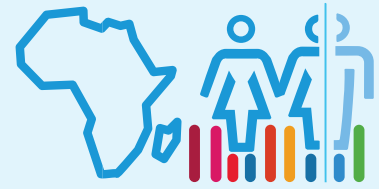




Learn from Kenya

Developments and Achievements in the Uptake and Use of Gender Data



Gender Data Use in Kenya: Insights from Kisumu County and illustrations from Homa Bay and Siaya counties

Executive Summary

This brief provides insights on gender data and statistics in the Kenya's Kisumu, Homa Bay and Siaya counties from an uptake and use perspective. The brief is informed by a series of engagements and consultations, including a focus group discussion held in Kisumu County in June 2024 with state and non-state actors including the Ministry of Gender, Culture, the Arts, and Heritage, the National Gender Equality Commission (NGEC), civil society organizations including community-based and women and youth grassroots organizations, and the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA) 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 Kenya, using Kisumu as well as Homa Bay and Siaya counties for illustration. The report is expected to establish if and how gender data has influenced advocacy, policymaking, and decision-making in these counties, particularly in Kisumu County, 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 study also established that gender data from diverse sources has played an important role in informing programming, resource allocation, services provided, and policies and decisions at the county as well as sub-county and even village levels in Kisumu, Siaya, and Homa Bay Counties. This includes official data from the Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS), labor, and land use data, administrative data from private health facilities and pharmacies, and citizen data from the Gender Based Violence Recovery Center (GBVRC) and walk-in client data.

Due to its accessibility and timeliness, [citizen data](#)¹ has played a fundamental role in identifying, understanding, and mapping the priorities, practices, challenges, and needs of youth, women and girls, and community members in Kisumu County. The study revealed that there is a strong appreciation for the role of gender data, including data from unofficial sources, in making informed decisions and informing programming and interventions particularly in relation to GBV and SRH. This is particularly the case for CSOs including grassroots organizations such as Nyalenda Young Turks² and Women Concern Center (WCC)³, which have relied heavily on gender data to structure their programs, interventions, and services.

The study found that stakeholders have used gender data from several of these sources to craft gender-responsive policies in this region. For example, the [Kisumu Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy](#)⁴, published in, is based on health information system

1 The Importance of CGD <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipY-jDL9270>

2 <https://nyalendayoungturksco.co.ke/>

3 [Kenya's growing call for more GBV shelters | UN Women – Africa](#)

4 The Kisumu Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy is aimed at involving the state and non-state actors in a framework to fast-track implementation of laws and policies that strengthen programs for prevention and response to SGBV.



data and informed by citizen data from grassroots organizations such as the Nyalenda Young Turks and WCC, as well as contextual advice from local units of state agencies such as the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Kisumu office. Kisumu, a beneficiary of an Italian Government and UN Women anti-SGBV campaign initiated in 2019 and titled “Let it Not Happen Again”⁵, is the second comprehensive county policy in Kenya⁶ towards enhancing prevention of and response to GBV and more specifically that against women.

A similar approach was applied for the **Homa Bay SGBV Policy** (2023)—which uses monthly prevalence cases of SGBV data from the Police Gender Desk, KDHS data, and 2020 data from the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC). The **Siaya GBV Policy**, which was accompanied by the Siaya County SGBV Court on June 15th 2023 and followed closely by a similar court in Kisumu County on June 16th, 2023⁷, also uses evidence from various gender data sources and the **Busia Policy on GBV**⁸ is hinged on the county’s commitments to the Generation Equality Forum (GEF)⁹—convened by UN Women as the world’s leading initiative to accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality with a particular focus on youth. The development of these policies relied on hospital data as well as citizen data from members of the respective county gender technical working groups¹⁰ and, to some extent, the respective equality and inclusion working groups.

Kisumu County’s Gender Mainstreaming Policy is robust and was significantly informed by administrative data on agricultural involvement per household to establish how many women own the land that they are tilling. Its implementation is still being streamlined.

The SDFGAA, a UN Women partner at the national level, also used gender data to contribute to the development of **Kisumu County’s Family Healthcare Policy**, which is related to the national primary healthcare strategy. On its part, **Kisumu’s Youth and Women Economic Empowerment Policy** also uses gender data from official and unofficial sources to address identified gaps in gender equality and human rights.

Among the good practices that the focus group discussion identified are interlinkages between WCC and gender sector and other stakeholders as a good practice for effectiveness, advocacy, community mobilization, and resource mobilization.

MSEA is playing an important role in communicating anecdotal data that shows a decrease in GBV when women are economically empowered, a good practice as it is helping to identify and flag hotspots to sensitize and target initiatives for women’s economic empowerment to help reduce the incidence of GBV including SGBV. MSEA in Kisumu County has thus used GBV data cases to help identify women in these vulnerable situations whose outcomes can be improved through economic empowerment. Collaboration with adjacent counties in women’s empowerment initiatives also emerged as a good MSEA practice that can help to scale gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) initiatives in the region and country. The MSEA Kisumu office recently provided technical expertise to various stakeholders, including women’s groups, at a (Lake Victoria) region women’s empowerment and sensitization forum in Siaya County, which aimed to help connect MSEs to affordable credit.”

Another good practice identified during the FGD was Nyalenda Young Turks’ successful use of gender data to mobilize youth for public participation towards good governance and promote access to contraception for youth, including young women. The youth-focused grassroots organization has also undertaken a House Assessment Survey in 10 wards in different

5 The collaboration between UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) during the implementation of “Let it Not Happen Again” strengthened the capacity of justice actors to effectively prevent and respond to violence against women. More at <https://nation.africa/kenya/news/gender/boost-for-equality-quest-as-kisumu-adopts-gender-policies-4486700>

6 [ibid](#)

7 The first specialized SGBV court in the country is in Shanzu in Mombasa County at Kenya’s coast followed by Busia County’s SGBV Court, and the Kisumu County specialized SGBV Court. More at [SGBV Court launched in Siaya](#) from <https://judiciary.go.ke/> and [iawj.org \(Kenya launched 2 more Specialized Sexual and Gender Based Violence \(SGBV\) Courts - International Association of Women Judges\)](#)

8 Busia County has been actively working to address gender-based violence (GBV) through various initiatives and policies including through the development of the Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Policy, which is linked to the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Commitments. This policy aims to enhance both the prevention of and response to GBV in Busia County.

9 Generation Equality is the world’s leading initiative to accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality. It brings together organizations from every part of society to catalyze progress, advocate for change and take bold actions together. More at [Generation Equality Forum](#)

10 NGEC guidelines on county gender technical working groups mandate a broad base of participation from Government ministries, departments, and agencies to CSOs and UN and other development agencies. Access the guidelines at www.ngeckeny.org

11 <https://www.facebook.com/mseakenya/posts/748276707313674>
<https://www.facebook.com/mseakenya/posts/748276707313674>



sub-counties in Kisumu to establish the types of GBV services and interventions that residents in these areas receive from the Government as well as from CSOs. This demonstrated a good appreciation of the value of gender data in decision-making and programming, and possibly pointing to an increasingly high demand for this data going forward.

One of the remarkable good practices in uptake and use of gender data was Nyalenda Young Turks' exchange visits between counties and established community of practice for CSOs, which both provide grassroots organizations with a platform to share and validate their data (including gender data) and experiences.

However, participants noted that identifying and accessing gender data often still presents some challenges. Plans are underway to help ensure better access to data on the types of businesses in Kisumu, Homa Bay and Siaya counties based on registration and other administrative data to better support women's empowerment through enterprise.

Summary of conclusions

The study found that there is a high demand and growing appreciation for high quality and accessible gender data and statistics in Kisumu County as well as the adjacent Siaya and Homa Bay counties for decision-making, programming, resource-mobilization and other planning, and policymaking.

The growing number and sophistication of coordination and collaboration mechanisms to share relevant and timely information and data and leverage synergies by synchronizing gender-related interventions shows a deepened understanding of gender data as a tool to help achieve GEWE in this region. This appetite for timely yet high-quality and reliable data has put emphasis on the value of complementary sources of data such as administrative data and citizen data, which have been applied in many cases to supplement survey, census and other official statistics, which are often expensive and laborious to produce and therefore often available at long intervals.

There is thus great value in continuing to support the NSO, KNBS, to continue to strengthen and grow its capacity in the generation and even repurposing of gender data to provide more support to these important decision and policymaking processes towards GEWE. There is a case to be made for investing more in alternative sources of gender data to support

the fast-growing momentum for evidence-based policy and decision-making.

Introduction

i. About the Women Count Programme

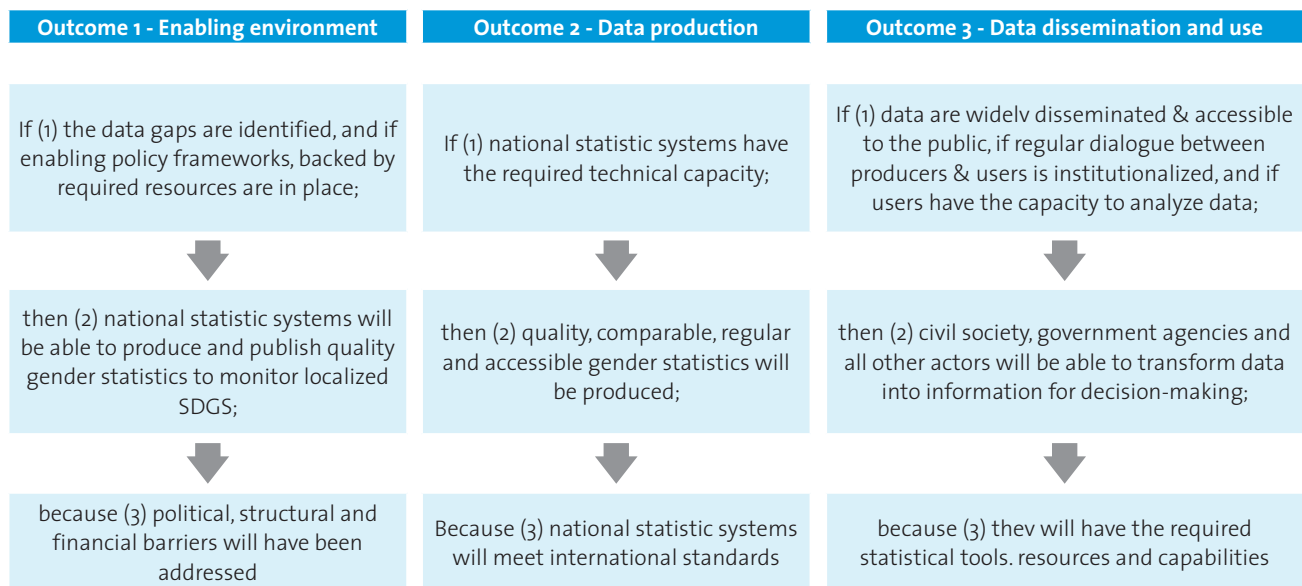
Women Count (in full, Making Every Woman and Girl Count) is UN Women's global gender data programme launched in September 2016. The programme aims to affect a radical shift in the availability, accessibility and use of data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). It is a multi-year, multi-region, and multi-country programme supported by global 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 brief documents the achievements, good practices, and challenges in gender statistics uptake and use in Kenya's Kisumu County, with some illustrations from the adjacent Homa Bay and Siaya counties, as a case study for gender data uptake and use in Kenya. The brief is informed by a series of engagements and consultations including a focus group discussion held in Kisumu County in June 2024 with state



and non-state actors comprising Kisumu-based representatives of the Ministry of Gender, Culture, the Arts, and Heritage, the National Gender Equality Commission (NGEC), civil society organizations including community-based and women and youth grassroots organizations, and the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA). It is also informed by a review and synthesis of internal and external materials as well as a key informant interview with a mid-level representative of the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action (SDfGAA) in Kisumu.

The purpose of the study was to document and showcase gender data uptake and use cases in Kisumu County with inferences for Women Count, UN Women’s gender data and statistics programme, since the inception of the programme in Kenya in 2017 and as an important contribution to the body of knowledge in the uptake and use of gender data and statistics in East and Southern Africa. The documentation exercise focused on developments from a gender data uptake and use perspective to establish if and how gender data has influenced advocacy, policymaking, and decision-making.

Overall, the study documents if and how these counties have used gender data and statistics to develop, improve, review, or inform policies, decisions, advocacy, and programmes with support from UN Women. The study also highlights good practices in this regard for the purpose of informing discourse as well as action in the country and African sub-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 and county 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 counties;
- Identify challenges and lessons in the process of using gender statistics;
- Inform the focus group discussion and follow-up key informant interview by identifying areas for further probe;

2. Focus group discussion and key informant interview using open-ended questions

The focus group discussion (FGD) coupled with a follow-up key informant interview with a senior official of the SDfGAA in Kisumu proved useful in gathering in-depth qualitative data and information from sector stakeholders and UN Women partners in



gender data and statistics. The FGD served to collect information from a range of parties—5 in total¹², who were selected using purposive sampling based on their respective mandates.

A mid-senior representative of the SDFGAA served as key informant for a follow-up interview.

The study applied an open-ended questionnaire for a guided key informant interview, which lasted 45 minutes.

Limitations

The study is confined to investigating the use of gender data in policymaking, decision-making, advocacy, programming, and reporting in Kenya with the three counties, Kisumu in particular, as the cases under study. The study is also limited to the 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, where applicable, it makes references to a few such examples for contextual purposes.

The FGD and key informant interview 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 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. Experiences of the stakeholders with the uptake and use of gender data;** this entailed establishing if and how the participants of the FGD have interacted with 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.

¹² The focus group discussion comprised mid-senior level representatives of the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action (SDFGAA) Kisumu, National Gender Equality Commission, the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority, and two civil society/community-based organizations—Nyalenda Young Turks and the Women Concern Center (WCC), which focus on socio-economic empowerment and undertake grassroots advocacy on issues of youth priorities and participation, gender-based violence (GBV) including sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), and women rights.

- 3. Challenges in the uptake and use of gender data** and proposed/actual mitigations where applicable.

The findings and analysis of this study are organized by stakeholder and associated theme for ease of access. They are also organized along the parameters of experiences of the stakeholders with gender data use as well as good practices and challenges in the uptake and use of gender data for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).

Background: Women Count Kenya

UN Women conducted a [national assessment of gender statistics in Kenya](#) early in the Women Count Kenya programme in 2018. The study revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Lack of trust, siloed data communities and limited demand by stakeholders for data-driven decision-making were hampering the generation of gender statistics in Kenya.
- Very few data was disaggregated by sex, age, wealth quintile or region, among others, which undermined the extent to which data could inform the implementation and monitoring of gender-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other national priorities.
- Insufficient training and awareness were some of the main factors behind the inadequate demand for and use of gender statistics in Kenya.

Like in the rest of Kenya, gender data and statistics in Kisumu, as well as in the two adjacent counties, has developed significantly over the past few years since the inception of the Women Count programme in 2017. This has also applied to the use of gender data and statistics to influence policy, programming, and decision-making in the counties. Robust partnerships with the national statistics office (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, KNBS)—the implementing partner for Women Count Kenya—and with the line ministry have contributed greatly to this trajectory.

As part of its key interventions, Women Count has supported countries, including Kenya, one of its three focus countries in East and Southern Africa, to develop the necessary legal and policy frameworks to support the production of gender data and statistics,



particularly following the findings of the national gender statistics needs assessment. gender-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as national priorities.

At the time, the Statistics Act of 2006 (later revised in 2019) fell short in encouraging statistical participation and did not recognize the roles of various groups of subnational entities in collecting and producing data. County governments lacked the necessary infrastructure to collect, collate and manage data—mostly due to inadequate funding and lack of political will. national assessment on gender statistics in Kenya,

Kenya has since made strides in growing both the production and use of gender data and statistics; coordination within the national statistical system (NSS) has been strengthened between ministries, departments, and agencies through the [Inter-Agency Gender Statistics](#)

[Technical Committee](#) (IAGSTC), of which UN Women is a member through Women Count Kenya. National plans and frameworks that govern the production of statistics now integrate gender as a key priority, including the third Medium-Term Plan (MTP III), and the Gender Sector Statistics Plan (GSSP)—published in partnership with UN Women—within the country's national statistical development strategy.

The national statistics office, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), has increased technical capacity to produce quality and timely gender statistics including census and surveys, partly through its collaboration with UN Women and as the implementing partner for Women Count Kenya. Data disaggregation has steadily increased, supported by training for KNBS to improve the quality of data sets, for example in the 2022 Kenya Demographic Household Survey (KDHS) to monitor the SDG commitment to leave no one behind¹³. As a result, gender-sensitive SDG monitoring has improved and more data, evidence, research, and analysis on gender equality is available as a result of capacity-building and gender statistics knowledge products developed and disseminated through partnerships with academia and civil society organizations (CSOs).

[Grants to academic and research institutions have bolstered student gender research](#) and UN Women

and partners have supported CSOs to engage in gender statistics dialogues with data producers.¹⁴ There has also been increasing use of county data to inform critical policies with some examples provided in this brief.¹⁵

In terms of gender data use, various initiatives such as the development of a Gender Sector Statistics Plan (GSSP)¹⁶ by KNBS and UN Women with other partners, and development of [Kenya county gender data sheets](#) by the Council of Governors (COG) and KNBS in partnership with UN Women and the respective county governments have helped to set the stage for the development of gender data in Kenya.

This study found that, for instance, the Kisumu County Government partnered with these stakeholders in the development of the [Kisumu County Gender Data Sheet](#) published in 2020. These data sheets aimed to serve as a baseline for gender data and provide information that will be used in tracking progress on implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) indicators and inform gender mainstreaming strategies during the mid-term review of the County Integrated Development Plans 2018-2022.

Gender data use in Kisumu, Siaya, Busia, and Homa Bay counties

The brief is informed by a series of engagements and consultations, including a focus group discussion held in Kisumu County in June 2024 with mid-senior level state and non-state stakeholders based in Kisumu, namely: representatives of the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action (SDFGAA); National Gender Equality Commission; the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority; and two civil society/community-

¹⁴ 16 post-graduate research papers on women's empowerment, health, and gender-based violence provide evidence for gender equality Policies in Kenya. The research papers are an important step in supporting evidence-based policies by addressing the disconnect between researchers and policymakers.

¹⁵ [Annual Report 2022 Final.pdf \(unwomen.org\)](#)

¹⁶ The Gender Sector Statistics Plan (GSSP) 2019/20–2022/23 is the culmination of an extensive process aimed at improving the appreciation, production, and use of gender statistics in Kenya. The Plan is aligned with Vision 2030, the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) III (Gender Sector Plan) 2018–2022, and the Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (2019–2023). It is also aligned with gender-related global normative frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Plan is the result of collaborative efforts between KNBS, the State Department for Gender (SDFG, now the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, SDFGAA), the National Gender Equality Commission (NGEC), UN Women's 'Women Count' Programme and other stakeholders in the national statistical system (NSS) including civil society organizations (CSOs).

¹³ Women Count Phase I [Final Annual Report: Moving The Needle On Gender Data](#)



based organizations—Nyalenda Young Turks and the Women Concern Center (WCC)—which focus on socio-economic empowerment and undertake grassroots advocacy on issues of youth priorities and participation, gender-based violence (GBV) including sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), and women’s rights. The study also entailed a review and synthesis of internal and external materials as well as a key informant interview with a representative of the SDFGAA in Kisumu County.

The study established that **citizen data plays a fundamental role** in identifying, understanding, and mapping the priorities, practices, challenges, and needs of youth, women and girls, and community members in Kisumu County. It also established that **gender data from diverse sources**, including official data from the Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS), administrative from private health facilities and pharmacies, and citizen data from the Gender Based Violence Recovery Center (GBVRC) as well as walk-in client data has played an important role in informing programming, resource allocation, services provided, and policies and decisions at the county as well as sub-county and even village levels in Kisumu, Siaya, and Homa Bay Counties.

Experiences of stakeholders with the uptake and use of gender data

The study found that the **Kisumu SGBV Policy** is based on health information system data and informed by citizen data from grassroots organizations such as the **Nyalenda Young Turks**¹⁷, a youth-led community-based organization (CBO) advocating for meaningful youth inclusion and against violence against women (VAW) and the **Women Concern Center (WCC)**, a women-led organization based in the informal settlement Nyalenda and focused on addressing GBV, HIV/Aids, and peace and security for women and girls. State agencies such as NGECC (Kisumu) also contributed in an advisory and technical capacity to the development of the Policy. Some of the data that informed the Policy included administrative data on who was logged in for/accessing antenatal care; this was then categorized by age to identify girls under the age of 18 years and cross-checked with data from the GBVRC. WCC often collects such data to inform its programming and decision-making. This data was validated against data from health desks to establish

how many underage girls logged in for pregnancy and thus inform the development of the policy.

The **Homa Bay SGBV Policy**, **Siaya County GBV Policy**, and the **Busia County Policy on GBV** were developed using a similar approach relying on hospital data as well as citizen data from members of the Gender Technical Working Group and, to some extent, the Equality and Inclusion Working Group. Both are multisectoral coordination frameworks for state and non-state actors (NSAs) with the latter led by NGECC at the county level and cascading to the sub-county level to enable data collection from the most remote villages in Kisumu and across the counties where the NGECC regional office (based in Kisumu) works. The office covers the western region of Kenya (that is, mainly the Nandi, Trans Nzoia, Western, and Nyanza areas/former provinces).

Kisumu County’s Gender Mainstreaming Policy is robust and was also significantly informed by administrative data for instance, on agricultural involvement per household to establish how many women own the land that they are tilling. The development of the Policy was also informed by gender data on labor distribution data, which showed that most of the people undertaking informal economic activities in markets are women. This made a strong case for a gender-responsive approach to address the issues.

“The Policy is very important as it provides a framework to accelerate the achievement of gender equality,” said Joel Okumu, Assistant Director at SDFGAA based in Kisumu and previously Chief Gender Officer at SDFGAA in Busia County.

It is also crucial to development in the County as it seeks to ensure that (more) women can access socio-economic opportunities and are part of leadership and decision-making,” said Okumu.

The County is in the process of streamlining implementation of the Policy, which also focuses on addressing SGBV¹⁸.

The SDFGAA, a partner of UN Women at the national level, also used gender data to contribute to the development of **Kisumu County’s Family Healthcare Policy**, which is related to the national primary healthcare strategy.

¹⁷ <https://nyalendayoungturksco.co.ke/>

¹⁸ Boost for equality quest as Kisumu adopts gender policies <https://nation.africa/kenya/news/gender/boost-for-equality-quest-as-kisumu-adopts-gender-policies-4486700>



“From our perspective as CSOs, this policy is crucial as it focuses on redistributing the burden of healthcare, for example, for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer and diabetes, from facilities back to households,” said Ruth Owinyo, Project Administrator at Women Concern Center (WCC).

“This will help to make facilities more accessible for more people with patients of non-communicable diseases being attended to at the facilities as needed,” said Owinyo.

Gender data such as the findings of the recently launched [Kenya Time Use Survey](#), a joint initiative between KNBS and UN Women among other partners and the country’s first time use study, are expected to further inform the implementation of such policies. The Survey provides insights on unpaid care work and makes recommendations on how it can best be recognized and redistributed, among other strategies, to avoid disproportionately burdening women and girls.¹⁹

Kisumu’s Youth and Women Economic Empowerment Policy uses gender data from official and unofficial sources to address identified gaps in gender equality and human rights. CSOs such as Nyalenda Young Turks and WCC also substantively contributed to the development of the policy together with NGECC and the SDFGAA demonstrating the 360 degree focus and inclusivity of the policymaking approach to adequately leverage stakeholders’ contextual expertise. Qualitative data was instrumental in enriching the policy, which is of keen interest to the line ministry as well as key agencies such as MSEA for effective interventions towards GEWE.

Beyond its inputs to various policymaking processes and participation in gender and gender data coordination mechanisms in Kisumu, **WCC also uses qualitative, administrative and citizen data to carry out grassroots advocacy on issues of GBV and women’s rights.** The Center has a safe house for GBV survivors and collaborates closely with state and non-state actors including other CSOs and the SDFGAA to use gender data to inform the services offered. [UN Women has partnered with the Center](#) to provide essential

commodities and goods through a collaboration with UN Human Rights (OHCHR) and the support of Government of Ireland.

WCC largely uses sex and age disaggregated data from the Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) and data from the Gender Recovery Center (GRC) as well as walk-in client data. These various data disaggregated by sex and age enable the WCC to properly identify the victim/survivor of GBV (who has been violated), and whether it is rape or defilement, as well as other forms of GBV in different stages especially for intimate partner violence (IPV). **The data provides an accurate picture of the type and extent of support needed** (e.g., medical, legal, and psychosocial support), thus informing both short- and long-term actions and facilitating evidence-based decision-making, resource allocation, and programming.

The Center also uses gender data on the peace and security of women before, during, and after elections to inform how psychosocial support is offered to women who have been violated. The Center has an SGBV Tool that helps in collecting data and has disseminated it to the peace grassroots women groups in the four informal settlement areas in which it works with the aim of developing a standardized data tool that can help to identify and address incidences of duplication of data even at the county level.

WCC has also been implementing UNHCR 1325²⁰ to see to it that women and girls who are violated during these periods access justice through the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC). The Commission, a national Government agency mandated to investigate and provide redress for human rights violations, facilitate campaigns and advocacy on human rights, and collaborate with other stakeholders, among others, has been providing some support to the cases identified through WCC gender data. The Center is putting in place plans to enhance the capacity of CSOs and CBOs to collect and analyze data for submission to the relevant stakeholders including SDFGAA.

¹⁹ KNBS carried out the Kenya Time Use Survey (KTUS), which was launched in October 2023, in partnership with Women Count Kenya and other partners. Women Count provided technical assistance throughout the process including statistical analysis support, training national and county government officials on the implications and use of the findings for policy development and strategic communications and amplification of the findings of the Survey. The survey report is accessible here: <https://bit.ly/KenyaTimeUseSurvey>

²⁰ Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. The resolution 1325 (2000) addresses the impact of war on women and the importance of women’s full and equal participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction.



On its part, **the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA)**²¹ in Kisumu County has used available gender data to segment manufacturing, trade, agribusiness, and services and map out the main actors.

“For example, data has shown that **women are often grossly underrepresented in manufacturing, which has led the agency to proactively promote the engagement of women in this sector,**” said Fredrick Kaduka, MSEA Kisumu Assistant Director Enterprise Development (ADED).

“We are proud of several initiatives such as the **establishment of a master craftsmen programme to help women and girls acquire the skills needed to help them get jobs in manufacturing,**” said Kaduka.

“Gender data played a big role in informing the development of this programme and others initiated by the Agency,” he said.

Indeed, the Authority has also put in place **apprenticeships to various work sites for on-the-job-training for women** to empower them to start their own businesses in manufacturing.

“Anecdotal data has shown a decrease in GBV when women are economically empowered and this is something that drives us every day to improve economic opportunities for women,” said Kaduka.

Internal communication mechanisms at MSEA have helped to share this data and to therefore **properly identify and flag hotspots to sensitize and target initiatives** for women’s economic empowerment.

MSEA in Kisumu County has thus used GBV data cases to help identify women in these vulnerable situations whose outcomes can be improved through economic empowerment. **The agency has used GBV data to identify and capacitate women to register for upskilling** as part of their empowerment with the aim of reducing vulnerability and thus GBV. This includes gaining skills in how to use common user machines such as car wash machines (women as well as youth) and woodwork machines (including supply

to a number of sites) as well as to inform Government programmes using this and other data from the community level.

MSEA has also used gender data to make more opportunities in agribusiness accessible to women—who are more prominent in this sector as they form the majority of farmers and market traders of raw products. **Informed by data, MSEA has been promoting value addition and training women in this sector** to help increase their earnings. The support has included educating them on the types of machines required for different processes so that they can gain more from their produce.

MSEA has also used gender data to identify the diverse and numerous opportunities in agribusiness for women and to put in place interventions to encourage women to form more associations to operate more effectively and even access credit.

Established in 2020, **Nyalenda Young Turks** has a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and community empowerment using gender data and also **uses gender data to back up theoretical arguments for resource mobilization**. Based in Nyalenda, the largest informal settlement in Kisumu with an estimated population of 60,000 people²², the CBO has **successfully used gender data to mobilize youth for public participation and promote access to contraception for youth**. It has also **used gender data to analyze behavior change for adolescent girls** aged 15-19 years and determine the best interventions to influence positive SRH outcomes.

“Promoting good governance has also formed a big part of Nyalenda Young Turks’ initiatives,” said Victor Elvis Omondi, Executive Director of Nyalenda young Turks.

The organization is **using gender data collected at the community level to hold duty bearers to account, for example, though the ENDSGBV Initiative (ESI)**²³.

“Nyalenda Young Turks has also used gender data to identify gaps, for instance, in the implementation of Kisumu County SGBV Policy,” said Omondi.

21 The Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA) is a state corporation established under the Micro and Small Enterprise Act No. 55 of 2012. The Act gives the Authority the mandate to formulate and coordinate policies that will facilitate the integration and harmonization of various public and private sector initiatives for the promotion, development, and regulation of micro and small enterprises to become key industries. MSEA works closely with the SDFGAA in Kisumu and is housed in an adjacent office in the same building as the State Department, further fostering collaboration.

22 [East vs. West: Comparing the African Port Cities of Kisumu and Tema \(chartercitiesinstitute.org\)](http://chartercitiesinstitute.org)

23 Under the Giving for Change Program, Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) and Nyalenda Young Turks have partnered in an advocacy project themed End SGBV Initiative (ESI). The Project seeks to enhance community awareness on SGBV and advocate for the improvement of health services for survivors of SGBV with a keen focus on screening and generation of medical reports that can be used to seek legal redress.



“The organization had made inputs to the development of the Policy using community data,” he said.

As a member of the County’s Gender Technical Working Group, which coordinates gender activities at the county and subcounty level, **Nyalenda Young Turks has also used gender data to collaborate with the media** (both via mainstream and social media) to gather even more data.

“Collaboration with the media has been extremely useful in identifying discrepancies between local administration, health center, and media data, which often shows a higher incidence of SGBV than the first two sources,” explained Omondi.

The organization is using this citizen data to streamline and align prevalence numbers to give the real picture of SGBV in Nyalenda.

Working through alliances, for example, the End Triple Threat²⁴ Alliance, which is working closely with SDFGAA and others on gender data related to SGBV and HIV testing, Nyalenda Young Turks has grown data and understanding of how many people are testing for HIV at private facilities as well as pharmacies. Studies with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) to understand the behaviour of youth and track case management and studying the patterns among teens (using age and sex disaggregated data) has informed improvements in testing and counselling services as well as behaviour change communication.

Nyalenda Young Turks has also undertaken a House Assessment Survey in 10 wards in different sub-counties in Kisumu to establish what kind of GBV services or interventions the people in these areas get from the Government and CSOs. This data is expected to inform programme and intervention design.

The use of innovation and technology has proved invaluable to Nyalenda Young Turks in enhancing the use of gender data. **The organization uses a digital platform on the uptake of SRH services and a real-time dashboard to track services and the kind of information young people are using to help inform and improve the services offered** in this community.

²⁴ The End Triple Threat is a 2023-2030 whole of nation approach to end the triple threat of new HIV infections, mistimed pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence cases among adolescents and young people in Kenya. The full strategy is available here [Ending-the-Triple-Threat-Commitment-Plan-2024.pdf \(nsdcc.go.ke\)](#) on the [National Syndemic Disease Control Council – NSDCC](#) website.

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

Among the good practices that the focus group discussion identified are interlinkages between WCC and gender sector and other stakeholders as a good practice for effectiveness, advocacy, community mobilization, and resource mobilization.

MSEA is playing an important role in communicating anecdotal data that shows a decrease in GBV when women are economically empowered, a good practice as it is helping to identify and flag hotspots to sensitize and target initiatives for women’s economic empowerment to help reduce the incidence of GBV including SGBV. MSEA in Kisumu County has thus used GBV data cases to help identify women in these vulnerable situations whose outcomes can be improved through economic empowerment. Collaboration with adjacent counties in women’s empowerment initiatives also emerged as a good MSEA practice that can help to scale gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) initiatives in the region and country. The MSEA Kisumu office recently provided technical expertise to various stakeholders, including women’s groups, at a (Lake Victoria) region women’s empowerment and sensitization forum in Siaya County, which aimed to help connect MSEs to affordable credit.²⁵

Another good practice identified during the FGD was Nyalenda Young Turks’ successful use of gender data to mobilize youth for public participation towards good governance and promote access to contraception for youth, including young women. The youth-focused grassroots organization has also undertaken a House Assessment Survey in 10 wards in different sub-counties in Kisumu to establish the types of GBV services and interventions that residents in these areas receive from the Government as well as from CSOs. This demonstrated a good appreciation of the value of gender data in decision-making and programming, and possibly pointing to an increasingly high demand for this data going forward.

²⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/mseakenya/posts/748276707313674>
<https://www.facebook.com/mseakenya/posts/748276707313674>



One of the outstanding good practices identified in the uptake and use of gender data was Nyalenda Young Turks' exchange visits between counties and established community of practice for CSOs. These avenues provide grassroots organizations with a platform to share and validate their data (including gender data) and experiences thereby boosting the quality, credibility, and use of this data.

The study also identified the **use of innovation and technology** in enhancing the analysis and thus use of gender data; this has proved invaluable to Nyalenda Young Turks, which uses a digital platform on the uptake of SRH services and a real-time dashboard to track services and the kind of information young people are using to help inform and improve the services offered in this community.

Challenges and opportunities in the uptake and use of gender data

Participants in the study noted that identifying and accessing gender data often still presents some challenges, which is sometimes a major hindrance to use of the data. However, the close collaboration and the tight fraternity between stakeholders in the region with regular formal as well as informal consultations among them has been instrumental in ensuring that information regarding new and existing data can be promptly and efficiently shared. This also provides valuable opportunities for experience sharing for capacity strengthening in the counties' gender data ecosystem and for other counties to benchmark against some of these approaches.

Some of the official data sources of data are dated for the reasons stated earlier in this brief, for example, the prohibitive cost and logistical demands of surveys, censuses and other activities. While complementary and qualitative data, including citizen data from CSOs at the grassroots level from has played a vital role in filling some of these gaps, issues of data quality should continue to be carefully observed to ensure that the data is representative of issues on the ground and can adequately speak to the pertinent issues in the counties.

That said, plans are underway to help ensure better access to data, for example, on the types of businesses in Kisumu, Homa Bay and Siaya counties based on registration and other administrative data to better support women's empowerment through enterprise. This will enable agencies such as MSEA to better support MSMEs to formalize their businesses and join the mainstream economy. It will also help the Agency to better direct resources where needed and enable the enterprises to participate more effectively in improvement programmes towards GEWE.

Conclusions

The study found that there is a high demand and growing appreciation for high quality and accessible gender data and statistics in Kisumu County as well as the adjacent Siaya and Homa Bay counties for decision-making, programming, resource-mobilization and other planning, and policymaking.

The growing number and sophistication of coordination and collaboration mechanisms to share relevant and timely information and data and leverage synergies by synchronizing gender-related interventions shows a deepened understanding of gender data as a tool to help achieve GEWE in this region. This appetite for timely yet high-quality and reliable data has put emphasis on the value of complementary sources of data such as administrative data and citizen data, which have been applied in many cases to supplement survey, census and other official statistics, which are often expensive and laborious to produce and therefore often available at long intervals.

There is thus great value in continuing to support the NSO, KNBS, to continue to strengthen and grow its capacity in the generation and even repurposing of gender data to provide more support to these important decision and policymaking processes towards GEWE. There is a case to be made for investing more in alternative sources of gender data to support the fast-growing momentum for evidence-based policy and decision-making.