

# Developments and achievements in the uptake and use of gender data and statistics – findings from Uganda



## Executive Summary

This report examines milestones, achievements, challenges, and lessons in gender statistics in Uganda 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 Uganda, since its inception 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.

The study also set out to compare trends in the region 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.

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# 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).



*As part of its key interventions, Women Count has supported countries to develop the necessary legal and policy frameworks for the production of gender data and statistics.*

The study found that gender data and statistics in Uganda have developed significantly in the past few years since the inception of the Women Count programme. Robust partnerships with national statistics offices (NSOs) have contributed greatly to this positive trajectory.



As part of its key interventions, Women Count supported countries 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 respective countries' gender statistics systems undertaken at the start of the programme. Improvements in the entire gender data value chain from development of the normative framework to promotion of the uptake and use of gender data and incorporation of user feedback on available data have all contributed to the increased use of gender data to improve the lives of women and girls.



In terms of gender data use, the study found that various gender data initiatives such as the [Time Use Survey](#) (TUS), a study on [women and public transport](#) in Kampala, and the national [Violence Against Women and Girls Survey](#) have resulted in tangible policy, decision and other wins for women and girls in Uganda. For example, the Uganda Time Use Survey sparked discussions with Parliament to revise the Employment Act and the Ministry of Water and Environment to extend clean water to underserved communities while the Kampala public transport study triggered the establishment of a steering committee to develop an action plan based on the findings of the survey.

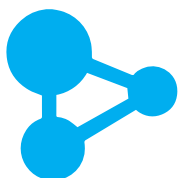


On its part, the national [Violence Against Women and Girls Survey](#) has informed several pieces of legislation including a Marriage Bill reintroduced in 2022, a revised Sexual Offences Bill, and revisions to the Domestic Violence Act among others. The use of [Uganda's COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessment](#) data to inform programme design and development and successfully mobilize resources for UN Women

Uganda's Enhanced Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection" (LEAP II 2021-2025) project also spoke to the power of gender data to make the case for development initiatives targeted at women.



The study identifies some standout good and promising practices in the uptake and use of gender data include close collaboration among diverse partners including civil society organizations (CSOs) as potential co-producers of official statistics in the case of Uganda, which has embraced citizen data. Recognition and adoption of this complementary source of data augurs well for inclusivity and holds immense potential to expand the availability of gender data for evidence-based planning, policy-, and decision-making.



Another bright spot was the newly-launched [UN Joint Programme on Data and Statistics](#), which is poised to align interventions including on citizen data. Through the Programme, the UN is poised to step up coordination for improved effectiveness in the gender statistics sector, for example, in supporting the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) to produce and make data on these indicators more accessible.



Strategic partnerships and linkages between key sector stakeholders including private sector players such as hospitals have played an important role in identifying and using available administrative data to tackle gender-based violence (GBV), and the alignment of gender statistics development to national development plans and priorities have supported ownership and positioned the sector well for increased resource allocation.



Lack of resources and low capacity to further develop gender data and keep up with growing demand of this data emerged as a common concern as did the need to popularize gender data more through strategic communication rather than just dissemination, which by nature is not targeted or tailored for various users or audiences.



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# 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 Uganda, 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.



*There is also opportunity to increase NSO, data producers', and other stakeholders' capacity to produce infographics and visualize data among other strategic communications efforts to make gender data available to diverse users in the necessary formats.*

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

For example, the study found that there is still room to improve the quality of administrative data produced and further strengthen experience and knowledge-sharing on the production and packaging of administrative data to make it suitable for statistical purposes.

There is also opportunity to increase NSO, data producers', and other stakeholders' capacity to produce infographics and visualize data among other strategic communications efforts to make gender data available to diverse users in the necessary formats. This would greatly increase access and thus promote more uptake and use of gender data.

With the nascent UN Joint Programme on Data and Statistics, gender data and statistics continue to grow in relevance for evidence-based and sustainable policy and decision-making, as well as for advocacy, programming and reporting and for monitoring countries' progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

# Introduction

## 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).

*Women Count is UN Women's global gender data programme that 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).*



**Outcome 1  
Enabling environment**

If (1) data are widely disseminated & accessible to the public, if regular dialogue between producers & users is institutionalized, and if users have the capacity to analyze data;

then (2) civil society, government agencies and all other actors will be able to transform data into information for decision making;

because (3) they will have the required statistical tools, resources and capabilities

**Outcome 2  
Data production**

If (1) the data gaps are identified, and if enabling policy frameworks, backed by required resources are in place;

then (2) national statistic systems will be able to produce and publish quality gender statistics to monitor localized SDGs;

because (3) political, structural and financial barriers will have been addressed

**Outcome 3  
Data dissemination and use**

If (1) national statistic systems have the required technical capacity;

then (2) quality, comparable, regular and accessible gender statistics will be produced;

Because (3) national statistic systems will meet international standards

# 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 Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya since its inception in 2019 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.

The study also set out to compare trends in the region 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.

Overall, the case study documents if and how countries in the region have 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.



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# Methodology and Approach



*Key informants comprised public, development sector, civil society, and academic sector actors with first-hand knowledge and experience on the developments, achievements, challenges and trends on the use of gender data in Uganda.*

## 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 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) Ministries of gender and related ministries
- c) Academia including partners from university and think tanks
- d) Bilateral partners/international development partners
- e) Other UN agencies and offices including Resident Coordinators

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. A copy of the interview guide and list of key informants interviewed is annexed.

### 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.

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## 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 by topic for ease of access.

# Developments in the uptake and use of gender data

*A 2016 UN Women and Uganda Bureau of Statistics gender statistics national assessment revealed three interlinked challenges related to limited technical and financial support, limited baseline information, and barriers to access to gender data.*

UN Women and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) conducted a national assessment on gender statistics in 2016 revealing three interrelated challenges:

- Inconsistent and unpredictable financial and technical support for gender data and no specialized staff to liaise with or validate the gender data produced by ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).
- Limited gender data and baseline information available for only half of the Tier I gender-specific SDG indicators. Even where data could be obtained from surveys, it was not disaggregated at the district level, thereby limiting its usefulness.
- Despite improvements in Uganda's data dissemination, there were still significant barriers to accessing gender data partly because statistics were not processed and shared in a user-friendly manner, and there was limited institutional, financial, and technical capacity to validate and widely disseminate data online.

Since then, Uganda has made strides in improving the production of gender data as well as in the dissemination and communication of gender data and statistics. In keeping with the scope of this report, the following section highlights findings on how developments in improving data accessibility and use are fueling policy and other action on key areas including preventing and addressing VAWG.

## Use and Achievements in Administrative Data in Gender Statistics in Uganda

Administrative data is data that governments and service providers routinely collect as part of their daily operations. It includes information such as birth, employment, and health records and is an increasingly important source of official statistics. In the data revolution era, administrative data provides opportunities for timely analysis and public policy development, savings on data collection, and increased efficiency and scope using data that is already available through a variety of public and even private sector processes.

However, it must be noted that despite the opportunities it presents as a complementary or non-traditional data source, administrative data can only be used for statistical purposes once it is adjusted for statistical purposes. This makes it more accessible and easier to use, which increases the potential for uptake and use. It is critical to note that the adjustment for statistical purposes is really the key game changer for the uptake and use of administrative data for statistical purposes.

Uganda adopted the UN Resolution on the need to advance the generation and use of complementary data, including administrative data, to inform policymaking and programming on Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda principle to "Leave No One Behind", strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems (NSSs) to leverage the use of administrative data for statistical purposes is important in bridging data gaps providing a more comprehensive picture for informed policy and decision-making, and monitoring progress and implementation of Agenda 2030.

Uganda has demonstrated thought leadership in the use of administrative data for statistical purposes in its efforts to meet national priorities and address gaps to achieve the Third National Development Plan (NDPIII) and SDG targets including on GEWE. The country has done so most notably in the use of administrative data to address violence against women and girls. Through comprehensive reporting and evidence-based policy and decision-making, data compiled by the justice, law, and order sector (JLOS), private sector, and ministries, departments, and agencies is increasingly making a difference in the lives of women and girls.

Uganda has realized several achievements in improving the availability and use of administrative data collected from the JLOS and other sectors. It has also accomplished much in the way of increasing the use of this data in the gender space. This

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has resulted in increased demand for more timely, high quality, and disaggregated data among other achievements for gender advocacy, gender policy and decision-making namely:



*UBOS has played a central role in strengthening NSS actors in the production and use of administrative data on GBV with the result that demand from some actors on aspects of gender statistics has grown rapidly.*

**1. Strategic partnerships and linkages between key sector stakeholders including private sector players such as hospitals have played an important role in identifying and using available administrative data to tackle gender-based violence (GBV).**

Through close collaboration among stakeholders, Uganda through the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), has forged much-needed linkages among stakeholders for a more comprehensive picture of the prevalence of GBV in the country. For instance, UBOS extracts data from the national GBV report and utilizes data on GBV from the Ministry of Health (MoH), thus enriching the annual statistical abstract with a more complete picture of the prevalence of GBV in the country—a critical first step to addressing GBV.

**2. Increased capacity of NSS actors, notably the Uganda Police Force (UPF)<sup>1</sup>, the Judiciary, and MDAs, to produce administrative data for use in official statistics<sup>2</sup>.**

UBOS has played a central role in strengthening NSS actors in the production and use of administrative data on GBV with the result that demand from some actors on aspects of gender statistics has grown rapidly. For instance, the Judiciary has taken a keen interest in communicating gender statistics better, specifically through data visualization. For the Police, data for crime reporting is now being recategorized into GBV and non-GBV crimes, with the former now published in regular UBOS reports under gender statistics<sup>3</sup>.

**3. Development of tools and platforms to boost access to and use of administrative data.**

This includes the development of a statistics manual by the UPF following the collaboration and the [Uganda spatial data portal](#) to bring together all administrative data on GBV. The portal includes sections on household and facility listing as well as structure and facility listing. The manual will guide the development of statistics in

<sup>1</sup> UBOS and the UPF produce the Police Crime Report, which uses administrative data sources and has greatly improved in quality as a result of better definition of concepts and conceptualization of gender-based violence (GBV) issues and disaggregation of that data with technical (and earlier financial) support from UN Women in Uganda. UN Women Uganda's Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) programme has also provided direct financial as well as technical support to UPF to support data collection and other GBV-related activities to support EVAW. The support to UPF includes capacity building and strengthening institutional mechanisms for case management.

<sup>2</sup> Engagements began in 2019 with a series of up to five training sessions since then with the latest training designed in an inter-agency setting on administrative data early in 2023. Two training sessions were after Women Count Uganda had reviewed the administrative data collection tool to collect gender-based violence (GBV) variables in 2021 and 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Target audiences for the UBOS reports include government, UN and other development partners, media, policymakers, and other multilateral interested parties, academia, and research institutions. These reports include the Uganda Demographic Health Survey (UDHS), the National Violence Against Women and Girls (NVAWG) Survey, the COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA), and the National Governance Peace and Security Survey.

the UPF and help data extractors to examine and recategorize crimes on gender e.g., rape versus defilement based on the international classification on crime for statistical purposes (ICCS) by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNODC laid the foundation for most of this initiative and carried out an assessment of the availability of data on the SDG indicators and how the JLOS activity was initiated. Most of the recommendations have been implemented and successes that were reported were initiated in 2018. The Uganda Prisons Service has also automated its systems to collect information from all the prisons countrywide up from a previously purely manual paper-based system.

- 4. High demand for more capacity building in gender statistics and administrative data demonstrating that a strong case has been made for administrative data** for use in gender statistics as presented by UBOS<sup>4</sup>. The trainings have elicited significant demand for similar capacity building from actors such as the Judiciary. This is a good indicator that NSS actors are finding the subject and information relevant and useful in their various roles as producers and users of administrative data.

## Use and achievements in Citizen Data in Gender Statistics in Uganda

Citizen data<sup>5</sup> is data that people or organizations provide, produce, and use to monitor, demand directly, or drive change on issues that affect them<sup>6</sup>. Now referred to as citizen data<sup>7</sup>, this type of data is needed to monitor the much-sought GEWE aspirations, which are also articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995). These include gender balance and representation of marginalized groups on all constitutional and other bodies.

<sup>4</sup> In March 2023, a total of 51 participants (23 female, 28 male) from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Higher Local Governments (HLGs), civil society and UN agencies strengthened capacity in the generation and use of administrative data, and the integration of gender in the administrative data production chain. This resulted from a previous training assessment on the use and barriers to the use of administrative data, shared experience by different users of administrative data, and elaborated data quality and requirements in the country. UN Women in collaboration with ECA and UBOS prepared a workplan and capacity improvement plan and facilitated the training. As a result, a Harmonized Administrative Data data collection tool has been developed with a data flow diagram to support quality administrative data collection for the trade and Local Economic Development (LED) sector prioritized by UBOS. The collaborative has been escalated to the UN Country Team (UNCT) level for increased partnership and inclusion of UN agencies in the framework of UNJPDS.

<sup>5</sup> Often still referred to as citizen-generated data (CGD) after the Citizen-Generated Data Toolkit in Uganda

<sup>6</sup> Lämmerhirt 2018a

<sup>7</sup> Citizen data has previously been referred to as 'citizen contribution to data' and 'citizen-generated data' (CGD) with the new nomenclature regarded as the more accurate and all-encompassing referral for this kind of data. The recently formed Collaborative on Citizen Data led by UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and UN Women defines this kind of data as "the engagement of citizens in multiple processes in the data value chain". The multi-member Collaborative is working to standardize these and other developments in this type of data across the board. UN Women's appointment to co-lead the Collaborative is a result of successes in Citizen Contribution to Data in East and Southern Africa, and country efforts in Uganda and Ethiopia. For the purposes of this brief and given the name of the toolkit on this area already produced and disseminated by Uganda, the term Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) will also be used where applicable for clarity.

*The trainings have elicited significant demand for similar capacity building from actors such as the Judiciary. This is a good indicator that national statistical system actors are finding the subject and information relevant and useful in their various roles as producers and users of administrative data.*



*With growing recognition of the need for and benefits of inclusivity and the identified dearth of gender data, it has become crucial to recognize the role of non-state actors (NSAs) including UN agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and others as data producers.*



Uganda adopted the UN Resolution on the need to advance the generation and use of alternative data sources, including citizen-generated data, as complementary data to inform policymaking and programming on SDG 5. Like administrative data, in the context of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda principle of “Leave No One Behind (LNOB)”, citizen data helps to fill critical data gaps for groups suffering from data marginalization and increase the extent to which their experiences are reflected in national/official statistics. In addition to filling data gaps, some citizen data initiatives further advance important values such as fairness, inclusiveness, openness, and transparency in statistics.

### Why citizen data?

All countries are mandated to report on SDG progress using official statistics. With growing recognition of the need for and benefits of inclusivity and the identified dearth of gender data, it has become crucial to recognize the role of non-state actors (NSAs) including UN agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and others as data producers. Establishing standards and guidelines for citizen contribution to data (CCD) is therefore fundamental to supporting NSAs to make their data and reports contribute to official statistics for inclusive data as well as to fill data gaps.

### Achievements related to citizen data

Uganda’s efforts towards meeting national priorities as outlined in the third National Development Plan (NDPIII) and the SDG targets in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and addressing the related gaps have significantly increased the demand for more timely, high quality and disaggregated data.

In response, the national statistical system (NSS) has sought to respond effectively to reporting requirements by using existing legal infrastructure, coordination mechanisms, and statistical and data development strategies, one of which is the development of citizen data.

Several achievements have been realized in this regard:

- 1. Use of COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessment data to inform programme design and development and successfully mobilize resources.** In 2021, UN Women Uganda’s Women, Peace and Security (WPS) programme successfully used data from Uganda’s COVID-19 Rapid Gender Assessment Report published in 2020 for design and fundraising for the second phase of its Enhanced Women’s Leadership, Empowerment,

Access, and Protection” (LEAP II 2021-2025) project<sup>8</sup>. UN Women undertook the RGA survey design and definition of scope and UBOS reviewed the survey instrument (questionnaire) and provided technical advice on the sample and other aspects of the RGA.

- 2. Development and dissemination of the Uganda Citizen-Generated Data<sup>9</sup> Toolkit as an important step towards making civil society and non-state actor data official.** At the end of 2021, Uganda finalized and published a CGD Toolkit<sup>10</sup> spearheaded by UBOS in collaboration with UN Women and partners in the data and statistics ecosystem. The Toolkit provides guidelines on the measures that NSAs, including CSOs can take to ensure that the data they produce is certified to contribute to the country’s official statistics. The CGD Toolkit is a strategic step in: institutionalizing CSOs and NSAs in the NSS; enhancing skills and competencies of NSAs in CGD data compilation; increasing the availability of quality CGD; and raising the profile of CGD as a reliable form of data.

Applying quality assurance and standardization measures provided in the CGD Toolkit is thus intended to ensure that the data compiled from different exercises in the region is reliable and credible enough to provide an accurate regional picture and can thus be considered as official data. In the absence of these standards, even when referenced by the Government, such data and statistics has been referred to as unofficial data.

- 3. Adoption of the CGD Toolkit by non-state actors and breaking silos in the national statistical system.** Some CSOs are already implementing the measures outlined in the CGD Toolkit to produce and compile their data. The application of the guidelines is helping to break silos in how NSAs produce and share gender data and statistics thus enhancing cohesion and fostering unity of purpose in the NSS for improved production, access to, and uptake and use of high-quality and reliable data.
- 4. Improved reporting including meaningful contributions to annual SDG and Voluntary National Review reporting processes.** The development and dissemination of the CGD Toolkit took place in the context of Uganda ramping up the generation of data, including gender data, for reporting on the SDGs. Examples

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<sup>8</sup> The LEAP project is funded by the Government of Norway through their Embassy in Uganda to the tune of Norwegian Kroner 48 million (\$5,764,381). The project aims at ensuring that the refugee and host community women and girls affected by crisis, lead, participate in, and benefit from humanitarian response and recovery efforts.

<sup>9</sup> Citizen data elsewhere

<sup>10</sup> The need to address the Leave No One Behind aspiration of Agenda 2030 makes it incumbent for potential data producers to ensure that the voices of citizens, especially the marginalized, are embraced and elaborated. The Uganda CGD Toolkit provides a standard approach and methodologies that current and potential CGD producers should adopt to compile reliable, usable, and accessible data. All non-traditional producers should comply for their data to be considered official.

*The national statistics office (NSO) has embraced and is in fact spearheading the use of non-traditional data sources to complement traditional sources*



of these steps towards increased production of data include participation in the annual SDG and Voluntary National Review (VNR) reporting process, establishing a national SDG Secretariat, and developing the UNSDCF and the UN Joint Programme on Data and Statistics (UNJPD&S). Since its second VNR Report in 2020, Uganda has mobilized stakeholders in SDG implementation and monitoring to contribute to the VNR process and is now one of Africa's VNR champions. Among the first four countries<sup>11</sup> to pilot the VNRs process targeting local governments in monitoring and reporting on SDGs, Uganda is the only country that has scaled up local government reporting approach to 12 local governments (more than twice the required five local governments).

- 5. Shifting mindsets demonstrated through high acceptance of citizen data to complement traditional data sources.** The national statistics office (NSO) has embraced and is in fact spearheading the use of non-traditional data sources to complement traditional sources to the extent that citizen data is being used to enrich regular progress reports to the UBOS Director General. Citizen data is therefore now considered credible data to supplement traditional data sources.
- 6. Increased collaboration through leveraging innovative civil society coordinating mechanisms.** Uganda is successfully leveraging the networks of the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Bag (CSBAG)<sup>12</sup> to facilitate the dissemination and implementation of the CGD Toolkit. CSBAG has been instrumental in coordinating CSOs for gender-responsive-budgeting (GRB). Tapping into this rich and well-established network has played a significant role in supporting CSOs to rope in other CSOs to harmonize the production of and boost citizen data. UN Women, in collaboration with CSBAG, is supporting the development of the Gender and Research Data Hub (GERDH) in partnership with the Gender and Research Data Hub Initiative (GERDHI) for citizen data. The GERDH will serve as a readily available and usable data hub in line with national, regional, and global frameworks and ongoing quality frames and standards of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).
- 7. Increased capacity of civil society organizations and other non-state actors in producing data for use in official statistics.** UN Women, the SDG Secretariat, and partners are working closely with UBOS to support and follow up on CSOs that are successfully applying guidelines from the Toolkit to produce high-quality, standardized data that can be used in official statistics. Some CSOs and NSAs are already providing this data and are being supported and encouraged to align with and apply the guidelines provided in the CGD Toolkit.

<sup>11</sup> Ghana, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Cameroon

<sup>12</sup> Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) is a coalition formed in 2004 to bring together CSOs at national and district levels to influence Government decisions on resource mobilization and utilization for equitable and sustainable development. CSBAG was created out of a desire to collectively influence government and effectively participate in setting national budget priorities.

## Challenges related to citizen data and achievements with the innovative approach

All member states are required to report using official statistics<sup>13</sup> when reporting on SDGs, including those related to GEWE. In the case of Uganda, official data has traditionally comprised data from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), which includes data submitted by government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).

The Government of Uganda acknowledges that while many non-state actors (NSAs)<sup>14</sup> contribute to the production of data, this data does not always align with government reporting and these data production efforts are not always recognized. Assurance of quality data, even for national reports from UN agencies, is often troublesome. Whereas the data presented in these reports is very important, it remains unofficial.

Applying data by NSAs to the national context has also been a challenge in the uptake of citizen data. For example, where one NSA has only collected data from half the districts in one region and another NSA has only collected data in the remaining half, it has been difficult to extrapolate the findings to apply to the whole region as the data is not standard.

## Use of Survey and Related Data in Uganda

While surveys are typically expensive and cumbersome to undertake, they still remain an excellent and reliable source of gender data. The above constraints often mean that surveys cannot usually provide timely data, but their availability is important for a robust national statistical system. In Uganda, surveys have played an important role in improving gender data accessibility and use. For instance:

1. **The [Time Use Survey \(TUS\)](#)<sup>15</sup> contributed to adopting energy-efficient cooking technologies in certain districts**, and sparked discussions with Parliament to revise the Employment Act and the Ministry of Water and Environment to extend clean water to underserved communities.
2. **A study on [women and public transport in Kampala](#)<sup>16</sup> informed discussions on how to engender urban transport policies and planning**. Conducted by the Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) and UN Women in partnership with the Government of

<sup>13</sup> The GEWE Indicator Framework comprises 54 of the 201 relevant indicators for Uganda. The GEWE indicators were localized and domesticated in the National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEl)s framework for Uganda and must be monitored and reported on based on reliable data and statistics.

<sup>14</sup> Non-State Actors (NSAs) include civil society or civil society organizations including non-government organizations, business associations (excluding for-profit enterprises), parliamentarians, academia, and media. NSAs can be international, regional, national, or sub-national.

<sup>15</sup> Uganda Time Use Survey Report 2017-2018 published by UBOS, UKAid and UN Women in June 2019

<sup>16</sup> Statistical Evidence of Women's Use and Experience of Public Transport in Kampala

*While many non-state actors (NSAs) contribute to the production of data, this data does not always align with government reporting and these data production efforts are not always recognized.*



Uganda the study informed discussions between UN Women's Uganda office and the Ministry of Transport on how to engender urban transport policies and planning; a steering committee was established to develop an action plan based on the findings of the survey.<sup>17</sup>

### **3. The National [Violence Against Women and Girls Survey](#) has informed several pieces of legislation including a Marriage Bill reintroduced in 2022.**

UBOS conducted its first fully-fledged survey on violence in 2020 as part of the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2019/20. The survey collected data on violence against women and girls (VAWG), violence against children (VAC), violence against men (VAM) and violence, abuse, and neglect (VAN) among older women. Apart from informing the Marriage Bill in 2022, findings of the Survey have also informed an Employment Amendment Bill that includes anti-sexual harassment policies, a revised Sexual Offences Bill, Penal Code amendments, and revisions to the Domestic Violence Act, Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, and Female Genital Mutilation Act.

The survey has also contributed to: strengthening data management systems to collect timely and disaggregated VAWG data and track cases from entry to exit; the creation of a Gender Unit within the Uganda Police Force; the use of VAWG forms in the Health Management Information System; improved access for survivors of sexual violence to VAWG services, and their recognition as essential services; increased punishments for perpetrators; and a call from the Minister of Finance for a zero-tolerance policy on VAWG. UBOS has also committed to conduct the VAWG survey every five years to continue to inform policymaking.

#### **Good and promising practices in the uptake and use of gender data in Uganda**

Uganda continues to move the needle in leveraging gender data and statistics to improve the lives of women and girls. Recent reported progress<sup>18</sup> with UN Women's support has been due to the increased availability of data for the SDG gender indicators and strong use of gender data as a result of robust partnerships with Government, academia, and civil society.

In the case of administrative data as a credible source of timely data, ongoing measures to improve the quality of administrative data for statistical purposes, in this case gender data and statistics to address GBV, with technical and other support from UN Women

<sup>17</sup> The survey found that women typically have poorer access to public transport and have more complex mobility patterns due to higher reproductive and care responsibilities coupled with productive work. The study proposed that women be involved more in transport planning to share their needs and insights for improvement of the sector, among other recommendations.

<sup>18</sup> Women Count 2021 Annual Report



*The National Violence Against Women and Girls Survey has informed several pieces of legislation including a Marriage Bill reintroduced in 2022.*

and partners are creating a much-needed opportunity to spotlight the importance of gender statistics for GEWE.

On its part, steps to standardize, streamline, and harmonize citizen data with support from Women Count are creating a valuable opportunity for the uptake and use of rich qualitative data from NSAs. These efforts are also instrumental in enhancing the intersection of qualitative data with quantitative data from the NSO and MDAs. This data increases evidence building for progressive SDG and national reporting, advocacy, and informed decision-making. The steps to include citizen data in official statistics are further providing a window to enrich official statistics with information that provides a better understanding of the root causes of observed phenomenon and to capture the views of communities on the issues being studied as an inherent strength of data typically collected by CSOs.

Some good and promising practices worth highlighting for learning and possible scaling up and replication across the region include:

- 1. Strengthened monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of data at the national statistical office.** The importance of gender statistics in UBOS and externally has grown as evidenced by the increased number of funded positions filled with experts in this field at the Bureau. The completion of training on gender statistics and administrative data was a significant milestone as it created demand from MDAs and local governments (LGs) to receive support on data quality as well as the analysis and use of their data to inform decision-making. Currently, the collection of gender statistics is closely monitored in terms of best practices and challenges to make recommendations for better production. UN Women support has been instrumental in improving national mid-term and quarterly reporting to reflect and improve performance and inform future programming in gender statistics and statistics at large for continuity.
- 2. Increased engagement of the NSO with key ministries, departments, and agencies to strengthen linkages** and setting up initiatives to get different databases and data sets to speak to each other.
- 3. Highly participatory national statistics office and government-led processes are critical in the development of citizen's contribution to data.** Uganda applied an inclusive approach in developing the CGD Toolkit first mobilizing NSAs in a participatory process and giving guidance on the Toolkit based on these actors' respective experiences and interests. This contributed significantly to the richness, relevance and comprehensiveness of the Toolkit and has likely played an important role in ensuring ownership and promoting adoption

*Steps to standardize, streamline, and harmonize citizen data with support from Women Count are creating a valuable opportunity for the uptake and use of rich qualitative data from non-state actors. These efforts are also instrumental in enhancing the intersection of qualitative data with quantitative data from the national statistics office and government ministries, departments, and agencies.*

of the Toolkit. It is also important for sustainability of the process.

**4. Alignment of gender statistics development to national development plans and priorities** is important to ensure relevance and unity of purpose in the development of CCD and other innovative approaches and tools. Uganda's CGD Toolkit was aligned to the third Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD III) and the third National Development Plan (NDP III) through a consultative and participatory process that included a cross-section of partners across the NSS. These included academia, and other key partners in implementation such as CSOs, MDAs, and UBOS . This has been important for relevance and to avoid wastage and duplication of efforts. CGD has also been integrated in the UN Women Country Strategic Note and work plan, as well as in thematic programmes of Ending Violence against Women (EVAW), Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) and in the UNSDCF, and UNJPD&S. Progress on CGD is now reported accordingly in UN and Government reporting frameworks.

**5. Continuous involvement of key players including civil society organizations** in high-level technical meetings is crucial for a 360-degree effective statistical system. CSOs are important members of NSSs. As part of efforts to capture data and information from CSOs systematically and adequately, the third Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD III) included CSOs in quarterly inter-agency technical working group meetings. The need to provide a foundation and framework to help CSOs generate high-quality data to complement official data was identified through their involvement in the meetings and CSOs subsequently requested capacity building in this area. Rollout of the CGD Toolkit has been based on demand from institutions and while there is commendable support towards cleanup of data to make it useful for reporting, updating data and metadata for various data sets is a challenge that is still being addressed. The need for dedicated statistics dissemination and communications personnel has also been identified as part of developing CGD/CCD, especially from an uptake and use perspective.

**6. Deepening partner support by integrating the development of gender statistics** including administrative data and citizen data in established programmes and initiatives provides a

*Continuous involvement of key players including civil society organizations in high-level technical meetings is crucial for a 360-degree effective statistical system.*



significant boost to these efforts. Phase II of the Uganda Women Count programme, part of UN Women's global gender data and statistics flagship initiative, includes rollout of the CGD guidelines and CGD development as a standalone activity. Embedding CGD development in Women Count in Uganda has contributed to making additional technical and other resources available to national efforts.

- 7. Tailored capacity-building measures that match the varied data production capacities of actors** in the national statistical system to bring them up to speed at their pace. Tailored capacity-building measures for different users of the CGD Toolkit include systematic training on the contents and requirements of the Toolkit and the requirements for the effective production of quality statistics and the use of such data. Already, thirty CSOs have been identified for an inception training on the CGD compilation framework. This capacity building will involve exposure to concepts and definitions and terminology as used by CSOs, indicators inventory, metadata development, and data management under the Gender and Research Data Hub (GERDH).
- 8. Strong political will, support, and participation** for the effective development of citizen contribution to data. Uganda has established a formidable SDG Secretariat housed in the Office of the President (OPM). This has made available the political and other resources needed to drive the CGD agenda and to build and maintain the momentum required to include NSAs and standardize the data produced for use in official statistics.
- 9. Standalone time use and GBV surveys** have been conducted in the past five years, and there is national sex-disaggregated data on population, health, agriculture, and the economy through regular censuses and surveys. The establishment of a [gender data portal](#) that houses this and other data is also a good practice towards promoting the uptake and use of gender data.

These milestones and good practices have been instrumental in strengthening Uganda's gender statistics sector from the development of policy and legal frameworks and the production of quality and timely gender data to ensuring its dissemination and, more importantly, its communication for uptake and use for various development purposes.

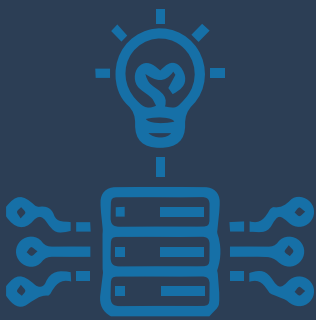
*Strong political will, support, and participation for the effective development of citizen contribution to data are some of the good and promising practices for learning and replication across the region.*



## Challenges and lessons in the uptake and use of gender data in Uganda

While developments in the promotion and use of gender data and statistics in Uganda have been commendable, these have not been without their share of challenges. The following challenges and lessons are thus worth noting:

*There is still room to improve the quality of administrative data produced and further strengthen experience and knowledge-sharing on production and packaging of administrative data for statistical purposes,*



- 1. There is still room to improve the quality of administrative data produced and further strengthen experience and knowledge-sharing on production and packaging of administrative data for statistical purposes,** perhaps through a community of practice. This will be instrumental in increasing awareness of what kind of data already exists and of the developments and direction in the use of administrative data for gender statistics and in systematizing collaboration. It will also be valuable in making inroads in the issue of weak coordination mechanisms between various sectors of the economy and within the NSS.
- 2. Continue strengthening monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of data at UBOS.** The importance of gender statistics in UBOS and externally has grown as evidenced by the increased number of funded positions filled with experts in this field at the Bureau. The completion of training on gender statistics and administrative data was a significant milestone as it created demand from MDAs and local governments (LGs) to receive support on data quality as well as the analysis and use of their data to inform decision-making. Currently, the collection of gender statistics is closely monitored in terms of best practices and challenges to make recommendations for better production. UN Women support has been instrumental in improving national mid-term and quarterly reporting to reflect and improve performance and inform future programming in gender statistics and statistics at large for continuity.
- 3. There is an opportunity to increase capacity to produce infographics and visualize data for accessibility.** User-friendly packaging of gender data and statistics will require enhanced graphic design and social media management capacity as the communications unit continues to showcase emerging data for various target audiences. The community of practice may provide valuable opportunities to build this capacity. There is also need to boost the national statistics office (NSO) capacity to develop diverse multimedia products for publicity.
- 4. Increased engagement of the NSO with key MDAs is instrumental in strengthening linkages** and setting up initiatives to get different databases and data sets to speak to each other.

## Prospects and next steps for the use of gender data in Uganda

Stakeholders who participated in the study expressed high confidence on the continued use of gender data and statistics for policy and decision-making, advocacy, accountability and reporting to improve the lives of women and girls in Uganda. Some of the envisaged next steps that stakeholders articulated include:

1. Popularization of the CGD Toolkit to engage even more stakeholders including through the NGO Forum. The guidelines will also be popularized as one of the core activities of the upcoming UN Joint Program on Data and Statistics, (discussed in more detail below) with the vision that every UN agency works with every responsible partner (RP) and implementing partner (IP) to adopt the CGD Toolkit to ensure that the data they produce is of the required standard to be included in official statistics. Already, at least 14 participating CSOs are now in various stages of developing citizen data and planning related trainings and UN Women is supporting the development of a Gender Research and Data Hub to showcase citizen data in partnership with nine CSOs.
2. The newly-launched UN Joint Program on Data and Statistics for aligned interventions including citizen data is set to play a key role in coordinating partners, leveraging resources, and providing leadership including in gender data and statistics. The UN has been supporting the Government of Uganda in the production of data and statistics for specific indicators most relevant to the respective agencies. Through the joint programme, the UN is now poised to step up coordination for improved effectiveness, for example, in supporting UBOS to produce and make data on these indicators more accessible. Under the program, with the SDGs as an entry point, UN agencies will continue to provide demand-driven capacity building support with unified systems and leveraged resources and without duplication. By supporting UBOS to make data more accessible, the joint programme will make it possible for more stakeholders including policy- and decision-makers and other key users, to reach and use this data in their respective spheres of influence. The UN will continue to amplify and increase the visibility of the country's development achievements through evidence-based reporting on country commitments using quality data including CGD.
3. Continue to organize and cluster civil society organizations that are applying guidelines from the CGD Toolkit. This will be instrumental to systematically identify CSOs that are frontrunners in meeting the threshold for producing data that can be used as official statistics and those that need more time

*Stakeholders expressed high confidence on the continued use of gender data and statistics for policy and decision-making, advocacy, accountability and reporting to improve the lives of women and girls in Uganda.*



*There is need to roll out capacity building on gender statistics and complementary data such as administrative data to other institutions including the National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA) and the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), both of which have shown interest in developing their administrative data systems.*

and support. This calibration will help to ensure that more CSOs and other NSAs graduate to effectively producing credible and reliable data that can be incorporated as official statistics at a pace that suits their needs and status rather than a turnkey approach. This clustering will also continue along UN Women thematic programme areas and the national priorities defined in the NDP, PNSD, UNJPD&S and UNSDCF.

4. Leverage the newly established Uganda Annual SDGs Conference as a platform to review progress on the SDGs. Held for the first time in 2022, the Annual SDG Conference is an important domestic review platform for key stakeholders to review progress on the SDGs. The forum is approved by Cabinet—further demonstrating the high political towards reporting on the SDGs—and its outcome informs the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). Efforts are underway to popularize the Conference and contribute to similar regional and global forums.
5. Roll out capacity building on gender statistics and complementary data such as administrative data<sup>19</sup> to other institutions including the National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA) and the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), both of which have shown interest in developing their administrative data systems.
6. Increase strategic communications capacity and support to UBOS to further increase access to gender statistics, including administrative data, for increased uptake, and use in advocacy, policy- and decision-making.

<sup>19</sup> As mentioned earlier, administrative data is currently not used for statistical purposes. However, once administrative data is adjusted for statistical purposes it becomes more accessible and easy to use, which increases uptake and use; the adjustment for statistical purposes is really the key game changer for the uptake and use of administrative data.