

Developments and Achievements in the Uptake and Use of Gender Data – The Case of Tanzania

Executive Summary

This report examines milestones, achievements, challenges, and lessons in gender statistics in the United Republic of Tanzania (both mainland and Zanzibar – Tanzania from here onwards) from an uptake and use perspective. The report is informed by a series of in-depth engagements and consultations with state and non-state actors including national statistical offices, line ministries, development partners, and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Tanzania as well as a review and synthesis of internal and external materials.

The purpose of the study was to document and showcase the developments and achievements in the uptake and use of gender data in Tanzania, including those related to UN Women's interventions and support to Tanzania's national statistical system (NSS) through Women Count, its gender data and statistics programme since 2018. The report is expected to establish if and how gender data has influenced advocacy, policymaking, and decision-making in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar and to contribute to the body of knowledge in the use of gender data and statistics in East and Southern Africa (ESA).

This study will also contribute to a wider regional study on five countries in ESA that will also serve to compare trends by reviewing, consolidating, and packaging developments and wins including: identifying good and promising practices; identifying case studies, if any, related to the uptake and use of gender data; pin pointing challenges in gender data uptake and use; any mitigations to these challenges where identified or already applied; identifying policy, programming, and investment responses where applicable; and reviewing, comparing trends in gender data uptake and use in the region where applicable.

Summary of key findings

The findings and analysis of this study are organized by topic for ease of access. They are organized along four parameters: developments in the uptake and use of gender data; good and promising practices in the uptake and use of gender data; challenges and lessons in the uptake and use of gender data; and prospects and next steps in the use of gender data for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).

The study found that gender data and statistics in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar have developed significantly since the inception of the Women Count programme in 2018. This has also applied to the use of gender data and statistics to influence policy, programming, and decision-making in the country. Robust partnerships with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, on the mainland) and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS, in Zanzibar), and the relevant line ministries have contributed greatly to this trajectory.

As part of its key interventions, Women Count has supported countries, including the United Republic of Tanzania, to develop the necessary legal and policy frameworks for the production of gender data and statistics. This support was informed by a needs assessment of the country's gender statistics systems undertaken in 2018 at the inception of the programme, which revealed a number of challenge most notably that neither Tanzania's national gender and development strategies nor its statistical plans explicitly sought to improve the production and use of gender data, lack of data to monitor progress on gender-specific SDG indicators, few and erratic linkages between users and producers further limiting the production of relevant gender data and its uptake and use to improve the lives of women and girls.



In terms of gender data use, the study found that various initiatives such as **OCGS monthly briefings to media** (referred to commonly as the OCGS monthly release) on the latest gender-based violence (GBV) data and the publication and dissemination of Tanzania's SIGI Survey have all but overhauled gender data uptake and use in Tanzania.

As a result of increased access to data and analysis on GBV, Tanzania has **established police gender and children desks as well as one-stop centers** most notably in Zanzibar, where every district has a gender desk and one-stop center comprising counselling as well as health services and legal aid thus helping to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

Evidence of the incidence of GBV helped stakeholders inform a motion in Parliament to make a strong case for more resources for the police to combat GBV. It was also instrumental in **engaging the private sector** to contribute resources including motorcycles and construction of additional police posts to boost support for the fight against GBV at the grassroots level.

On the legal and policy fronts, **gender data has influenced marriage and education laws** and triggered mechanisms on the part of government to prevent and address VAWG down to the lowest levels of administration among other achievements. For education, gender data has positively influenced decisions and policies regarding school retention, re-entry after pregnancy, and completion, while developments to amend marriage laws to uphold the age of marriage at 18 years even with parental consent are underway based on data showing the high rate of child marriage in the country and evidence-based stakeholder advocacy. Findings of the SIGI Survey are being used in advocacy with policymakers to pass the pending Marriage and Divorce Bill, which is currently before Parliament. This law would increase the minimum age for marriage for girls from 15 to 18 years.

Gender data further informed capacity building for police informing the number of personnel in the police force who required training on both the Mainland and in Zanzibar. This resulted in the establishment of police gender desks for confidential reporting of GBV cases.

There have been significant advancements in **using gender data to genderize the latest Voluntary National Report (VNR)**, which was greatly enriched by data from the grassroots upwards to the national level. This is important for monitoring and reporting on progress on the SDGs, particularly for gender-related indicators.

Data from the SIGI survey has been used to inform messaging for gender-responsive resource allocation at the local government level ushering in gender-responsive budgeting. **Gender data is also now playing a critical role in supporting the development of high-quality disability data;** the use of gender data has had a positive impact on resource allocation in this area by informing the development guidelines for the Disability Development Fund as well as ensuring that one-stop centers mentioned earlier also cater for persons with disabilities (PWDs). **Gender data has been instrumental in building up Zanzibar's disability database**—a comprehensive database that provides a complete profile of disability status on the island, caregivers, education, health, GBV cases, and change of laws.

Gender data from the SIGI survey is also influencing development actors' strategy, programming, and reporting in Tanzania. For example, the Embassy of Ireland a UN Women/Women Count partner, is already using data from the survey and other gender data to heavily inform its 2022 to 2026 strategy and to report on progress on the SDGs from a gender perspective with more use expected with continued promotion and arising opportunities.

The study identifies some standout **good and promising practices in the uptake and use of gender data including regular and systematic user-producer engagement through NSO-led monthly releases** (press briefings) in Zanzibar since January 2021 as a vehicle for holding the responsible stakeholders to account on the actions taken to mitigate and address GBV. **Close collaboration between NSOs and law enforcement and security agencies** as a sustainable approach to preventing and addressing GBV and **continuous user needs assessment by the multi-stakeholder Gender Macro Working Group** has helped to determine the statistics needs in Tanzania and promote the use of existing gender data. Having



Women and Children Protection Committees from the village/street level to the national level is another good and promising practice as the Committees have been central in providing gender data on VAWG to the correct parties in a timely manner thus proving an invaluable mechanism for promoting the use of gender data to help keep women and girls safe from violence or quickly address the effects of violence.

Summary of conclusions

The role of gender data and statistics in monitoring and reporting progress towards the SDGs and national and regional development agendas is gaining in prominence. In Tanzania, like in the rest of the region, appreciation for this data in development is on the rise both with its growing availability thanks to UN Women and other initiatives, and a steady surge in demand as actors reap the benefits of using gender data for evidence-based decision-making, programming, policymaking, and advocacy.

While gender statistics is playing an increasing role in planning, policymaking, decision-making, and reporting in Tanzania, this has not been without its share of challenges.

For example, nearly all the stakeholders interviewed cited lack of resources and inconsistent funding as the primary challenges to the uptake and use of gender data, stating that despite remarkable progress in production, there were still data gaps, notably in areas such as women's ownership of land.

Ironically, increasing promotion of the uptake and use of gender data has resulted in a surge in demand, which, while desirable, has often had the counter-effect of outstripping supply. The same has been observed for capacity building where efforts to market the need for training in gender concepts has resulted in an oversubscription as was often the case in Parliamentary support CSO UWAWAZA/UN Women trainings for aspiring women leaders.

There were also strong calls for increased communication of gender data, for example the data contained in the SIGI Survey, to make it more accessible to a broader range of stakeholders and raise more awareness of its contents. Relatedly, there were also suggestions to increase some of the useful indicators, for example, those involving literacy/illiteracy to help ensure that the use of the contained gender statistics is not limited to one programme or constituency, but can be used across sectors for instance by people with an IT and innovation agenda who can use literacy data to establish and provide remedies for people disproportionately affected by illiteracy.

These challenges call for more resources, including funds and skills, in the continued end-to-end development of gender data and statistics development in Tanzania.



Introduction

i. About the Women Count Programme

Women Count is UN Women’s global gender data programme launched in September 2016. The programme aims to affect a radical shift in the availability, accessibility and use of data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE). It is a multi-year and multi-country programme of work, supported by global and regional activities linking normative and technical work on gender statistics at the global level to the regional and national levels through three interlinked areas of work:

1. Building a supportive policy and institutional environment for the localization and effective monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2. Increasing the quality, comparability, and regularity of gender statistics to address national data gaps and meet reporting commitments under the SDGs; and
3. Ensuring that gender statistics are accessible to users in governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector to strengthen demand for their production.

Currently in its second phase, Women Count has a strong presence in East Africa with a regional project for East and Southern Africa (ESA) and pathfinder projects in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. In addition, Women Count seeks to provide technical support to improve the countries’ production of gender statistics across all areas related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

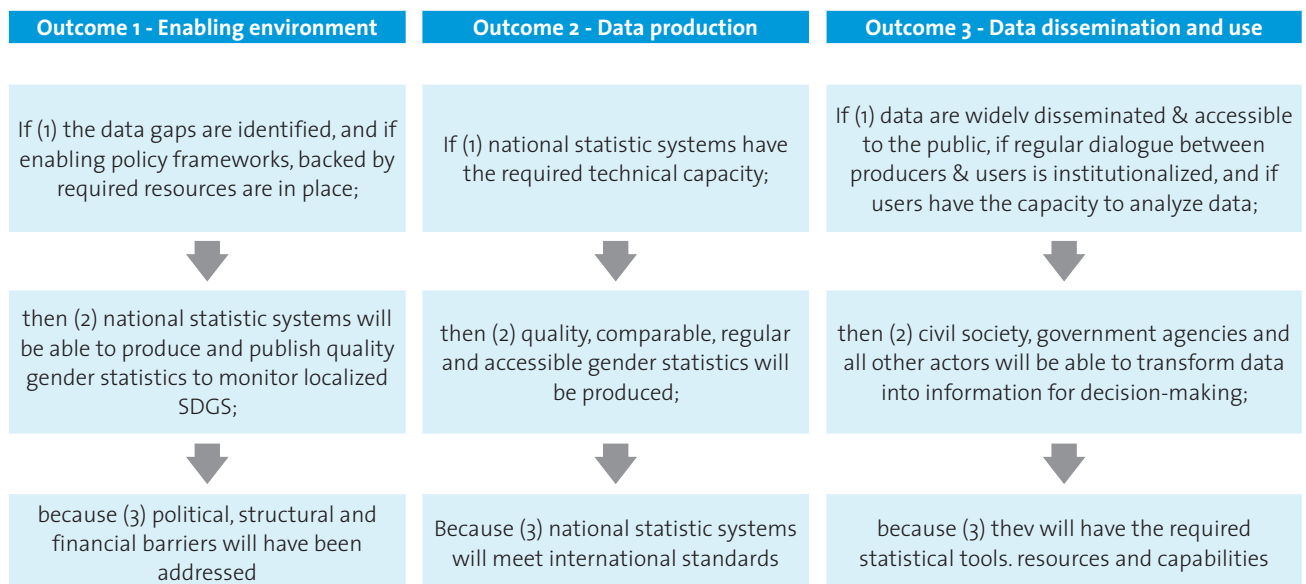
Overview of the study

This report examines milestones, achievements, challenges, and lessons in gender statistics from an uptake and use perspective. The report is informed by a series of dedicated engagements and consultations with state and non-state actors including national statistical offices, line ministries, think tanks, development partners as well as a review and synthesis of internal and external materials.

The purpose of the study was to document and showcase what Women Count, UN Women’s gender data and statistics programme, has achieved in Tanzania since its inception in 2018 and as an important contribution to the body of knowledge in the uptake and use of gender data and statistics in the region. The documentation exercise focused on the impact of the programme from a gender data uptake and use perspective to establish if and how gender data has influenced advocacy, policymaking, and decision-making.

This study will also contribute to the broader study of gender data uptake and use in ESA

Overall, the study documents if and how Tanzania has used gender data and statistics to develop, improve, review, or inform policies, decisions, advocacy, and programmes as well as to monitor and report on national priorities and the SDGs with support from UN Women. The study also highlights developments, challenges, lessons, and trends in this regard for the purpose of informing discourse as well as action in the region.





Methodology and Approach

Data collection

1. Desk/document review

The desk review entailed identifying, collecting, and reviewing available documents and secondary data to gain an understanding of the country context, gender and/or statistics priorities and trends, and identify any gaps and constraints towards making any necessary recommendations. This was carried out to:

- Gather both quantitative and qualitative information on the background, context, and rationale of the initiative
- Establish progress to date and status of uptake and use in the target countries
- Identify challenges and lessons in the process of using gender statistics
- Inform the key informant interviews by identifying areas for further probe

2. Key informant interviews using open-ended questions:

Key informant interviews proved useful in gathering qualitative in-depth data and information with sector stakeholders and UN Women partners in gender data and statistics. The interviews served to collect information from a range of parties – 18 in total¹, who were selected using purposive sampling based on their respective mandates.

Key informants comprised public, development sector, civil society, and academic sector actors who have first-hand knowledge and experience in the contexts under study to review developments, achievements, challenges, and trends on the use of gender data. Key informants comprised senior representatives of the offices listed below.

- a) National statistical offices
- b) Office of the first Vice President of Zanzibar
- c) Ministries of gender and related ministries including planning
- d) Academia including partners from university and think tanks

- e) Bilateral partners/international development partners
- f) Other UN agencies and offices including Resident Coordinators in the respective countries

The study applied an open-ended questionnaire for a guided interview with each key informant with each interview lasting between 45 minutes and one-and-a-half hours.

Limitations

The study is confined to investigating the use of gender data in policymaking, decision-making, advocacy, programming, and reporting in East Africa from a UN Women and partners perspective. The study is also limited to application of this data to improve the lives of women and girls since the onset of the Women Count programme. As such, the study does not focus on application of gender data outside this time and scope, although it makes references to a few such examples for contextual purposes.

All the interviews were conducted in person, which contributed to some limitations including travel and appointment scheduling constraints based on availability of the key informants. This required some nimbleness and flexibility on the part of the researcher.

Findings and analysis

Using the investigative methods outlined above, the study gathered data based on the following four areas:

1. **Developments in the uptake and use of gender data;** this entailed establishing the use of gender data for evidence-based policymaking, decision-making, programming, advocacy, and reporting, particularly in the context of Women Count
2. **Good and promising practices in the uptake and use of gender data** for policy, decision-making
3. **Challenges and lessons in the uptake and use of gender data** and proposed/actual mitigations where applicable.
4. **Prospects and next steps** in the uptake and use of gender data, and, where applicable, policy, programming, and investment responses going forward

The findings and analysis are organized under these topic for ease of access.

¹ Key informant interviews were held with a total of eight respondents in Zanzibar and a total of 10 respondents in mainland Tanzania.



Introduction

A national assessment of gender statistics in the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania hereafter) was conducted at the start of Women Count in 2018, revealing three interrelated challenges:

- Tanzania’s national gender and development strategies and statistical plans did not explicitly seek to improve the production and use of gender data.
- Despite existing capacity within the national statistical system (NSS) to generate gender data to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other gender equality commitments, data for less than 30% of the gender-specific SDG indicators was fully available, and little data was disaggregated beyond sex.
- There was no one-stop-shop or comprehensive source for the country’s latest quantitative and qualitative gender data and little/uncoordinated engagement between gender statistics users and producers.

Tanzania has since made strides in growing both the production and use of gender data and statistics with developments even for sectors that are typically problematic, for example, data on land ownership disaggregated by sex. There is a recent Ministry of Lands directive for all stakeholders in the land sector to submit data for centralization².

“If you review our women and gender policy of 2000, you will see that it was really lacking data and only had anecdotal information,” said John Mapunda, Chairperson of SIGI and Community Development and Gender Specialist at the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups.

“The current policy has been heavily informed by the SIGI survey and now has a strong emphasis on the collection, analysis, and use of gender data in every sector,” said Mapunda.

The UN in Tanzania Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) echoed these sentiments.

“There have been a lot of advancements in mapping information in Tanzania in recent years with strong

ownership of data as well as moves to standardize in under the direction of the national statistical offices on the Mainland and in Zanzibar,” said Susan Kiragu-Nottingham, Data Management and Results Monitoring/Reporting Officer at the Tanzania RCO.

A centralized and responsive online database hosting national-level gender statistics is part of efforts by the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in Zanzibar and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Mainland under Women Count Tanzania implemented in partnership UN Women. This and similar initiatives are helping to improve the production and use of gender data, tracking of national as well as global commitments, and monitoring of social norms and institutions.

Training and capacity-building are strengthening how gender data is produced and used for advocacy and decision-making. With support from Women Count, Tanzania has been strengthening users’ capacity to conduct gender data analysis thereby promoting use, while regular production of easy-to-understand reports, profiles, and booklets on gender across the SDGs with UN Women support has further improved the use of gender statistics to influence decisions, make policies and support gender advocacy.

The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Report by the NSOs with support from the Embassy of Ireland and in collaboration with Women Count and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) is considered a game-changing gender data resource. It is aimed at advancing gender equality through evidence-based research and data to eliminate discrimination in social institutions. The SIGI is NBS’s and OCGS’s inaugural attempt to measure discrimination in social norms and identify the deeply rooted barriers that constrain women’s empowerment in Tanzania. Conducted in 2020 and released in 2022, the SIGI, underlines that discrimination such as child marriage, VAW, and unequal inheritance and property rights in social institutions greatly hamper opportunities for women and girls. For example, SIGI data reveals that 16percent of girls in Tanzania were married before the age of 18 years. While lower than the average rate of girl child marriage of 24 percent in Eastern Africa in 2019, the prevalence is still concerning and warrants action.

This section summarizes how developments in data accessibility and use are fueling gender-related policy action, decision-making, and advocacy in Tanzania in

² Key informant interview with Nasieku Kisambu, Program Manager for Human Rights Governance, Rule of Law, and Gender Equality at the Embassy of Sweden in Dar-es-Salaam.



key areas such as VAWG, women's political participation, and girls' access to education, among others.

Use and achievements in gender data in Tanzania

In both the Mainland and Zanzibar, recent developments have led to a high appreciation and recognition of the mandate and expertise of the NSOs in producing quality and reliable gender stats and supporting its use. UN Women's support in bringing together users and producers has been instrumental in promoting the use of this data as a result of cross-learning through knowledge, experience, and innovation-sharing in various regional engagements.

On the legal and policy fronts, gender data has influenced marriage and education laws and triggered mechanisms on the part of government to prevent and address VAWG down to the lowest levels of administration among other achievements namely:

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

As a result of increased access to data and analysis on GBV, Tanzania has established police gender and children desks as well as one-stop centers most notably in Zanzibar, where every district has a gender desk and one-stop center comprising counselling as well as health services and legal aid. An additional minimum of seven (7) one-stop centers are expected and all 11 district hospitals in Zanzibar will have a one-stop center facility albeit there are some concerns on the availability of human resources. The Government has committed to four (4) centers in Unguja and four (4) in Themba as well as several in the mainland with support from SIDA, a Women Count partner.

Evidence of the high incidence of GBV helped stakeholders make a strong case for more resources for the police to combat GBV through a motion in Parliament. It was also instrumental in engaging the private sector to contribute resources including motorcycles and construction of additional police posts to boost support at the grassroots.

Gender data further informed the number of personnel in the police force who required training on both the Mainland and in Zanzibar with the result that the police not only now have gender desks for confidential reporting of GBV cases, but they are more sensitization on how to handle reports in a

gender-responsive manner, which has a ripple effect of encouraging reporting and in turn generating more accurate data on the incidence, trends, and patterns of GBV for mitigation. Based on the analysis of SGBV data, locations such as downtown Pretoria on the Mainland went further to facilitate anonymous reporting of these cases, which met the objective of encouraging reporting for a better understanding of the full picture. The initial relatively modest numbers surged in the subsequent year leading to increased and better targeted resources to deal with the identified hotspots shown in the data. The same approach was applied to address incidents such as road accidents and crime from a gender perspective.

Child Marriage

Developments to amend marriage laws to uphold the age of marriage at 18 years even with parental consent are underway based on data showing the high rate of child marriage in the country and evidence-based stakeholder advocacy³. SIGI findings are being used in advocacy with policymakers to pass the pending Marriage and Divorce Bill currently before Parliament, which would increase the minimum age for marriage from 15 to 18.

School retention, re-entry, and completion

Gender data on high dropout rates as a result of teen pregnancy and the resulting disempowerment of girls, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic provided a basis for the Government to introduce the school re-entry programme for teenage mums especially in lower primary and secondary schools.

"Gender data showing a significant discrepancy in the enrolment ratio between girls and boys also informed Tanzania's free education policy," said John Mapunda, Chairperson of SIGI and Community Development and Gender Specialist at the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups.

The enrolment ratio of girls:boys has risen to 1:1 up from the previous 30 percent to 40 percent enrolment rate for girls compared to boys. Education is currently free up to A-levels.

³ Tanzania's Marriage Act of 1971 had set the minimum marriage age for girls at 15 with parental consent, and 18 for boys. It permitted the marriage of 14-year-old children when a court was satisfied that special, although unspecified, circumstances exist. In 2016, the High Court ruled these provisions unconstitutional and directed the Government to raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both girls and boys. Human rights Watch www.hrw.org



Ensuring safe learning environments (madrassa) for girls in Zanzibar

Gender data on the incidence of SGBV including information and data on where it is most prone to take place, influenced a policy decision to ensure that girls' toilets in madrassa schools in Zanzibar are constructed inside the school buildings and not external to ensure the safety of girls. Data showed that girls are often raped on their way to the washroom.

National and SDG Reporting

There have been significant advancements in using gender data to genderize the latest Voluntary National Report (VNR), which was greatly enriched by data from the grassroots upwards to the national level. This made it possible to triangulate the data and validate and corroborate the emerging findings, establish reach, and inform proactive and informed targeting of identified marginalized groups.

Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Data from the SIGI survey has been used to inform messaging for gender-responsive resource allocation at the local government level. There is a shift in attitudes towards budgeting with a gender lens because of advocacy to the leadership of local government authorities.

Disability data

The use of gender data has had a positive impact on resource allocation by informing the development guidelines for the Disability Development Fund as well as ensuring that one stop centers also cater for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in their services.

“Gender data has influenced protection mechanisms, especially for GBV, as every policy related to persons with disabilities is gendered and inclusive,” said Hon. Dr. Omar D. Shajak, Principal Secretary in the First Vice President’s Office, Zanzibar.

“Persons with disabilities, and particularly women, often face discrimination on multiple levels,” said Ussi Khamis Debe, Director for People with Disabilities Council in Zanzibar, at the Office of the First Vice President.

“Gender data has played an important role in helping to build understanding and inform decisions related

to persons with disabilities. This includes policies that are being developed to provide a robust support system for caregivers,” said Debe.

Gender data has been instrumental in building up Zanzibar’s disability database—a comprehensive database that provides a complete profile of disability status on the island, caregivers, education, health, GBV cases, and change of laws. Gender data has been integrated as a preliminary step towards mainstreaming for ultimate inclusion to ensure that the intersectionality of this data is adequately captured.

Strategy, programming, and reporting

The Tanzania SIGI survey identified up to six areas of discrimination and is already informing and influencing programme design. For example, the Embassy of Ireland a UN Women/Women Count partner, is already using data from the survey and other gender data to heavily inform its 2022 to 2026 strategy and to report on progress on the SDGs from a gender perspective with more use expected with continued promotion and arising opportunities. The Mission has held internal learning sessions based on this gender data to shape programme design. Beyond regular gender programmes, use of data from the SIGI survey has also informed the design of a women economic empowerment (WEE) health and nutrition programme funded by the Mission.

“We have also disseminated findings of the SIGI survey with all our partners and encouraged them to use this and other current data when writing proposals especially those on GBV,” said Olivia Kinabo, Program Manager at the Embassy of Ireland Dar es Salaam.

“More of the funding proposals we are receiving now are based on evidence from the SIGI and other gender data to better tackle real and documented issues,” she said.

Women’s reproductive health

Discussions with the Ministry of Gender revealed that in the health sector, gender data has informed the Government’s efforts to ensure that every ward has a health facility that can provide a safe delivery for women. These efforts were following gender statistics regarding infant and maternal mortality resulting in every ward having a health facility with that capacity for safe delivery.



Women's access to land

Previously very few women had an opportunity to access and own land in either urban or rural areas. Gender data triggered measures including review of the legal framework to allow women to own land – **to share data**. Cultural constraints are still strong in implementation. Education not necessarily a predeterminant to gender empowerment. Multi-layered

Women's economic empowerment including access to credit

Gender data from the agricultural sector showed disparities in access to credit between women and men, which limited women's meaningful economic engagement in the agriculture sector. This led to a Government decision to increase the number of women who can access credit for agricultural purposes.

Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Gender Specialist John Mapunda explains that in most cases financial institutions need collateral and women do not have ready access to this.

"The Government decision to ease women's access credit is thus not only facilitating agriculture, but other related income-generating activities as well," said Mapunda.

The design and development of Tanzania's national care policy and a modern cooking fuel programme by the Ministry of Local Government is heavily informed by the findings of Time Use Survey (TUS) carried out with support from Women Count. The TUS contains invaluable data on how women and men in Tanzania utilize their time and provides analysis of the implications of women's disproportionate involvement in unpaid care and domestic work from a socio-economic perspective. The upcoming policies are expected to contribute significantly to alleviating women's care work burden to free up time to meaningfully participate in economic activities for their empowerment and national benefit. Already, data from the TUS has been used to revise government employees' minimum salary and better target poor women for coverage under the Tanzania Social Action Fund.

Importantly, gender data from the 2020/21 Labour Force Survey informed the decision to increase the allocation for women under the Tanzania Social Action

Fund (TASAF) as part of the Government's poverty-reduction strategy.

Access to and administration of justice

Gender data related to the extent of delays in divorce and inheritance cases in the courts triggered a presidential decree to establish special courts for expedited hearing and handling of these cases. The data showed that women were bearing the brunt of these delays, which often hindered them from accessing much-needed resources to cater for their families, and especially children, suffering as they wait for the resolution of the courts.

The decision to establish special courts to adjudicate in violence against women and girls (VAWG) as well as juvenile cases was heavily influenced by gender data that demonstrated the extent and impact of the delays. Previously, cases such as these involving children cases were handled by two courts in the entire country, unlike now when district courts have jurisdiction over these cases and can thus expedite them.

Evidence-based advocacy via local organizations and informed discourse

UZIKWASA, a social and behaviour change and media CSO based in Pangani District is using gender data to help erase social norms that perpetuate GBV. The organization has used its monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) frameworks to extract and apply information from the SIGI survey for media and advocacy campaigns.

Similarly, FEMINA, the largest civil society multimedia platform in Tanzania dedicated to fostering young changemakers, is using gender data from the SIGI survey to empower adolescents to access SRHR information and services. The SIGI Report provides data on the scale of young people's access to SRHR services and explains social norms and practices and FEMINA is leveraging this to help policy and decision-makers to better understand the barriers to accessing these services and the required policy interventions thus supporting evidence-based engagement. Some of these interventions have included influencing societal and community discourse using this data e.g., on high (maternal) mortality and illiteracy levels and making connections between actions and how they affect these levels to help trigger societal change.



Empowerment of women and pro-gender equality legislators

Increased availability and access to gender data has resulted in more evidence-based reporting and decision-making in the legislature both in Parliament (Mainland) and the House of Representatives (Zanzibar). Armed with this data and with technical support from UNDP and UN Women more legislators are citing data and giving evidence in Parliament following trainings, capacity building, and access to user-friendly knowledge materials with the relevant data points. Data from UN Women/Women Count and partners and dedicated capacity building by UNDP under its Legislative Support Programme (LSP) have empowered members of parliament to advocate on issues quoting gender disparities. Women members of parliament in particular now appreciate the power of data for making arguments on the floor and are confident in the use of this data. This has resulted in an uptick of requests for information and data from development partners as well as UN Women implementing partners (CSOs) and to make a strong case for women and girls in Tanzania.

In Zanzibar, UWAWAZA⁴, a caucus of Women Members in the Zanzibar House of Representatives (ZHoR) and a UN Women partner, has played a significant role in empowering women politically through training on gender statistics, gender concepts, gender responsiveness and budgeting with the aim of increasing the number of women public leaders and building their capacity to advocate, lobby, and negotiate for change using gender data. Gender data has been central to strengthening the capacity of the women's caucus and its members, especially for young and first-time public leaders who can leverage this data to adequately speak to and influence decisions to improve the lives of women and girls. Challenges are given the attention they deserve. Identifying and collaborating with male champions has been important in the success of the initiative, which has gone as far as using gender data to inform a change of guidelines in parliament to ensure no committee has one sex as both Chair and Vice Chair.

Informed by data on capacity gaps, UWAWAZA and UN Women provided aspiring women leaders

with training in public speaking, leadership, and campaigning skills, which contributed to empowering them to undergo the political party nomination and election process. This has yielded a steady increase in the number of women nominated and elected as leaders.

“There are now eight women representatives from the constituency level, up from only two in the past House of Representatives,” said Mohammed Farid, Programme Officer, UWAWAZA.

“Gender statistics played a big role in informing private motions in the House and also specifically informed legislation that led to increased allowances and finances for women leaders,” said Farid.

“Such successes in the use of gender data to effect positive change have led to an increase in demand for gender statistics in the House of Representatives,” said Farid.

He added that more data sources are needed at the grassroots.

Accountability of NSO, law enforcement, and the Judiciary in Zanzibar

OCCG has been holding press briefings titled monthly GBV releases since January 2021 during which the latest GBV data from the police force, namely on rape, road accidents, violence, and child trafficking cases, is publicized in a media setting. Senior representatives of the police force, the Ministry of Gender, and the Judiciary respond to questions on the latest data from journalists. The monthly releases have unveiled useful data e.g., on the high incidence of revenge GBV—rape my child and I rape yours—bringing to the fore the strong cultural constraints around gender issues and more so SGBV as well as holding to account responsible stakeholders on the actions to mitigate and address these incidents. Local, national, and regional media has also reported extensively on the state of women in girls in Zanzibar and the Government's interventions to improve this state using data and information from the monthly releases as seen in this [August 2023 AllAfrica.com story](#) on cruelty and GBV in Zanzibar.

Beyond fostering accountability and informing police and other action, periodic communication of gender data through these briefings has increased

⁴ UWAWAZA—in full—The Association of Zanzibar Women Members of the House of Representatives in Zanzibar



public awareness of trends, hotspots, and ongoing initiatives related to GBV and encouraged reporting for authorities to better tackle these crimes⁵. These engagements have also been instrumental in facilitating systematic collaboration between users and producers.

“Communicating police data on GBV through the monthly releases has encouraged early reporting due to increased public awareness on the extent and consequences of this issue, said Inspector Said from the Gender Department at Zanzibar’s Police Headquarters.

“Increased access to this data has grown the public’s understanding of these matters and made more people willing to come forward as witnesses in such cases,” he said.

Access to reproductive healthcare

Gender data on the incidence of unplanned pregnancies and other reproductive health issues is informing mapping of and decisions on access to social services and at-risk groups. NSOs and development agencies including UN Women and Pathfinder International with partners such as the Embassy of Sweden have made available data showing the unmet need for family planning and the implications it has had for girls and women in Tanzania including a significant incidence of unsafe abortions. Analysis and use of this data for advocacy has resulted in policies to make available medication (the miso kit) to treat the effects of unsafe abortions safely and effectively. The treatment was not previously registered in Tanzania.

“Subjects such as unsafe abortions are sensitive and even taboo in conservative societies and people may not want to discuss these kinds of occurrences. But everything changes the moment you show data showing the reality of the scale of abortions and

the implications for women and girls,” said Nasieku Kisambu, Program Manager for Human Rights Governance, Rule of Law, and Gender Equality at the Embassy of Sweden in Dar-es-Salaam.

“There was a recent case where administrative data from a doctor at a national hospital gave a clear picture of the incidence and economic costs of unsafe abortions based on the number and type of cases that end up in hospital for emergency treatment,” said Kisambu.

“This drew a lot of controversy but ultimately resulted in a comprehensive post-abortion care guideline being passed in 2021 that allows medics to treat such patients,” she said.

Programming and internal shifts in development agencies and partners

Gender data has also been used to inform programming and practices internally among development agencies and partners. For instance, unpaid care data in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar triggered adjustments in UN Women’s programme interventions on women’s economic empowerment and the care economy in Tanzania.

At the Embassy of Ireland gender data has occasioned the adoption of transformative approaches when addressing gender inequalities, for instance, using SIGI data and information to create awareness internally across the Mission in Tanzania.

“In-depth discussions on gender data are now common during regular programme meetings at the Mission,” said Olivia Kinabo, Program Manager at the Embassy of Ireland in Dar es Salaam.

“It is not uncommon for staff to interrogate one data point in the SIGI Report to inform work at the Embassy and there are more open debates on how people think about gender and the related power dynamics, even at the workplace,” said Kinabo.

⁵ These findings from a June 2023 key informant interview with Mr. Salum Kassim Ali, Zanzibar Chief Government Statistician are corroborated in a [2021 Women Count report](#) which further explains that even in the early stages, the monthly GBV release data was very useful for understanding the extent and impact of GBV. The statistical data on cruelty and GBV released monthly by the Zanzibar Government have been useful for planners and decision makers to manage GBV cases and identify the type of crime and its locality in Zanzibar. The report further explains that OCGS has regularized the dissemination of VAW and crime statistics through monthly statistical releases of secondary VAW data from the police in Zanzibar and that this data has been used in civil society advocacy to improve Zanzibar’s VAW information system and ensure that standardized and quality VAW data is collected throughout the country. Community radio discussions in Zanzibar have used the data to sensitize communities to better manage VAW cases.



Good and promising practices in the uptake and use of gender data in Tanzania

- 1. The use of administrative data to make the case for investment in gender data and statistics.** In 2022, UN Women secured funding⁶ from the Tanzania One UN Fund to support the VAW survey undertaken in the Mainland and European Union funding⁷ to support filling VAW data gaps through the use of administrative data in Zanzibar.
- 1. Use of administrative data from schools, health centers, and other institutions as an early warning and signal** for gender challenges in both Mainland and Zanzibar. There has also been capacity development to empower the relevant stakeholders to understand and recognize worrying patterns.
- 2. Regular and systematic user-producer engagement through the NSO-led monthly releases** since January 2021 in Zanzibar are an excellent case of using gender data as a vehicle through which to hold responsible stakeholders to account on the actions taken to mitigate and address GBV and related incidents in the country. Beyond this, the monthly releases are also a case study in: increasing public awareness of trends, hotspots, and ongoing initiatives related to GBV; encouraging victims and the public to report on incidents for authorities to better tackle these crimes; and importantly, facilitating systematic collaboration between users and producers to positively influence the production of gender data. This continuous collaboration has fostered ownership of the data and issues among the concerned stakeholders and has also helped to ensure that data producers are clued in on what data is most-needed by the users, therefore informing production and by extension promoting use of this user-focused gender data.
- 3. Close collaboration between NSOs and law enforcement and security agencies as a sustainable approach to preventing and addressing GBV.** Both OCGS and NBS have been working very closely with police with the dual result of raising the profile of gender data and ramping up efforts to keep girls and women safe through the collection, strategic communication, and use of reliable and timely information on the incidence of GBV.

- 4. Continuous user needs assessment by the multi-stakeholder Gender Macro Working Group has helped to determine the statistics needs** in various sectors and inform production of gender data. This has helped to catalyze the uptake and use of gender data in Tanzania, particularly also as the Working Group comprises statistics personnel from all ministries. Co-chaired by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups and UN Women, the Working Group supports and guides all sectors in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of gender statistics.
- 5. The use of police gender desks as data collection points for GBV data has been instrumental** in establishing the extent of GBV and informing responses to spikes in incidences. The annual data has provided an accurate picture of reported incidences with an analysis of trends credibly showing both the results of efforts and where more effort is required.
- 6. Women and Children Protection Committees in place from the village/street level to the national level have also proven invaluable in reporting on VAWG incidences.** The Committees were set up as part of Tanzania's VAWG Plan of Action, which was also informed by gender data. Following evidence from gender statistics showing rising trends in the incidence of gender statistics, Women and Children Protection Committees were established to facilitate reporting of VAWG incidences from the village and/or street level to the national level. The Committees collect, analyze, and report on GBV and share this information upward to inform decision-making on prevention and mitigation approaches. These efforts emanated from the development of the national plan of action to end violence against women and children (VAWC) from 2017/18 following evidence from the Tanzania DHS indicating a rise in cases. So far, the Plan has had a positive impact; for example, Tanzania police annual reports now show a decrease in incidences since the establishment of the Committees. While stronger coordination is required from the village to ward, council to district, and region to nation, there are already promising reports from this structure in terms of GBV trends. For example, the recent SIGI Survey shows a decline in FGM from incidences in 2010.

6 USD 280,000

7 USD 137,000



Challenges and lessons in the uptake and use of gender data in Tanzania

Nearly all the stakeholders interviewed cited lack of resources and inconsistent funding as the primary challenges to the uptake and use of gender data, stating that despite remarkable progress in production, there were still data gaps, notably in areas such as women's ownership of land.

Where data is available, there may not be enough awareness among stakeholders of its existence and where to find it, and where awareness exists, there are often limitations in how to analyze and interpret the data for effective use.

Ironically, increasing promotion of the uptake and use of gender data has resulted in a surge in demand, which, while desirable, has often had the counter-effect of outstripping supply.

The same has been observed for capacity building where efforts to market the need for training in gender concepts has resulted in an oversubscription as was often the case in UWAWAZA/UN Women trainings for aspiring women leaders.

These challenges call for more resources in the continued end-to-end development of gender data and statistics development in Tanzania.

Next steps and prospects for gender data use in Tanzania

Nearly all the stakeholders interviewed were eager for the next SIGI survey as a means to measure progress from the baseline report. There were also universal calls for urgent strategic communication efforts to make gender data, including the SIGI survey, accessible to diverse audiences, and proposals to expand the coverage of the survey beyond the initial five in the next SIGI.

"In the meantime, there is a dire need to repurpose the data and further publicize and amplify it to help

change mindsets, behaviour, and customary laws," said Sylvia Meku, Principal Statistician at NBS in Dar es Salaam.

"When properly communicated, gender statistics speak loudly and can change the mindsets of policymakers and legislators although that still requires political will," said Meku.

Susan Kiragu-Nottingham from the Resident Coordinator's Office in Dar es Salaam was of the same view indicating the need for innovative ways of communicating statistics and popularizing them with different audiences.

"The growing awareness of available gender data holds a lot of promise for gender-responsive decisions," said Ahmed Makhel SIGI Consultant and statistics veteran in Tanzania.

"That said, there is need to further promote the use of gender data by exposing both the custodians and main users of the data to more knowledge on gender concepts to be able to properly identify and analyze gender issues in existing data," said Makhel.

In popularizing the findings of the SIGI survey, it will be important to lay some emphasis on the qualitative aspects of the report, which is equally rich and paints a clear picture of the status of women and girls in Tanzania," said Kinabo at the Embassy of Ireland in Dar es Salaam.

Lack of resources for the production, analysis, and communication of gender data emerged as an important sustainability issue with stakeholders calling for more investment in gender data.

"At the moment, it seems that most investment in gender statistics in Tanzania is by development partners," said Mapunda at the Ministry of Gender.

"We need to plan for more internal initiatives and organize our efforts towards increasing internal investments for continued ownership and sustainability," said Mapunda.

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