Tajikistan](#) and [Uzbekistan](#) were used to support legal reform processes, parliamentary debates, media campaigns and CSO advocacy, strengthening the policy impact of gender data beyond technical audiences.
- UN Women also produced [Women Count programme briefs](#), with three editions issued from 2023–2025, as a flagship regional knowledge and accountability product to synthesize and disseminate programme results on gender data production, accessibility and use across the ECA region. Published on a biannual/annual basis, the briefs combined data availability snapshots, consolidated programme achievements and metrics, country-level case studies, new knowledge products, partnerships and forward-looking priorities. By translating technical progress into concise, narrative-driven and visually accessible insights for policymakers, NSOs, development partners, CSOs, media and academia, the briefs showcased evidence of data use for policy and advocacy, and positioned gender statistics as a strategic public good for advancing gender equality and the SDGs across the region.
- **UN Women supported the development and enhancement of digital platforms to improve access to, visualization of and use of gender data for policymaking.** These platforms transform complex data sets into interactive dashboards, visual tools and user-friendly analytical interfaces to support decision-making. In **Georgia**, the [TUS Portal](#), to be launched in 2026, will enable policymakers and stakeholders to explore unpaid care, time poverty and women’s labour market participation through user-friendly visualization tools. In addition, a [regional and municipal data portal](#) was expanded by [40 gender-related indicators](#), a critical milestone for improved access to gender data for use in decentralization and good governance. **Kyrgyzstan’s** [Gender Data Portal](#) (forthcoming in 2026) will consolidate fragmented national data into a single analytical platform, improving accessibility for policy actors, researchers and media users. At the **regional** level, a dedicated [Gender Data Hub](#) was developed in 2025, allowing for strengthened comparative analysis and SDG monitoring across countries (to be officially launched in 2026).

Plans for Phase III

The Phase III strategy³ positions UN Women to scale transformative impact across ECA, ensuring sustainable, policy-relevant gender data, strengthened accountability and evidence-driven decision-making.

Specific interventions will include:

- Scaling data production on priority emerging areas, including TF VAW, WEE, care, femicide, and gender and the environment using both conventional and non-conventional sources (citizen data, big data, etc.) to fill persistent gaps at local level, including for the most marginalized groups of women and girls.

- Supporting countries to integrate gender into core statistical systems, including censuses, household surveys and administrative data, and translating findings into actionable policies and SDG monitoring.
- Producing regional flagship publications, knowledge products and advancing digital tools and platforms, including the ECA Gender Data Hub, to improve the accessibility, visualization and use of gender statistics by policymakers, practitioners and the public, enabling evidence-based policy and GRB across sectors.
- Promoting methodological innovation and cross-country learning to harmonize gender data standards and strengthen comparability across the region.
- Leveraging artificial intelligence for data analysis and tracking by exploring tools to monitor how gender data are accessed and used by stakeholders, tracking their impact on policymaking and public discourse.
- Supporting evidence-based resource planning, allocation and GRB by connecting robust data systems to policy and financial decision-making.
- Amplify innovative data literacy initiatives to strengthen data use among key stakeholders and the public.
- Drive strategic and innovative data communications and advocacy to increase the visibility, accessibility and use of gender data across the region, supporting evidence-based policy and public debate.

¹ All references to Kosovo should be understood in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

² Henceforth Moldova.

³ Plans for Phase III are in the process of being finalized and are subject to the availability of funding.