

Africa Programme on Gender Statistics

2022-2026
Strategic Plan



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The APGS Programme Outcome

By 2026 Member States in the African continent will have developed their national capacities to collect, compile and disseminate gender statistics in support of national, regional, and international gender equality and women's empowerment targets and indicators.

The expected outcome will be achieved by implementing activities of the programme in the following thematic areas:

- (a) Regional partnership and coordination.
- (b) Capacity building and research.
- (c) Reporting, storage, and dissemination; and
- (d) Advocacy.

Additional Partners and Stakeholders:

1. National statistical offices (NSOs), gender ministries, and other sectoral ministries
2. Statistical training centers, academic institutions, think tanks, researchers, and practitioners advocating for the integration of gender statistics
3. African Regional economic communities (RECs)
4. UN and international agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO WHO, UNAIDS, FAO, ILO, World Bank, OECD/PARIS 21

Programme Summary

The Africa Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS) 2022 - 2026, builds on the APGS 2018 - 2021 and the findings of its evaluation undertaken in quarter 4 of 2021. It is an umbrella regional programme which brings together various initiatives aimed at the development and strengthening of gender statistics in Africa and is being implemented by regional organizations, international agencies, regional economic communities and civil society organizations working in Africa.

The APGS will continue to function as a common regional programme where pan-African institutions and development partners provide technical and financial support to member states to develop and integrate gender statistics programming into their National Statistics Systems. The role of the African Group on Gender statistics (AGGES) which was formed in 2008, will be redefined and reconstituted during Phase III. Their primary responsibility during this

phase will be to provide strategic guidance to the APGS implementing partners and monitor its implementation. At technical level the AGDN members will be the focal points for all gender data and statistics work to be executed at country level by the various APGS implementing partners. The AGGES will be provided with a secretariat led by a coordinator who will manage the AGGES calendar, implementation of the results and monitoring framework, and implementation of the communication strategy. The coordinator will be answerable to the AGGES and to core implementing partners, namely, AUC, UNECA, UN Women, and AfDB. During Phase III membership of the APGS will be actively expanded to include more agencies active in this field. A communications strategy will be developed to promote buy-in by regional partners, the producers and users of gender statistics at country level as well as increased resource mobilization.

The overall vision of the APGS is to avoid duplication of efforts, create synergies among the different stakeholders, optimize resource mobilization and use and ultimately resulting in significant and sustainable improvements in the coordination, production, use and integration of gender statistics in Africa. The implementation of the APGS will continue to prioritize support to key international and regional agendas such as Agenda 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063, as well as the reporting requirements of important international gender treaties such as CEDAW and Beijing platform for action. Central to the programme is the premise that the collection and use

of gender statistics should ultimately be to provide the necessary evidence to advance gender equality and human development.

This document identifies a set of outcomes and outputs for achieving the objectives of the APGS which include regional partnership and coordination; capacity building and research; reporting and dissemination of gender statistics and advocacy, at the country and regional levels. The action plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework will be used by the AGGES and implementing partners to guide implementation and track progress.

Introduction and Background

In recognition of the importance of gender statistics for the improvement of gender equality and women's empowerment, African countries and continental gender statistics stakeholders have given increasing attention to the promotion, production, and use of gender statistics. The Statistical Commission for Africa (Stat-Com-Africa) therefore established the African Group on Gender Statistics (AGGES) with UNECA as the AGGES secretariat at its first meeting in 2008. AGGES is mandated to provide support and advice on gender statistics issues, needs and challenges as well as on poverty reduction strategies and the global development agenda. Since its inception in 2012, AGGES has constituted the main framework for the collaboration and harmonization of efforts among various stakeholders working on gender statistics at the global, regional, and national levels. Various consultations between members, under the leadership of UN Women, ECA and AfDB, have enabled AGGES to increase its support for the improvement of gender statistics on the continent. AGGES has provided African Member States with valuable support in the form of technical assistance including methodological work, training materials, training, funding,

advocacy, and logistics¹. These initiatives have contributed to enhancing the capacity of experts in Member States in various areas of gender statistics.

Notwithstanding these advances, significant challenges remain both at the regional and the national levels in the production, analysis, and dissemination of gender statistics. A UN Women assessment of gender statistics in Africa conducted in 2017 showed that challenges remained. These include: a limited policy and financial environment; lack of data, gaps in mapping and establishing a minimum set of national gender indicators; a dearth of disaggregated data as per the required characteristics (sex, residence, region, age group, wealth index, ethnicity etc.); lack of contextual thematic analysis, and capacity-building needed for data producers; inaccessibility of the data for users, and limited interactions between users and producers².

The UN Women assessment also revealed other challenges including: a lack of appreciation of gender statistics; lack of clear and harmonized concepts, definitions, and methodologies; poor technical capacity and lack of specialized staff;

¹ UNECA 2020/21. Report on progress made on the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics

² UN Women. Gender statistics. Making Every Woman and Girl Count. [Gender statistics | UN Women - Africa](#)

a weak policy environment; inadequate funding; lack of gender-specific surveys; and poor integration of gender statistics into ongoing statistics work; poor administrative records; and ineffective and outdated dissemination approaches³.

It is against this background that AGGES, with support from partners, continues to work towards advancing gender statistics in Africa to strengthen the production of gender statistics and promote interventions that can promote the use of this data for gender equality and sustainable development. For the next five years, the APGS will continue to promote gender statistics with the objective of improving the availability of accurate gender statistics at the national, regional, and international levels. While this work has progressed considerably over the past ten years, particularly in capacity-building including training and research, a lot needs to be done to go in-depth in the 15 countries in which work has already started and to expand to other countries in Africa. The APGS will also work towards more effective coordination among core partners and stakeholders to avoid duplication and improve complementarity of the work being undertaken. In addition, the APGS will generate knowledge on gender statistics and disseminate it widely for the benefit of users on the continent. This will lead to the standardization of data and sharing of best practices.

Rationale and Vision of the African Programme on Gender Statistics

The centrality of gender equality in the achievement of socioeconomic and cultural development in society has been widely documented. The importance of producing gender statistics was first recognized by the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi (1985), during which governments agreed to reorganize their national information systems to compile and disseminate gender statistics to better address gender issues⁴. This was reiterated by the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), which urged national, regional, and international statistical services to ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analyzed and presented by sex and age, and reflect the problems, issues, and

questions related to women and men in society. Other United Nations declarations, resolutions and development frameworks have also referred to gender equality and called upon countries to produce the gender statistics required for the appraisal of progress made towards achieving the aims of these frameworks.

Since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995), many African countries have committed themselves to ensuring gender equality by ratifying many international and regional platforms and protocols on the issue. International, regional, and national partners at the global and regional levels have undertaken several initiatives to move this agenda forward. Despite these efforts, African countries continue to face many challenges in terms of stimulating their development policies and programmes to move forward their gender agenda. These efforts have often been undermined by lack of adequate data to inform and monitor policies and progress. In fact, the production of gender statistics in the region has been slow due to a combination of factors including a reluctance to change how statistics have traditionally been compiled and presented; lack of knowledge on how change can be effected; and a lack of commitment to gender equality⁵. Consequently, national statistics offices (NSOs) in Africa have not made the requisite progress in designing systems and operations to generate gender-sensitive data that is needed to support the advances made in raising awareness of the social and economic implications of gender imbalances.

The report further observes a lack of gender sensitive data even at the global level. In this regard, in March 2006, the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), noted that the general lack of data regarding gender issues is largely the result of inadequate statistical capacity, lack of gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems (NSSs), and inadequate concepts and methods used in collecting and, to some extent, analyzing gender statistics⁶. Moreover, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in its ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, also acknowledged that the “activities for the advancement of women had been limited

³ *ibid*

⁴ UNECA (2016). *Compendium on Gender Statistics in Africa*

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ *ibid*

partly by the lack of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age and in many areas, inadequate methods for assessing progress”⁷.

The principle of gender equality and women’s empowerment is also enshrined in the global Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, which recognizes its realization as a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions - economic, environmental, and social⁸. Furthermore, the Agenda considers gender equality and women’s empowerment a fundamental human right and recognizes the right for women and girls to enjoy equal access to quality education, economic resources, and political participation as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership, and decision-making at all levels⁹. To this end, it commits to work for a significant increase in investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global, regional, and national levels¹⁰. Agenda 2030 also commits, among others, to combat inequalities, build just and inclusive societies, protect human rights, and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

At the regional level, Africa’s Agenda 2063¹¹ puts gender equality at the forefront of the continent’s vision, and it is among the seven aspirations outlined in the Agenda¹². Aspiration 6 and its related Goal 17 specifically focus on achieving full gender equality to enable a people-driven development for Africa. To this end, Agenda 2063 identifies two main priority areas: women’s and girls’ empowerment and an end to violence and discrimination against women and girls. In addition, mechanisms have been put in place to ensure adequate tracking and monitoring of the progress being made by the continent as a whole¹³.

This background and the fact that the changes achieved so far have not made a significant difference in engendering the operations

of NSOs and the production of gender statistics makes it important for the continued implementation of gender statistics programmes and initiatives in Africa. Implementation in the last phase was to a great extent hampered by

the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region in March 2020. A study by UNFPA and UN Women reveals that the pandemic has impacted and delayed the realization of most of the gender-relevant SDG targets including those related to women’s economic participation and empowerment, youth unemployment, education, maternal and child health, sexual reproductive health, child marriage, gender-based violence (GBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM)¹⁴. The report further states that gains made by most eastern and southern African countries in the UNDP Gender Equality Index (GII) rankings between 2005 and 2019 are likely to suffer setbacks as a result of the pandemic. While the study focused on eastern and southern Africa, it is important to note that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the realization of the SDG targets in Africa. This means that gender statistics data may have to be reviewed to integrate these changes. In addition, the APGS 2022–2026 will have to incorporate new methodologies to capture data as traditional methods may not be effective on their own. There will be need to incorporate technology-based methodologies, which will also involve additional training and capacity-building.

Situation Analysis

The second phase of the programme (2018-2021) provided a strong base for the advancement of the gender statistics agenda in Africa particularly in the areas of capacity-building, thematic and methodological research, and reporting and dissemination of gender issues. Efforts to create an enabling environment to produce gender statistics, increase data production, and improve accessibility gained momentum in the second phase. In addition, significant efforts were made around advocacy, communication for development, and implementation of gender statistics programmes in Member States. Further, the programme helped to strengthen dialogue and build partnerships between various stakeholders through the Africa Gender

7 Ibid p.v

8 SDGs (2015). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9 Ibid

10 Ibid

11 Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want - is Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity.

12 <https://au.int/en/gender-equality-development>

13 Ibid.

14 UN Women/UNFPA. Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in East and Southern Africa. March 2021.

Data Network (AGDN)¹⁵. However, significant challenges remain including the need to: expand and build on the current collaborative processes since not all partners and stakeholders have participated in the Programme so far; develop a programme that will consider COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges; address resource challenges; widen technical support for more countries while consolidating and expanding work in the 15 countries; increase support to activities aimed at mainstreaming gender considerations in statistical normative frameworks; and increase the uptake of gender statistics.

Stakeholders

According to the 2014 UNECA Report on Progress made on the Implementation of Gender Statistics, AGGES member institutions comprise three pan-African institutions namely, the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the African Union Commission (AUC). Membership is also drawn from United Nations and other international agencies including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In addition, membership includes statistical training centres, regional economic communities, and member states¹⁶.

Despite this assertion, APGS 2018–2021 reports indicate that the implementing partners have been UNECA, which is also the secretariat, AfDB, and UN Women. The lead agencies in turn have partnered with organizations such as Open Data Watch, PARIS 21 and Data2X as

well as other UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNFPA, among others. This means that the other partners mentioned above have not been directly involved in the Programme although most of them are working in the area of gender equality. It is, therefore necessary to develop a strategy to engage them more effectively if the production and use of gender statistics is to be strengthened in all sectors and at all levels. One of the key objectives in this phase, therefore, is to strengthen cooperation and coordination among institutions in the African statistical system as well as those working in the area of gender. The presence of the AUC in the APGS, for example, was highlighted as critical and yet the organization has not been involved in its activities. Regional economic communities are also important based on access to their members, but they are not actively engaged.

Policy Frameworks on Gender Statistics

The project document is aligned to the international and regional gender statistic policy as well as gender equality norms as grounded in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. The AAAA recognizes the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in economic development and "commits countries to undertake legislation and administrative reforms to give women equal rights, and promote gender-responsive budgeting and tracking, among other measures"¹⁷. At the international level, the APGS (2018–2021) is aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of 1979, the BPfA, and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of 2000. Regional initiatives including the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its gender component, the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality of 2004, and Africa's Agenda 2063 have also provided mandates for fostering greater gender equality. In addition, many national governments have promulgated legislative and regulatory frameworks and implemented policies and programmes aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in line with international and regional frameworks. However,

¹⁵ The Africa Gender Data Network (AGDN) is a regional network of gender data practitioners launched in November 2019 by the African Centre for Statistics at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Data2X with support from Open Data Watch (ODW). The Network unites NSO focal points/statisticians from across the continent and currently has members representing 15 African countries: Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

¹⁶ UNECA (2014). Report of the African Group on Gender Statistics on progress made on the implementation of the African Programme on Gender Statistics

¹⁷ African Programme on Gender Statistics Programme Document (2018-2021)

evidence from assessments carried out in the last phase indicates that national frameworks that promote the use and integration of gender statistics in national statistics work are limited. Activities in the next phase will therefore, include undertaking capacity-building activities that will support the development of national policies and frameworks that address the integration of gender statistics.

In terms of stakeholders implementing the APGS, implementing partners have advantages in working on gender statistics based on their mandates and area of work. UNECA's mandate is to promote the economic and social development of Member States and foster intra-regional integration. It places a special focus on collecting up-to-date data and original regional statistics to ground its policy research and advocacy on clear objective evidence, promoting policy consensus, providing meaningful capacity-development, and providing advisory services in key thematic fields. UNECA hosts the ACS. AGGES was intended to work with a Core Group with all the development partners to monitor the implementation of the Programme with UNECA providing the secretariat. While this arrangement did not work out as envisaged in the previous phases because AGGES was inactive, UNECA is still best placed to lead in this area of work because it can contribute to the integration of gender statistics in regional policy frameworks and advise Member States to integrate gender statistics in their national statistics databases.

The AfDB's overarching objective is to spur sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional member countries (RMCs) and contribute to poverty reduction to promote development in Africa. The institution places gender equality at the heart of its approach and has therefore been at the forefront of developing gender statistics in Africa. AfDB promotes gender equality because it is intrinsically important, and is key to achieving inclusive growth and resilient societies.

On its part, UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women works to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. With the mandate of promoting gender globally, UN Women has a strong presence in the region. Through 'Women Count', its strategy for change

and global gender data and statistics flagship project, UN Women is working to bring about a radical shift in how gender statistics are generated and used to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

These three organizations are at the forefront of promoting the production of gender statistics in all fields, which is crucial for bringing about gender equality, compared to other agencies which focus on gender statistics based on their specific mandate. This means that these other agencies cover the whole range of requirements in for example, collecting data on the SDGs. These three agencies therefore have a comparative advantage given their respective mandates and focus on gender statistics. However, strong relationships with other producers and users of data in the region would greatly complement their work and widen their reach.

Buy-in of this work by Member States is crucial as the use and production of data at the national, sub-national, and local level is necessary to change the dynamics and promote gender equality. African states have been part and parcel of strengthening gender statistics through their members in organizations such as the UN and specifically UNECA as well as the AU and AfDB. In this regard, they have been involved in developing the strategy and guidelines on statistic in Africa. In addition, Member States participated in the development of the APGS and attended meetings to discuss the Programme in Accra and Tunis in 2012. Further to this, Member States are represented in the AGGES for which Morocco is the current chair¹⁸. While this is positive, there is still a challenge in terms of the AGGES fulfilling its mandate. Efforts in this phase will be made to increase partnerships and collaboration with like-minded organizations. Restructuring of AGGES will also be carried out to make it more effective and have the capacity to assume this leadership role.

With regard to governance, Stat-Com-Africa established AGGES to oversee the implementation of the APGS. However, interviews with members of this group revealed that they lack clarity on their respective roles. One of the AGGES members noted that her role in the APGS is to provide data to all stakeholders who need it data and to coordinate training as

¹⁸ Interview with the APGS Secretariat Official.

necessary. In her summation she noted that her role primarily was to take part in gender-related issues. However, the terms of reference (TORs) provided by Stat-Com-Africa indicate that the requirements for the role are at a higher level and encompass giving strategic direction to the APGS in strengthening the use of gender statistic and developing effective approaches to make this happen. Other members of the AGGES as well as some of the implementing partners do not know much about the APGS. This gap will be addressed during the next phase, which will include getting buy-in at the ministerial level and ensuring that focal points are at the director of statistics level to ensure that members have more administrative power. There is also need to revisit the TORs and possibly fund a coordination office that will work with core partners to monitor the core activities undertaken by all partners to enable them to report effectively on the results of the activities. It is also important that they have a direct link with Stat-Com-Africa since the current perception is that it is an appointee of UNECA and that it therefore reports to this organization. The TORs should include a liaison function with all the implementing partners to enable them to develop a cohesive and integrated report of activities as opposed to each organization reporting activities on its own.

Stakeholders identified in the programme can contribute towards the integration of gender statistics at the regional and national level. These include NSOs, gender ministries, and other sectoral ministries of member states, statistical training centres, academic institutions, and think tanks, regional economic communities, UN agencies, and local and international NGOs with a focus on promoting effective gender statistics. The relationships with these organizations need to be concretized to enable tracking of activities and their respective impact on integration of gender statistics. A good example is the partnership and sharing of methodologies by UNFPA on the Violence Against Women prevalence survey. How is this activity, for example, included in the overall results framework?

As one of the partners noted, the APGS is like a compilation of activities that UN Women, UNECA and AfDB plan to do in each period. Together with UNECA, information is shared with the APGS Secretariat, which combines the activities from different organizations. It is not

a programme that is designed for a specific group or target, but a harmonization of activities that main member organizations plan to do. This means that each organization has projects for its respective activities and reports to UNECA for reporting to Stat-Com-Africa. In this arrangement, there does not seem to be a role for the AGGES too.

Lessons Learnt During the 2018-2021 Phase

Since its inception, AGGES through the APGS has constituted the main framework for the collaboration and harmonization of efforts among various stakeholders working on gender statistics at the global, regional, and national levels. Various consultations between members, under the leadership of UN Women, UNECA, and AfDB, have enabled the improvement of gender statistics on the continent and African Member States have been provided with valuable support in the form of technical assistance including methodological work, training materials, training, funding, advocacy, and logistics.

While much has been achieved, it is acknowledged that more could have been realized if the AGGES was more actively engaged and proactive in setting the agenda for the AGPS. It is therefore important to have a more deliberate methodology in the next phase to ensure that the AGGES is more active as it is still an important body given the relationship it has with Member States.

The second lesson learned is that a more cohesive and consultative approach among the core partners would have led to a more coordinated approach of support to Member States to integrate gender statistics. The recommendation is to strengthen the coordination of partners working on gender statistics in Africa for greater impact. This will also lead to better reporting and consolidation of results.

A third lesson is that without consultation, a programme cannot gain credence and leverage the required resources. In Phase II of the project, there were no resources put together to address a specific agenda. This resulted in small activities being undertaken by individual organizations with limited effectiveness. There is thus need to identify one or two outputs which will be well funded and supported by all partners as this can

lead to tremendous change in integrating gender statistics on the continent.

Fourth, because of the lack of a common agenda and a strong communication strategy, the essence of the APGS was lost as most partners and stakeholders could not relate their work with the Programme. This shows that it was not well branded and there was no common vision among core partners of what they expected from the APGS. A common vision and communication strategy will have to be worked out before the launch of Phase III of the Programme.

The fifth lesson is the realization that results tracked by different partners in isolation do not make a programme and the impact will not be well documented. In Phase III, an integrated results framework will lead to better collection of information and more concrete organization of results.

APGS III Activities and their Implementation Strategy

The APGS Programme Outcome for the next phase is that: By 2026, Member States on the continent will have developed their national capacities to collect, compile, and disseminate gender statistics to improve gender indicators for sustainable development.

The expected outcome will be achieved by implementing activities of the Programme in the following thematic areas and each will have outputs as detailed in Table 1.

1. Regional partnership and coordination
2. Capacity-building and research
3. Reporting, storage, and dissemination
4. Advocacy, uptake, and use

The key outcomes under these will be achieved through the achievement of the outputs as indicated in the matrix below.

Table 1: Recommended generic outcomes and outputs of the APGS

Outcome	Outputs
(a). Regional partnerships and coordination are expanded/strengthened	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APGS has a strengthened coordination mechanism of gender statistics initiatives on the continent including an agreed workplan of activities and budget by stakeholders. This will entail reviewing and strengthening the AGGES, adding a tier of the key implementing partners to provide oversight, and establishing a secretariat for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and communication. 2. APGS has an effective coordination body to reinforce partnership with and support Member States. 3. Partnerships are extended to include more regional and sub-regional organizations.
(b) Technical capacity for the production and use of gender statistics as well as research is strengthened	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender statistic normative frameworks and policies in NSOs in Africa are strengthened in line with internationally-agreed standards. 2. Increased and improved availability and use of comparable, timely, and accurate gender statistics, which are produced according to internationally-recognized standards for evidence-based planning and policy-making 3. Increased capacity of NSSs and RECs to collect, compile, analyze, and disseminate gender-related indicators at national and sub-regional levels in support of M&E of gender equality commitments at national and regional levels, including Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. 4. Training on production and analysis of gender statistics is incorporated as a course in statistics training institutions. 5. Reduced discrepancies and increased harmonization of data collection methodologies in gender statistics indicators in African countries from national, regional, and international sources. 6. Enhanced capacity of African NSSs to strengthen legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and the coordination mechanisms governing the production of gender statistics for better production and use of gender-related SDGs indicators.

Outcome	Outputs
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Harmonized gender statistics standards and definitions. 8. Built on, deepened, and expanded AGDN initiatives in the 15 countries where activities were implemented in Phase II with more countries brought on board.
(c). Reporting, storage, and dissemination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened community of practice on gender statistics nationally and regionally through the documentation of various efforts made in gender statistics. 2. Knowledge management platforms for gender statistics developed and maintained. 3. Media networks for the dissemination of gender statistics at national, regional, and international level are strengthened. 4. National and regional assessments on the effectiveness of NSOs and other institutions in producing and integrating gender statistics. 5. Increased uptake and use of gender statistics and implementation of policies.
(d). Advocacy, uptake, and use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced communication and branding of the APGS. 2. An expanded and strengthened AGDN. Cross-regional and international platforms created for the advancement of gender statistics. 3. Increased participation of civil society actors instrumental in holding government to account and their strengthened expertise in advocacy in gender statistics leading to greater impact. 4. Greater allocation of national financial resources towards the production of gender statistics. 5. Resource mobilization for the implementation and coordination of the APGS and a comprehension of the financing needs for gender data in Africa.

Regional Partnerships and Coordination

In the previous phase, AGGES was expected to guide and coordinate the development and implementation of the APGS. AGGES will continue to do so during this phase but under a different arrangement. It is important that AGGES continues because it comprises appointees of Member States who are crucial to the production and use of gender data in NSOs. They are also crucial in developing systems that integrate gender data. However, during Phase III, the selection process of members will change in that the lead agencies of the APGS will request Stat-Com-Africa to change the structure. It is proposed that Stat-Com-Africa requests Member States to appoint members at director of national statistics level. All appointments should come with a commitment letter confirming that the persons appointed will be released to undertake their role in a more proactive manner. AGGES will be provided with a secretariat led by a coordinator who will

manage the AGGES calendar, implementation of the results and monitoring framework, and implementation of the communication strategy. The coordinator will be answerable to AGGES and to core implementing partners, namely, AUC, UNECA, UN Women, and AfDB. The rest of the institutional arrangement will remain as it was in the previous phase. AGGES will therefore set up a core group comprising all development partners to monitor implementation of the programme.

In this manner, the APGS will be implemented through a strengthened coordination mechanism of gender statistics initiatives on the continent including an agreed workplan of activities and budget by stakeholders. It is expected that the recommended changes in structure will lead to more effective coordination and a reinforced partnership with effective support to Member States. Regional coordination will also be strengthened, and NSOs will in turn be trained to identify and address institutional, legal, and financial constraints to mainstreaming gender into NSSs.

Capacity-Building and Research

This component entails undertaking activities geared towards strengthening the capacities of individuals and organizations working in the production, use, and dissemination of gender statistics. This is intended to ensure the production of quality data and creation of an enabling environment for the identification of institutional, legal, and financial constraints for the mainstreaming of gender into statistical systems at the national and regional level. Some activities toward this outcome were implemented during Phase II. However, more needs to be done as only few countries were targeted. The continued collection, dissemination, and harmonization of data will help reduce discrepancies in gender statistics indicators at national, regional, and international level.

Under this thematic area, UN Women carried out activities under its global gender data and statistics flagship initiative dubbed “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” (Women Count) in the second phase of the APGS. The project strengthened regional coordination and trained NSOs to identify and address institutional, legal, and financial constraints to mainstreaming gender into NSSs and to develop an efficient monitoring and evaluation system for the SDGs. It is anticipated that this work will continue during Phase II of Women Count with the aim of expanding the countries covered and filling in the gaps identified in the countries where work has begun.

Similarly, work on enhancing and strengthening data production through strengthening technical capacities of NSSs with the aim of improving monitoring of progress towards the SDGs will continue. This work will address legislation, quality of tools, and processes used to generate gender statistics. It will also address coherence and comparability across countries and conformity with international standards. In addition to the focus at regional level, capacity will be strengthened to collect, compile, analyze, and disseminate gender-related SDG statistics at the national and sub-regional level. In addition, users’ capacity to communicate gender data will be enhanced through training while data and metadata-sharing will be encouraged to facilitate data flows including regional and global SDG-related databases.

Strengthening statistical coordination and the integration of gender in national statistical systems was undertaken during the second phase. It is anticipated that this work will continue with the expansion of strengthening measurements and use of statistics in other countries and creating relationships with countries that were covered in the second phase. This will be part of sharing, learning, and developing a continental sustainable data system.

The integration of gender statistics as part of government planning processes and monitoring frameworks will be expanded to include more countries in the region. Similarly, the development of gender-sensitive indicators in national frameworks with special reference to SDGs reporting and national monitoring will be replicated in other countries.

Reporting and Dissemination

The guidelines of reporting and dissemination of statistics emphasize the need to ensure that statistics are accessible, clear, and usable without constraints. This should also apply for gender statistics to ensure that integration into NSSs is achieved effectively. The end goal is that gender statistics will be fully integrated in national statistics and will be part of national data collection processes. As the production of gender statistics is relatively new and information is not fully consolidated, it is important that the community of practice is strengthened in the region including sharing of best practices and creating new knowledge to advance the field of gender statistics. Phase II of the APGS undertook some activities related to this thematic area which included the development of the Africa Gender Index Framework, the African Gender Equality Index, The African Gender and Development Index and the a gender statistics database as well as dashboards, and profiles. The community of practice should also include researchers and academia undertaking research on gender statistics to enable a continuous circulation and sharing of new ideas and enrichment of the field.

In addition, an Africa resource inventory to lead researchers and practitioners to existing knowledge management platforms on gender statistics should be established where all

information on gender statistics is shared to allow for a one-stop site where all the reports and information can be accessed from different platforms but via APGS. These reports could include the national and regional assessments as well as emerging information on trends in the field of gender statistics. The AfDB gender portal, for example, should be linked to the knowledge platform for wider dissemination as should the regional roster of experts on gender statistics, which should also be deposited here. Similarly, the UNECA and UN Women platforms should be accessed through the resource inventory. All publications on gender statistics produced under the APGS should also be accessible through this platform for wider circulation.

Advocacy

Key elements emerging from the evaluation of the APGS are that the Programme is not well known and that organizations and institutions working on gender statistics are not fully integrated into it. Advocacy in Phase III should therefore be targeted and awareness created on the APGS and, more broadly, on the production of gender statistics in Africa. Enhanced communication and branding of the APGS should be undertaken during this phase. This should include developing a communication strategy that will guide sensitization and creation of awareness on gender statistics. Effective advocacy and implementation of the Programme will require resources; a resource mobilization strategy should thus be developed as soon as possible. Existing fringe organizations of the APGS as well as newly-integrated members - part of the proposed expanded membership - should also all be invited to attend programme

coordination meetings and planned joint events.

Work on awareness-creation started in Phase II with three AGGES meetings held in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and then online due to COVID-19 travel and social distancing restrictions. These meetings are important forums where progress of the APGS is discussed and progress on gender statistics is more broadly discussed. While these meetings should continue, it is also important to have cross-regional and international platforms created for the advancement of gender statistics. In addition, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in research and advocacy in gender statistics and gender equality should be brought on board. These organizations bear the comparative advantage of being advocates as well as researchers in this area, and can thus complement APGS's work leading to greater impact.

While resource mobilization has been placed in the advocacy component, it cuts across as all the proposed activities, as no activity cannot be undertaken without resources. The first aspect is resource mobilization for the implementation of the programme. The required funds are expected to cover the management aspects including funding of the proposed secretariat and funding for all the proposed activities. At the AU Member State level, there is a need for resources to promote the integration and use of gender statistics in NSSs. This will require greater allocation of national financial resources towards the production of gender statistics, including for staff hiring and training. If resources are not adequate, the cost of these or could be explored among partners or human resources could be shared.

Results Framework

Outcome	Output	Verifiable Indicator	Means for verification
(a) Regional partnerships and coordination in place	1. APGS has a strengthened coordination mechanism for gender statistics initiatives on the continent including an agreed workplan of activities and budget by stakeholders. These will entail reviewing and strengthening the AGGES, adding a tier of the key implementing partners to provide oversight, and establishing a secretariat for M&E and communication.	At least 5 partners signed up for the implementation of APGS III by June 2022.	MOUs signed with all the partners, minutes of meetings.
	2. APGS has an effective coordination body to reinforce partnership with and support to Member States	AGGES in place and thematic task forces operational.	Workplan for AGGES and task force members developed, quarterly and annual progress reports on activities of AGGES and thematic teams, and minutes from the meetings of the AGGES thematic team and the Secretariat.
	3. Partnerships are extended to include more regional and sub-regional organizations.	A secretariat in place by June 2022 and AGGES members appointed by July 2022.	Secretariat operational, letters of appointment of AGGES signed by Member States, AGGES in place, workplan for AGGES in place. Quarterly and annual reports of the implementation of activities by the Secretariat.

Outcome	Output	Verifiable Indicator	Means for verification
(b) Capacity Building and Research	1. Gender statistics normative frameworks are strengthened in NSOs in Africa.	Number of legislative frameworks strengthened at regional and national level.	Reports from the Secretariat on implementation of the APGS, reports from partners and NSOs.
	2. Increased and improved availability and use of comparable and timely and accurate gender statistics produced according to internationally-recognized standards for evidence-based planning and policy-making	Number of reports with accurate and internationally-comparable gender statistics in member states and regionally.	Assessment reports; quarterly and annual reports from the Secretariat, member states and partners.
	3. Increased capacity of NSSs and RECs to collect, compile, analyze and disseminate gender-related SDGs statistics at national and sub-regional levels in support of M&E of gender equality commitments at national and regional levels, including Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.	Number of data users with strengthened capacities in collecting, analyzing, disseminating, and using gender statistics, including in improving SDGs indicators, and evaluating gender equality commitments at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels.	Quarterly and annual reports by the Secretariat transmitted by NSOs and partners supporting the implementation.
	4. Enhanced capacity of African NSSs to strengthen legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms governing the production of gender statistics for better production and use of gender-related SDG indicators	Number of legal frameworks and institutional arrangements related to the production of gender statistics and related SDG indicators strengthened.	Quarterly and annual reports by the Secretariat, NSOs and partners. Progress meetings held with Members States.

Outcome	Output	Verifiable Indicator	Means for verification
	5. Reduced discrepancies in gender statistics indicators on African countries from national, regional, and international sources.	Number of revisions made in gender statistic indicators in African countries in relation to international standards.	Quarterly and annual progress reports. Review of revised indicators. Reports from Member States and partners.
	6. Harmonization of gender statistics standards and definitions	Number of indicators revised. Acceptance, uptake, and use of these indicators by Member States.	Documentation of harmonized gender statistics, quarterly and annual progress reports from the Secretariat, member states and partners.
	7. Build on, deepen, and expand AGDN initiatives in the 15 countries where activities were implemented in Phase II while at the same time bringing more countries on board.	Number of additional countries brought on board in the implementation of gender statistics programmes.	Quarterly and annual reports from the Secretariat, Member States and partners.
(c) Reporting, storage, and dissemination	1. Strengthened community of practice on gender statistics nationally and regionally.	Number of members in the community of practice group national and regionally.	Quarterly and annual reports on activities and outputs from the group.
	2. Knowledge management platform for gender statistics developed and maintained.	Establishment of a knowledge management platform, number of users and quality of information provided and accessed on the platform.	Quarterly and annual reports from the Secretariat on number of hits on the platform and feedback by users.
	3. Strengthened media network for dissemination of gender statistics at national, regional, and international level.	Number of print, electronic and social media networks on gender statistics at national, regional, and international level.	Number of articles, blogs, tweets, videos, and documentaries written or produced on gender statistics, quarterly and annual monitoring reports on impact.
	4. National and regional assessments on the production of gender statistics.	Number of national and regional assessments undertaken on the progress and challenges in the production of gender statistics.	Assessment reports, quarterly and annual progress reports from secretariat and partners.

Outcome	Output	Verifiable Indicator	Means for verification
	5. Increased use of gender statistics and implementation of policies.	Frequency of use of gender statistic to drive policy changes.	Quarterly and annual reports.
(d) Advocacy	1. Enhanced communication and branding of the APGS.	At least one communication strategy developed in Phase III	Communication strategy fully developed and implemented
	2. A strengthened AGDN.	Number of members of the Gender Data Network and number of meetings held.	Reports on the meetings of the AGDN. Quarterly and annual reports on the work of the AGDN.
	3. Cross-regional and international platforms created for the advancement of gender statistics.	Number of cross-regional and international platforms created, and number of meetings held.	Quarterly and annual reports on the meetings and activities of the regional and international platforms.
	4. Increased participation of civil society actors instrumental in holding government to account but also with expertise in strengthening advocacy in gender statistics leading to greater impact.	Number of CSOs engaged in advocating and researching on gender statistics in Africa.	Reports from the CSOs, quarterly and annual reports from the Secretariat.
	5. Resource mobilization for APGS and greater allocation of national financial resources towards the production of gender statistics.	Amount of funds raised towards the implementation of the APGS; These would include resources allocated at national level to produce gender statistics and the integration of gender statistics into national statistics.	Quarterly and annual reports from partners and the Secretariat on funds available and allocations.

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United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Menelik II Avenue
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: 251-11-544-5000
www.uneca.org

