



## IN BRIEF



# GENDER STATISTICS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Photo: UN Women/ Urjasi Rudra

## What's the Issue?

The 2030 Agenda sets out a historic and unprecedented level of ambition to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030” (Sustainable Development Goal 5) and includes 51 gender-related targets in 10 other SDGs. The 2030 Agenda commits to addressing core issues of gender equality such as eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, eradicating discriminatory laws and constraints on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, recognizing, and valuing unpaid care and domestic work, and increasing women’s participation in decision-making.

To successfully track the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a robust and equally ambitious monitoring framework is needed. Yet, countries are often hindered by:

- Weak policy space and legal and financial environment to produce gender statistics at the national level
- Technical challenges within national statistical systems (NSSs) that limit the production of gender statistics
- Lack of access and limited capacity on the part of users to analyze gender statistics to inform policies.

Lack of adequate and quality gender data and evidence not only makes it impossible to adequately monitor the implementation of the SDGs, but also impedes progress in making gender-responsive decisions and creating informed and effective policies.

## Our Solutions

### The Women Count Programme

UN Women is implementing the programme “Making Every Woman and Girl Count: Supporting the Monitoring and Implementation of the SDGs through Better Production and use of Gender Statistics” to support countries in implementing the 2030 Global Agenda.

Known as *Women Count* in short, the programme builds on UN Women’s unique normative, policy, programmatic and coordination mandates. It aims to achieve this through a radical shift in the production, availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Women Count has a strong presence in East and Southern Africa (ESA) with a regional project as well as pathfinder projects underway in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

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**“Sex disaggregation of data is not enough; analysis of the underlying causes of gender differences is also needed to effectively impact policy, programming and decision making.”**

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## How We Make a Difference: Step by Step

Recent UN Women successes from around the region include:

**REGIONALLY:** The regional office (RO) is strategically positioned to contribute to harmonizing and standardizing gender data and statistics efforts in East and Southern Africa (ESA). Women Count ESA has provided strategic guidance and relevant training and developed regional guidelines, strategic normative knowledge products, and other tools including regional [guidelines on using administrative data for measuring the SDGs](#), [guidelines on the collection and use of Citizen-Generated Data](#) and methodological guidance notes on [qualitative](#) and [socio-economic impact assessments](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The establishment of a regional community of practice on gender data and statistics in 2019 has also created a robust platform for sharing best practices and new developments through south-south learning.

Women Count ESA has also supported several non-pathfinder countries including [Zimbabwe](#), Malawi, Mozambique and Sudan to conduct national assessments of their respective gender statistics systems and supported strengthening their respective capacities to produce and disseminate new data. To help fill gaps in reporting on the SDGs and Africa Agenda 2063 and serve as a guide for developing national gender indicator frameworks and gender statistics for national production and compilation in Africa, ESARO has also led the development of the [Minimum Set of Gender Statistics \(Phase II, Phase III, Phase IV\)](#) for Africa in partnership with UN Women West and Central Africa (WCA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Early in the pandemic, UN Women collected data for and published a 28-country study on the [Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in ESA](#) and the [Potential Impact of the Pandemic on the Attainment of Agenda 2030](#) (a gendered perspective). These and rapid gender assessments in [South Africa](#), [Mozambique](#), [Malawi](#), [Uganda](#), [Ethiopia](#), and [Rwanda](#) and similar studies in [Kenya](#) and Tanzania make recommendations to advance gender equality and influence policies and programmes in this and in the post-pandemic era.

**KENYA:** Following a [national gender statistics assessment](#) in 2018, gender statistics is now a national priority reflected in development plans including Kenya's third Medium-Term Plan (MTP III). Stakeholder engagement has resulted in several policy advances and collaborative efforts between UN Women, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), State

Department for Gender (SDfG), and stakeholders and resulted in the [Gender Sector Statistics Plan \(GSSP\) 2019/20–2022/23](#) - instrumental in gender statistics management in the country. The establishment of the [Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee \(IAGSTC\)](#) with UN Women's support and provided a platform to discuss the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC), which for the first time included data on the intersex population. Collaboration through the IAGSTC has facilitated other initiatives such as the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) [study on women's access to agricultural finance](#), which led to revisions of AFC's gender policy, a new financial commitment of 1 billion Kenyan Shillings (USD 10 million), and the development of [County Gender Data Sheets](#) providing the first baseline data on gender equality in counties. The [Kitui County Gender Data Sheet](#) triggered three new legislations – the County Gender Policy, an Empowerment Bill, and a Mainstreaming Bill for gender-responsive decision-making including in the allocation of resources. Other gains in data production include the development of Kenya's first-ever measure of women's empowerment in the [Women's Empowerment Index \(2020\)](#) and the first-ever comprehensive measure of poverty from a multidimensional and monetary perspective in the [Comprehensive Poverty Report \(2020\)](#). Another first was the inclusion of a Gender and Empowerment Chapter in Kenya's [Economic Survey 2020](#), which provided new data on women's empowerment with the [2021 Economic Survey](#) following suit. In an innovative initiative, improved access to gender data has driven quality research by University of Nairobi graduate students with technical and financial support from UN Women and partners. The emerging papers published in a [peer-reviewed compendium](#) provide a sound evidence base for decision and policy-making; the findings have already influenced public policy proposals and prompted a KNBS commitment to fill data gaps on femicide and other specialized areas of study. Increased demand for and use of gender statistics has generated a partnership with GROOTS Kenya, a national movement of women-led community-based groups (CBOs), to disseminate gender data to key stakeholders. Ongoing initiatives include the first-ever Time Use Survey, a review of the Statistics Act Regulations to include gender statistics, finalization of a Gender Dimensions Monograph, a preliminary report on SDG indicator 5.b.1 and material on SDG gender indicators metadata.

**UGANDA:** In Uganda, Women Count is helping to scale up gender responsiveness in public procurement through evidence-based decision-making. Uganda's updated [National Priority Gender Equality Indicators \(NPGEIs\) 2019](#), reprocessed from the initial 106 indicators through a participatory and consultative process with support from UN Women, are an essential tool for monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs. The NPGEIs have produced 77% of the minimum set of gender-related SDGs and have been integrated in key government monitoring and reporting tools including the Voluntary National Reporting (VNR), the Third Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD III) and the [UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#) (UNSDCF). The updated NPGEIs have also been used to report on international commitments including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Maputo Protocol and to revise Uganda's Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Policy to improve the level of women's participation in and benefits from public procurement. With support from UN Women, Uganda has also conducted a [National Assessment of Gender Statistics Systems](#) and developed Guidelines for Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) for the use of data from non-traditional sources including CSOs and the private sector to complement official statistics as a strategic step towards increasing gender data production and its use.

UN Women also collaborated with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), and other partners to spearhead the design, implementation, and analysis of Violence Against Women (VAWG)/ Violence Against Children (VAC)/Family Survey reports. Access to gender statistics has increased through UBOS' new web-based [Gender Statistics Portal](#) developed with support from UN Women.

**TANZANIA:** As part of supporting an enabling environment for statistics, UN Women and other sector actors lobbied for and provided technical support for the amendment of the Statistics Act to remove provisions that restricted the production of data by non-government entities. Gender statistics are also mainstreamed in the [Zanzibar Strategy for the Development of Statistics \(ZSDS\)](#) for which UN Women supported the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) to prepare a detailed Gender Statistics Strategy highlighting the importance of sex-disaggregated data for policymaking, planning, and decision-making as part of the ZSDS. UN Women's gender statistics advocacy efforts in Zanzibar have resulted in the OCGS mandating the relevant ministries, departments, and agencies, including the police and judiciary, to start producing gender data, e.g., on reported cases of violence against children by district and sex, and the number of judges, court magistrates, and court lawyers by sex. Support towards establishing gender statistics units in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the OCGS and a

gender statistics coordination mechanism resulted in the first [Progress Status of the Zanzibar SDGs Gender Indicators](#), which has strengthened reporting, a related Issue Brief, and [data visualization product](#) for communication and usability of the data. It has also contributed to the overall greater availability of gender-related SDG indicators for Zanzibar. UN Women also supported the development of the new National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for accurate measurement of women's poverty for evidence-based and gender-responsive policymaking as well as the design, data collection, and analysis of the first-ever Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) survey on social norms and harmful practices related to key gender issues in Tanzania. Support towards integrating a time use module in the Household and Budget Survey (HBS) [2017-2018 HBS](#) (Mainland) has resulted in 30 new gender indicators on time use, unpaid care work, access to ICT, asset ownership, and others now being available to address key SDG data gaps. Gender statistics produced through the [HBS 2019/2020](#) in Zanzibar with support from UN Women informed policy planning and decisions in Zanzibar; data from the Survey was used to revise the minimum salary of government employees thereby benefitting women, many of whom tend to be in the targeted lower-level positions. UN Women also supported a Needs Assessment of the National Statistics System, which is relevant to the implementation of the 2030 global agenda through Tanzania's second Five Year Development Plan (FYDP II) in Mainland and Zanzibar's Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (ZSGRP III, locally referred to as MKUZA III).

**ZIMBABWE:** The revitalization and training of the dormant Gender Sector Statistics Committee and work on normative frameworks strengthened the production and use of gender statistics in Zimbabwe. Women Count provided technical and financial support towards the validation and launch of the National Gender-Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Guidelines, review and finalization of the Gender Equality And Women's Empowerment M&E Framework, and the evaluation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2016-2020 from a gender perspective.

**ETHIOPIA:** Ethiopia has made strides in gender data and statistics both through initiatives under the Women Count Programme and those undertaken through the UN Women Country Office. UN Women and the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) have conducted an [Assessment of Mainstreaming Gender in the National Statistical System of Ethiopia](#), which has already contributed towards improving statistical laws and practices for a more efficient and functional national statistical system (NSS) and the generation of gender statistics. UN Women supported the CSA to develop and endorse a Communications and Advocacy Strategy (2020/21 – 2024/25) to improve the communication and use of gender statistics. With support from the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), Ethiopia has also completed a [Gender Equality Scorecard System-Wide Action Plan \(UNCT-SWAP\)](#) - a country-level accountability framework to promote gender equality and women's empowerment to achieve the SDGs.



In addition to the [Ethiopia COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessment](#) carried out under Women Count, UN Women commissioned an [Assessment of the Gender Responsiveness of Measures for COVID-19 Prevention, Response and Recovery in Ethiopia](#) in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (MoWCY). The Assessment highlights the successes, remaining gaps and constraints, and priorities that will assist in the recovery process with the aim of alleviating the negative impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls.

Women Count has also been an instrumental partner in transforming Ethiopia's traditional data collection system, putting a national dashboard in place, and supporting the establishment and functioning of the National Gender Information System (NGIS) in relation to data analysis, interpretation, and generation of gender statistics. When fully operational, the NGIS, which will inform National Women Machineries (NWM), will include data from regions up to the *woreda* (district) level.

The NGIS will bring about a radical shift in the country's monitoring and reporting system including generating data for the 10-year Development Perspective Plan, Agenda 2030, and the AU Agenda 2063. Women Count has also contributed to the implementation of the second [National Strategy for the Development of Statistics \(NSDS II 2015/16- 2019/20\)](#), which has gender data production as a sub-thematic area and mainstreams gender issues into periodic assessments, census, and surveys as part of its strategic pillars. The Programme has also contributed to building existing capacity on Citizen Generated Data (CGD) and improving the production and use of CGD for evidence-based advocacy.

**RWANDA:** With support from UN Women, Rwanda published the [Demographic and Health Survey 2019/20](#) with an inaugural module on domestic violence. The Survey provides information on two Tier II SDG indicators, namely indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 and will be used to develop a violence against women policy in Rwanda. UN Women's support included contributions to the survey project document, questionnaire development of training manuals, training of enumerators, and writing the domestic violence, women's status, demographic and health outcomes, and maternal mortality modules. UN Women also supported the [Annual Labour Force Survey 2020](#) and [2019](#) through contributions to the questionnaire design, gender thematic data analysis, and report writing on labor force participation, unemployment rate, unpaid care work, formal and informal sector participation, and time spent on domestic work. UN Women has also supported production of the [National Gender Statistics Report 2019](#) by compiling data, trend analysis and



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*Women Count ESA has provided strategic guidance and relevant training and developed regional guidelines, strategic normative knowledge products, and other tools to contribute to harmonizing and standardizing gender data and statistics efforts in East and Southern Africa*

report writing. The Report provides updated sex-disaggregated data in twelve fields including population and youth, economic activity and time use, justice and human rights, and income and access to finance

#### Uptake and Use of Gender Data and Statistics

As part of efforts to promote the uptake and use of gender data and statistics, ESA in conjunction with the West and Central Africa (WCA) Regional office, tailored and delivered a training curriculum on communicating gender data and statistics in an Africa-wide engagement held virtually in 2020. The curriculum is aimed at equipping sector stakeholders with the tools to effectively communicate gender data and statistics to promote uptake and use for evidence-based policy- and decision-making as well as advocacy.

For statisticians from the NSOs of Malawi and Liberia respectively, participating in the sub-Saharan Africa-wide 2020 training on communicating gender data and statistics has led to an increased awareness of appropriate use of data

visualization tools and audience-centered messaging, with the result of statistical products that resonate more with the target audiences.

In Malawi for example, repurposing data into infographics and user-friendly communication materials has improved reach on issues of GBV and women's empowerment in rural areas where literacy may pose a challenge. There is increased demand for these materials from CSOs here who now feel better equipped to lobby policymakers on these issues.

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