

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

RIISING TO THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE



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**REPORTING PERIOD**

January – December 2020

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFD	Agence Française de Développement	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
AfDB	African Development Bank	SEK	Swedish krona
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	SERP	Socio-Economic Response Plan
AUD	Australian dollars	SIAP	Statistical Institute of Asia-Pacific
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
CEGS	Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
CGD	Citizen-generated data	ToT	Training of trainers
CRVS	Civil registration and vital statistics	TUS	Time-use survey
CSO	Civil society organization	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
DANE	Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (National Administrative Department of Statistics, Colombia)	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
DEK	Data, Evidence and Knowledge	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
DNP	Departamento Nacional de Planificación (National Planning Department, Colombia)	UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EUR	Euro	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GIS	Geospatial Information System	UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
HBS	Household Budget Survey	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
INEGI	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico)	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
ISWGHS	Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys	UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics	UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
MLE	Monitoring, learning and evaluation	USD	United States Dollars
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund	VAWG/VAC/Family	Violence against women and girls, children and family survey
MTR	Mid-Term Review	VNR	Voluntary National Review
NSDS	National Strategies for the Development of Statistics	WHO	World Health Organization
NSO	National statistical office	Women Count	Making Every Woman and Girl Count
NSS	National statistical system	XAF	Central African Francs
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century		
RGA	Rapid gender assessment		

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# AT A GLANCE: MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

## THE ISSUE

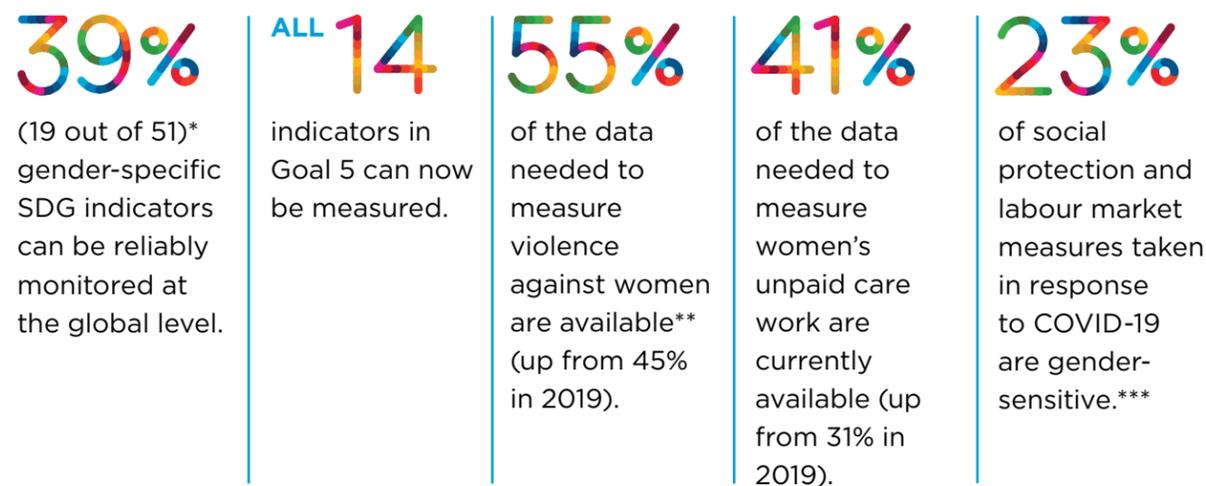
Data and statistics are indispensable tools for devising evidence-based policies and programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment, assessing their impact and promoting accountability.

With 17 goals, 169 targets and 231 indicators<sup>1</sup> (of which 51 are gender-specific), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a historic global commitment to achieving gender equality by 2030. The challenges for gender-responsive monitoring of the SDGs are daunting; however, there has been some progress since the Women Count programme began in 2016.

Currently, 19 of the 51 indicators can be reliably monitored at the global level (an increase of 6 since 2016). Established methodologies exist for the other 32 indicators (an increase of 9 since 2016) but country coverage is insufficient to allow for global monitoring. As of 2020, there are no remaining Tier III indicators.

In the 2030 Agenda, localization and adequate monitoring of SDG targets is critical to ensure that policies and programmes are implemented, and progress is tracked. Targets that are not monitored due to lack of data are likely to receive less priority. The COVID-19 pandemic has also sharply demonstrated the importance of having timely disaggregated gender data to inform the policy response. Without significant technical and financial investments to support national statistical systems (NSSs) to produce and use gender data, there will be substantial gaps in our ability to adequately inform and monitor the gender responsiveness of the recovery and implementation of the SDGs.

Some progress has been made since 2017, yet COVID-19 threatens to widen existing gender data gaps:



Source: Figures are updated based on UN Women's calculations as of June 2020, using the United Nations Statistics Division's latest estimates available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>. Note: \*One indicator is pending tier review. \*\* This only pertains to data availability for SDG indicator 5.2.1. \*\*\*Data on gender-sensitive measures are from the COVID-19 Global Policy Tracker.

## UN WOMEN'S STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

Building on UN Women's unique normative, policy, programmatic and coordination mandates, the "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" programme (hereafter referred to as "Women Count") aims to address three distinct but interrelated challenges:

- Weak policy space, as well as legal and financial environments to produce and use gender statistics at the national level
- Technical challenges within national statistical systems that limit the production of gender data and statistics
- Lack of access and limited capacity among users to analyse gender statistics to inform policies.

Actions needed to address these challenges are country-specific but fall under three broad categories:

**Creating an enabling environment:** Promoting a supportive policy environment to address institutional and financial constraints, and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production and use of gender statistics.



**Increasing data production:** Supporting efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics, including building the technical capacity of the national statistics system, and providing financial support for data collection to monitor the SDGs and other national and international commitments.



**Improving data accessibility and use:** Promoting greater access to and analysis of data by users, including through open access platforms, dissemination tools, user-producer dialogues, and strengthened capacities of all relevant actors to use gender statistics in policy, programmes and advocacy.

## HOW WOMEN COUNT WORKS

Key to the success of Women Count is coordination among international agencies and other actors at all levels, including through joint programming and active knowledge-sharing.

A joined-up approach at national, regional and global levels not only prevents duplication but ensures that support is cost-effective and provided when and where it is needed. Between 2016 and 2021, activities include:

- **Partnerships at the country level:** Following an independent country selection exercise in 2017, 12 pathfinder countries<sup>2</sup> were selected, in partnership with national statistics offices and in coordination with other actors.

- **Regional technical support:** Regional projects provide policy and programmatic support to pathfinder countries to implement Women Count as well as on-demand technical and financial support to other countries. These projects help dismantle barriers to the regular production of gender statistics; support national plans to monitor the SDGs; and promote South-South cooperation and sharing of best practices. Regional projects are being implemented in Asia

and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, East and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa.

- **Global policy support and SDG monitoring:** The global project provides programmatic and technical advice to national and regional Women Count projects; develops guidance on the production of more relevant and disaggregated gender statistics; monitors the SDGs through methodological work, data compilation and dissemination; and strives to improve data on unpaid care and domestic work, among other thematic areas.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

Strengthening statistical capacity to effectively monitor the SDGs requires well-coordinated and well-funded actions at national, regional and global levels.

- **Country level:** Activities in pathfinder countries focus on strengthening institutional mechanisms, supporting data production, promoting greater access to data, and fostering a strong culture of user-producer dialogue and collaboration. UN Women partners with all stakeholders to support the development, financing and implementation of participatory plans for monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective.
- **Regional level:** Regional dialogue and coordination are supported by establishing partnerships with United Nations regional commissions and other relevant regional and subregional institutions.
- **Global level:** Work takes place through existing mechanisms to improve coordination and strengthen relationships with important players to integrate gender perspectives in global statistics programmes, national statistics strategies and other relevant policies. Global advocacy, outreach and communication also help generate support for gender statistics.

### Current donors

Women Count is a USD 44.5 million multi-stakeholder comprehensive global strategy. As of writing, the programme has been generously supported by the Governments of Australia (AUD 6.5 million), France (EUR 1.5 million)<sup>3</sup>, Ireland (EUR 1.7 million), Mexico (USD 1.3 million), Sweden (SEK 80 million), the United

Kingdom (GBP 6 million) and the United States (USD 2.5 million). It also benefits from the support of Alwaleed Philanthropies (USD 1.75 million), the Alibaba Foundation (USD 760,000), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (USD 10 million) and Elizabeth Arden (USD 700,000). In addition, the programme has benefited from UN Women core contributions and the contributions of various UN agencies and other donors (USD 2.4 million) to implement activities, including those related to Covid-19.

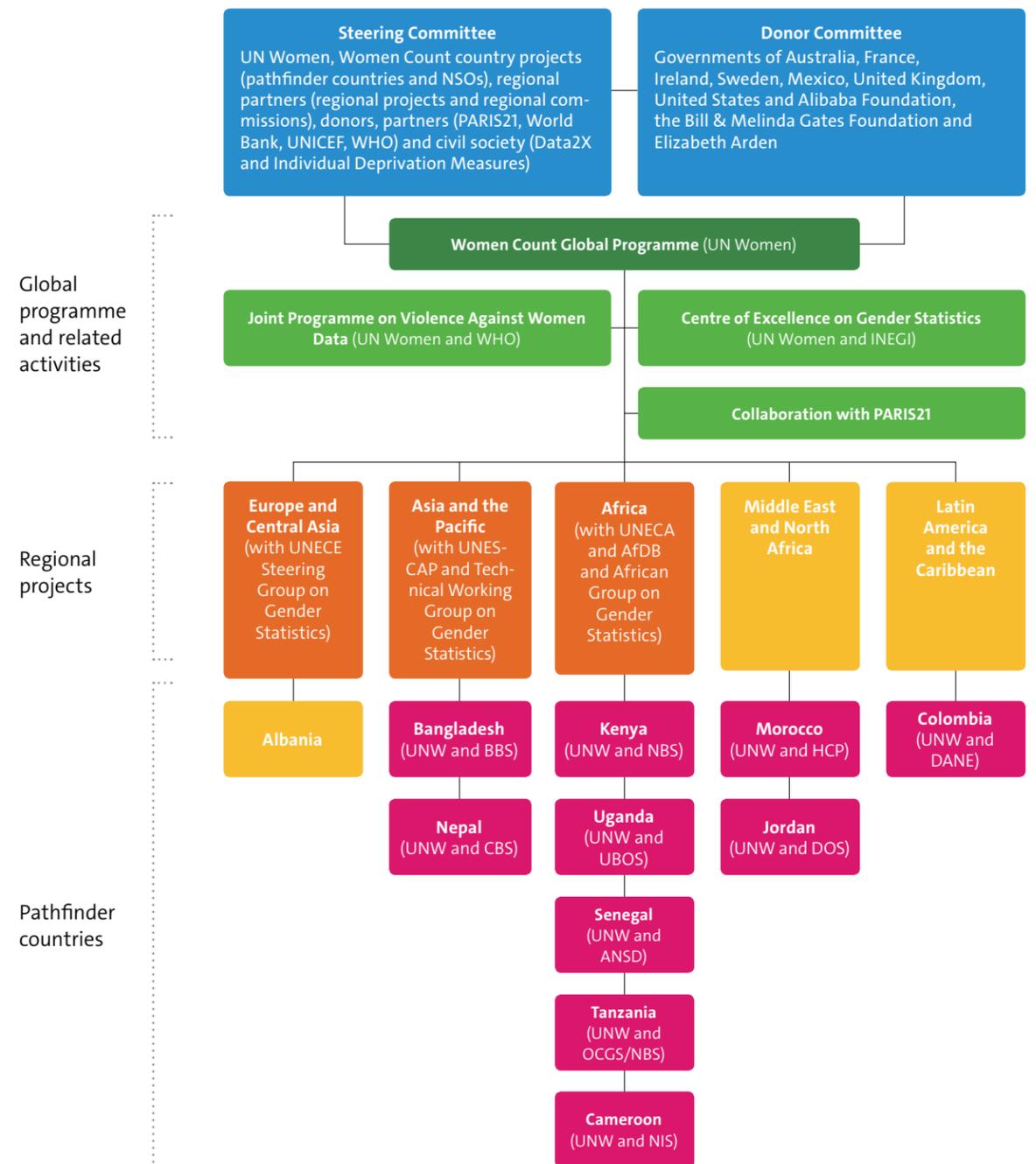
As key partners of Women Count, each donor is a member of the Donor Committee and the Steering Committee (see Figure 1). As the executive mechanism, the Donor Committee reviews and approves budgets, endorses all major changes to the programme, and promotes the programme more broadly to encourage new partners to join. As a coordination and monitoring mechanism, the Steering Committee's role is to help review progress, guide implementation and ensure coordination with other actors. An additional way that UN Women works with current partners is through open lines of communication and cross-fertilization with relevant projects and programmes they support.

Interested in getting involved? Contact [gender.data@unwomen.org](mailto:gender.data@unwomen.org) or visit [www.data.unwomen.org](http://www.data.unwomen.org) to learn more.

### Opportunities for engagement

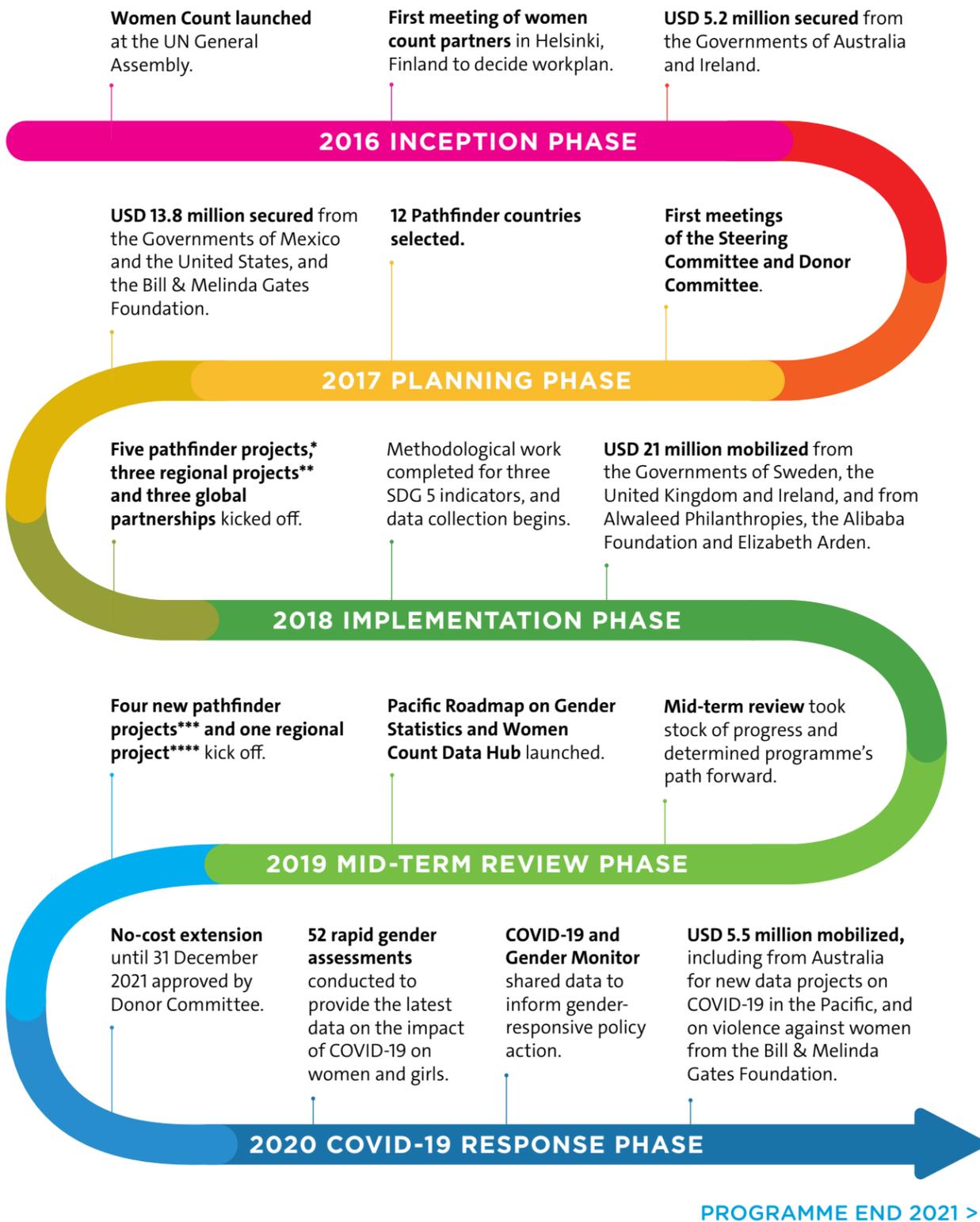
Interested in getting involved? Contact [gender.data@unwomen.org](mailto:gender.data@unwomen.org) or visit [www.data.unwomen.org](http://www.data.unwomen.org) to learn more.

**FIGURE 1.**  
Governance structure of Women Count



Note: The Albania country project is being supported through the regional project for Europe and Central Asia. The Sierra Leone project has been dropped as a result of UN reform.

PROGRAMME START (2016) >



\* Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania  
 \*\* Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, and Europe and Central Asia  
 \*\*\* Cameroon, Colombia, Jordan and Senegal  
 \*\*\*\* West and Central Africa

# 1 RISING TO THE MOMENT – BEING AGILE AND RESPONSIVE AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was an unprecedented year. As this report is being written, countries worldwide continue to grapple with the consequences of the pandemic. While some are on the path to recovery, others are experiencing continued or recurring lockdowns and restrictions.

The pandemic has put into sharp relief the importance of data to inform policy and programme responses to ensure that they are gender responsive. Most countries, however, are either not collecting or not making available data broken down by sex, age and other characteristics. These acute data gaps make it extremely difficult to predict the pandemic's impact and raise the concern that the response will ignore the priorities of the most vulnerable women and girls.

To address these challenges, one of the key priorities of UN Women's COVID-19 work is to produce gender-sensitive data to inform the response. Through the Women Count programme, UN Women has emerged as a global leader in promoting gender data during the pandemic. A dedicated COVID-19 section on the [Women Count Data Hub](#) shares the latest data, technical tools and resources, such as: global, regional and country-level gender data, analysis and research; rapid gender assessments (RGAs); data-collection guidance tools; and tips for integrating a gender perspective in the data and analytical work of partners such as national statistical offices (NSOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The data hub has become a go-to resource for SDG monitoring and for data and analysis on COVID-19.<sup>4</sup>

## New data on the gendered impacts of COVID-19 are informing the UN system's response and is being used to support countries.

Working with the WHO, UN Women produced and published comprehensive data on the health impacts of COVID-19 by sex and age. Working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the

Pardee Center for International Futures, new estimates and projections were produced on the impact of COVID-19 on poverty by sex. Meanwhile, new data produced together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) revealed how the pandemic is hitting women's labour market opportunities the hardest.

The [Spotlight on gender, COVID-19 and the SDG](#) produced in collaboration with the Gender and COVID-19 Working Group, presented the latest evidence on the gendered impacts of the pandemic, highlighted potential and emerging trends, and reflected on the long-term impact of the crisis on the 2030 Agenda. The paper has informed the European Parliament's FEMM Committee Report, which provides policy recommendations to the European Union on gender equality.

At the behest of the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Advisory Committee,<sup>5</sup> UN Women, in cooperation with over 10 UN agencies, built a common dashboard of gender indicators to drive gendered responses to the COVID-19 crisis. The [COVID-19 and Gender Monitor](#) is essential to ensure that MPTF proposals include evidence-based gender-sensitive analyses. Key indicators resulting from this collaboration are provided directly to the Office of the UN Secretary-General for inclusion in the senior leadership team's biweekly briefing on the status of the UN's COVID-19 response.

The Women Count programme produced a [guidance note](#) for countries on how to design and conduct RGAs on the gender-related socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. In collaboration with 19 NSOs and other national partners, five UN agencies, three CSOs and 15 private sector organizations, UN Women has conducted 52 RGAs.<sup>6</sup> As a result, UN Women was able

to inform 85 out of 108 UN Country Teams' Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs).<sup>7</sup>

The RGAs have influenced government policy, programmes and pandemic responses across all regions. In **Chile**, the RGA contributed to the incorporation of women's mental health in an existing health platform, the creation of a subsidy to support working caregivers of children aged 2 and under, as well as a new programme to support women entrepreneurs and boost women's digital skills. Chile is also drafting a new national policy on science and technology with a gender perspective that will include new programmes to expand women's access to the Internet and jobs in STEM. In **Jordan**, the RGA findings fed into an addendum to the 2020 National Strategy on Women in Jordan and efforts to align it with the Government's Executive Programme for 2021–2024. Other assessments on refugee women and violence against women have also shifted UN Women Jordan's programmatic responses, while informing key policymaking forums such as the Inter-ministerial Committee for Women and the Humanitarian Development Partners Forum. **Kenya** has inserted a gender module in the *Home-based Isolation and Care Guidance Note* and undertaken analysis with the Case Management and Clinical Committees of the National Taskforce to assess the risks faced by health-care workers, based on its RGA. In **Indonesia**, the results of big data analysis, a survey of micro and small businesses and qualitative analysis to assess the impact of COVID-19 on micro and small businesses by UN Women, Pulse Lab and Gojek were used by the Government to promote women's access to finance and set up cash-support stimulus packages

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021 AND BEYOND

With 2021 being the final year of implementation of the programme, a phased closure of projects will be conducted throughout 2021 to seamlessly transition from Phase I to Phase II, including monitoring projects and ensuring that the financial and operational closure are completed in a timely manner. In addition, an end-line evaluation of the programme will be conducted in the second half of 2021 to provide an in-depth analysis of the expected and achieved results, determining the relevance, impact, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the interventions and contributions of the programme (see Chapter 4).

While the first phase of the programme is winding down, preparation of the next phase started in 2020 and will continue during 2021 (see Chapter 5).

for small businesses, including for the second phase of the National Economic Recovery Plan (see Building Back Smarter section).

### The core elements of the programme continued.

Many NSOs shuttered their operations amid the pandemic. Nevertheless, the core elements of the Women Count programme continued, including strengthening institutional mechanisms governing the production and use of gender statistics, integrating gender statistics in their national development strategies for statistics and improving coordination mechanisms (see Chapter 2, Outcome 1).

Beyond RGAs, 9 regular surveys took place. Although most in-person training and capacity-building initiatives were cancelled, training materials were adapted for e-learning, allowing more participants to complete courses at their own pace, resulting in strengthened capacities of 1,308 data producers and 940 users (see Chapter 2, Outcome 2). Furthermore, several high-profile reports were produced and dialogues between users and producers helped to increase knowledge and demand for gender statistics (see Chapter 2, Outcome 3).

UN Women was also able to successfully mobilize funding for Women Count and other gender data activities in 2020, including USD 2.6 million for the Asia-Pacific region from the Government of Australia, USD 1.8 million for the Senegal project from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and USD 1.1 million for UN Women Headquarters from the Government of Ireland and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (see Chapter 3).

### Gender data will be central to delivering on UN Women's next Strategic Plan.

UN Women's next Strategic Plan (2022-2025) presents an opportunity to build on the results achieved through the Women Count programme and to scale up work on gender statistics to help position UN Women as a knowledge hub on gender equality and women's empowerment. Since the start of Women Count, gender data and statistics have increasingly become key drivers for delivering on UN Women's triple mandate. As a result of the successes of Women Count and internal and external advocacy, gender statistics and data have been elevated in the next Strategic Plan, showing UN Women's strong commitment to this area of work.

In addition to supporting Member States, over the next four years UN Women will lead efforts to mainstream gender perspectives in data production, availability and use across the UN system, through its leadership within inter-agency mechanisms on data and through the implementation of the UN Data Strategy. It will also work on strengthening partnerships with research organizations, CSOs and the private sector.

Furthermore, UN Women is developing a new strategy on Data, Evidence and Knowledge (DEK), with three core objectives that mirror those of the Women Count programme.<sup>8</sup> The DEK strategy will support UN Women to achieve its ambition as a global knowledge and evidence-driven organization, with deep expertise and authority on gender equality and women's rights.

FIGURE 2.  
New data on COVID-19 and gender



Visit the RGA page to see a dashboard of results, access survey reports, and more: <https://data.unwomen.org/rga>



New forecasts predict sharp increases in poverty. For the data see: <https://data.unwomen.org/features/covid-19-boomerang-poverty>

# BUILDING BACK SMARTER WITH BETTER GENDER DATA

## UN WOMEN'S DATA-DRIVEN RESPONSE

As part of the programme's response to COVID-19, and to address the urgent need for gender data on the impact of COVID-19, UN Women rolled out 52 RGAs to capture the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic on women and girls.

The surveys confirmed that women and men are experiencing the pandemic differently. The data have since been used to inform critical gender-responsive policies and recovery plans to build back better.



### GLOBAL FINDINGS

**The labour market participation of partnered women with children was hit the hardest.**

**Unpaid care and domestic work intensified,** women continue to do more, with women more likely to report increased time on at least one household chore, across **45** countries.

In **30** out of **35** countries, women were more likely than men to report **psychological and mental health issues.**



### AFRICA

#### KEY FINDINGS:

In East and Southern Africa, **15.3%** of women (compared to **9.3%** of men) left the workforce because of the pandemic, according to the [regional report](#).

#### USE CASES:

The RGA results in Senegal informed the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection's Resilience-Building Programme for Households and Vulnerable Groups (PAREM), which has since received CFA 900 million (USD 1.7 million) in funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. In Rwanda, after the RGA revealed that more women than men have ceased economic activities, the Government expanded an Economic Recovery Fund to cover Small and Medium Enterprises, where women are concentrated.

*UN Women conducted RGAs in 13 countries in partnership with NSOs, Ministries of Women and UN Agencies.*



### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### KEY FINDINGS:

The [regional report](#) found that as a result of the lockdowns, **63%** of women saw an increase in their time spent on unpaid domestic work, compared to **55%** of men.

#### USE CASES:

In the Maldives, nearly 7,500 women informal workers are now included in the Government's Income Support Allowance programme, mental health services are being improved, and two government campaigns – to prevent domestic violence and change attitudes regarding housework and gender roles – have been introduced. In Indonesia, RGA results were used by the Ministry of Women to influence the work of the national COVID-19 taskforce and to request additional funds to support women.

*UN Women rolled out RGAs in 11 countries in partnership with NSOs, Ministries of Women and mobile phone providers.*



### ARAB STATES

#### KEY FINDINGS:

In Jordan, the [results show](#) that **62%** of already vulnerable women, including Syrian refugees, indicated feeling at increased risk of physical or psychological violence as a result of the pandemic.

#### USE CASES:

RGA data fed into an addendum to the 2020 National Strategy on Women in Jordan and efforts to align it with the Government's Executive Programme for 2021–2024. Assessments on refugee women and violence against women have also shifted UN Women Jordan's COVID-19 emergency [responses](#) to be more inclusive, in terms of targeting cash assistance, providing support to online learning for children, as well as providing remote gender-based violence services and support.

*UN Women engaged RIWI corp. to conduct a web-survey in nine countries focusing on gender roles, attitudes and practices related to gender equality and violence against women.*



### EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

#### KEY FINDINGS:

The [regional report](#) revealed that in **7** out of **10** countries/territories, women reported greater difficulties paying for basic expenses, such as food, than men.

#### USE CASES:

The findings of the [regional report](#) were used by the OECD to develop a data-based gender gap analysis in Eurasia. In Albania, the RGA findings have helped expand farm subsidies and adjust support packages for small businesses to better reach women, while increasing gender-responsive budgeting and contributing to a new UN Women programme for rural women. RGA data was also used by at least two countries (Georgia, Ukraine) to mobilize additional resources to mainstream gender into recovery programmes and policies.

*UN Women, in coordination with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Resident Coordinators, conducted RGAs in 16 countries/territories across the region.*



### AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### KEY FINDINGS:

In Colombia, most people surveyed reported seeing decreased income amid the pandemic, and women fared worse than men, **76%** versus **72%**, respectively.

#### USE CASES:

In Colombia, the findings contributed to the extension of existing social welfare programmes – such as the Formal Employment Support Programme, which offers differential subsidies (50% for women versus 40% for men) – and the Public Employment Service. In Chile, the RGA contributed to the creation of a subsidy to support working caregivers and a new programme to support women entrepreneurs and boost women's digital skills, while influencing a new national policy on science and technology with a gender perspective.

*Three RGAs have been conducted all in collaboration with national women's machineries.*

# 2020 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## COUNTRY

**13 COUNTRIES** integrated gender in national statistical strategies, improving the capacity of their national statistical systems to coordinate, produce and use gender statistics.

**9 REGULAR SURVEYS** were conducted and **9 COUNTRIES** were supported to reprocess existing data to report on the SDGs and national gender equality priorities.

Training and capacity-building strengthened the technical skills of

**1308 DATA PRODUCERS** and **940 DATA USERS**

## GLOBAL



**NEW DATA** on COVID-19 cases by sex and age and women's experience in poverty were produced through UN Women's collaboration with the WHO and UNDP.

**DATA TO MONITOR SDG 5** are improving: **78%** of data are now available to measure women's political participation at the local government level; **34%** on gender-responsive budgeting and **27%** on legal frameworks.

PARIS21 and UN Women launched a new **VIRTUAL COURSE ON COMMUNICATING GENDER STATISTICS** for journalists and national statisticians, with over 1,000 registered participants.

The Women Count Data Hub launched the **COVID-19 AND GENDER MONITOR**, compiling indicators across the UN system to inform gender-sensitive policy responses to the pandemic.

## REGIONAL



**THE ASIA & PACIFIC GENDER STATISTICS TRAINING CURRICULUM**

is now offered virtually and 11 universities and statistical training institutes are using it to inform their course work.



**11 PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES** have been supported to develop national strategies to enhance the production and use of gender statistics in their countries through a Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics.



**A MINIMUM SET OF GENDER INDICATORS IN AFRICA** was adopted by the Statistical Commission for Africa.



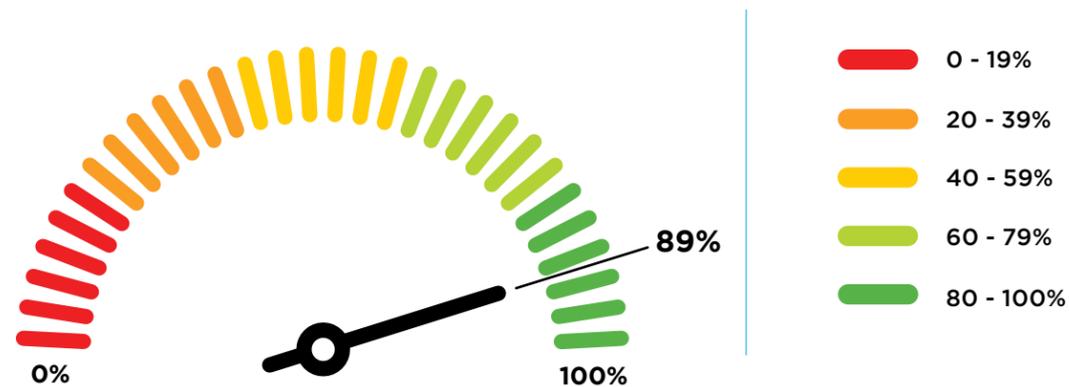
**7 COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA** have produced and published data on at least



of **GENDER-RELATED SDG INDICATORS** – more than any other region.

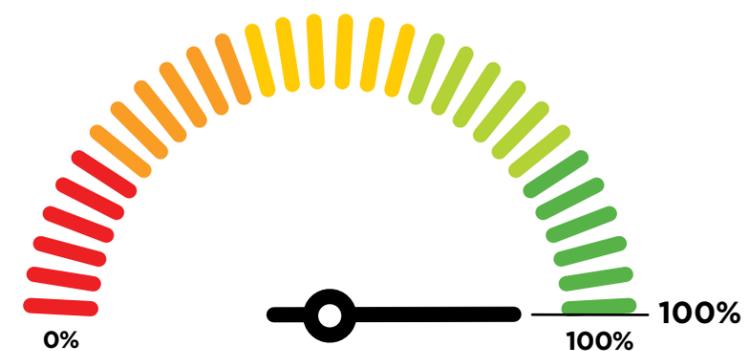
# WOMEN COUNT PROGRESS DASHBOARD: MEASURING RESULTS IN 2020

## OVERALL PROGRESS OF WOMEN COUNT



Programme implementation across Women Count countries accelerated in 2020 and 89% of all targets were achieved or are on track to be achieved, with 93% of all Outcomes and 87% of all Outputs met (see Annex XVI).

## GLOBAL PROJECT



Progress was driven by strong technical support to all Women Count projects, including oversight and implementation of the RGAs, SDG monitoring and the launch of the COVID-19 and Gender Monitor (see Annex II).

## ABOUT THE PROGRESS DASHBOARD

The Women Count progress dashboard shows achievements against each outcome and output indicator for global, regional and country projects in 2020.

To determine levels of achievement, the following methodology is used:

**A (achieved):** If a positive 2020 target exists (i.e. 2020 is different than the 2017 baseline) and is achieved

**B (not achieved):** If a positive 2020 target exists (i.e. 2020 is different than the 2017 baseline) but the target is NOT achieved

**C (on track/some progress):** If a positive 2020 target does not exist, but work has started in 2020 and significant progress towards the target is reported

**D (not started/applicable):** If a target was achieved previously or a positive 2020 target does not exist, and work has NOT started in 2020 (excluded from the final calculation of 2020 achievements)

$$\text{Percentage of outcome and output targets achieved or on track in 2020} = \frac{100 \times (A + B)}{A + B + C}$$

A full detailed list of indicators, baselines and targets for global, regional, and country projects are provided in Annex XVI.

## REGIONAL PROJECTS

### Asia and the Pacific



Progress was made in Asia and the Pacific as a result of influencing the work for the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, newly established steering groups in Pacific Island countries, data production on gendered COVID-19 impacts, and the publication of the ASEAN Gender Outlook (see Annex III).

### Europe and Central Asia



Significant progress was made in Europe and Central Asia as a result of strong country support, SDG monitoring, capacity-building on violence against women, data production on gendered COVID-19 impacts and regional coordination on gender statistics (see Annex V).

### Africa



Progress in Africa was a result of strong engagement and coordination with regional partners to form steering committees for the implementation of RGAs, SDG monitoring and capacity-building on gender statistics communication provided to countries (see Annex IV).

## COUNTRY PROJECTS



### Bangladesh

Progress in Bangladesh was significant, as evidenced by the institutionalization of coordination mechanisms on gender statistics, the inclusion of a Gender Statistics Strategy in the Five-Year Plan, data reprocessing and conducting Bangladesh's first ever time use survey (see Annex X).



### Cameroon

Progress was driven by institutionalizing cooperation mechanisms that informed the new NSDS, by reprocessing data for gender-related SDG indicators and by building capacities for gender data production, analysis, dissemination and visualization (see Annex XIII).



### Colombia

Significant progress was achieved as a result of building strong partnerships with the NSO and the gender machinery, institutionalizing coordination mechanisms within the NSS, by producing gender-sensitive SDG indicators and by training NSS staff to produce and analyse gender data (see Annex XII).



### Kenya

Progress in Kenya is the result of a strong coordination mechanism, leading to strong overall programmatic impact, including a new Gender Sector Statistics Plan, Women's Empowerment Index, tracking of gender-related spending, and preparations for the country's first time use survey (see Annex VI).



### Morocco

Progress is due to increased appreciation of the need to improve systems, including through a draft amendment of the country's Statistics Bill, which now includes gender statistics, as well as critical statistical activities, such as the three COVID-19 surveys and the first-ever costing estimates of violence against women (see Annex XI).



### Nepal

With a significantly reduced scope, Nepal delivered key results, including an RGA with an intersectional approach and the production of a gender equality and social inclusion manual that used to train 55,000 Census staff and enumerators (see Annex IX).



### Senegal

Some progress has been achieved as a result of the RGA and successfully integrating gender in the NSDS. Preparations for the country's first time use survey also took place (see Annex XV).



### Uganda

Significant progress in Uganda is due to improved integration and harmonization of gender statistics in normative frameworks, data availability for SDG indicators, and dissemination of key knowledge products through a web-based data platform (see Annex VII).



### United Republic of Tanzania

Progress was driven by strengthening coordination mechanisms, integrating gender in national development plans in the Mainland and in Zanzibar, and by developing gender-responsive indices (see Annex VIII).



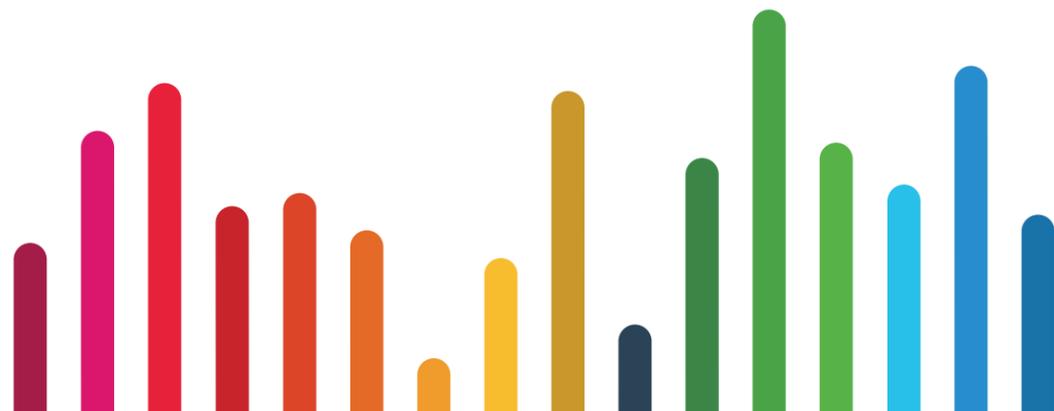
### Jordan

The country assessment was completed in 2019 and several RGAs were conducted but the partnership with PARIS21 to integrate gender in the NSDS was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions (see Annex XIV).



# RESULTS

This section presents an analysis of results across country, regional and global projects during the reporting period from January - December 2020. Key highlights and a progress dashboard are also included.



# OUTCOME 1: CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome 1 aims to help countries put in place a supportive and well-coordinated policy environment to ensure that gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs take place. Despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, during the reporting period, UN Women helped countries improve the planning of gender statistics and strengthen partnerships between NSOs and line ministries (including ministries of women). Efforts to strengthen or establish institutional mechanisms also resulted in greater coordination on gender statistics within the NSS.

### Women Count projects are strengthening country ownership

**Demand for UN Women’s support on improving gender statistics continued to grow.** In Including projects in 10 pathfinder countries, technical and financial support on gender statistics was provided to 52 countries to roll-out surveys, to design and train statisticians and policymakers on the production and use of gender statistics, to improve data communication and to establish a national mechanism for the governance of gender statistics. This brings the total number of countries supported through Women Count to 73<sup>9</sup> since 2018.

Four new countries were supported to conduct assessments of how gender statistics are coordinated, produced, disseminated and used. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and **Sierra Leone**, the assessments framed the development of project proposals to improve gender statistics that were submitted to development partners. In Europe and Central Asia, **Georgia’s** NSO was supported to conduct a data-gaps and needs assessment for monitoring and evaluating gender equality and women’s empowerment, and in **Kyrgyzstan** a gender assessment of the NSS was used as a basis for the strategic priorities of the next Gender Statistics Strategy and NSDS to be approved in 2021. As a result, NSOs from these countries have taken leadership on developing national priority gender equality indicators to measure countries’ progress on gender equality.

The strong demand reflects an increased recognition of the importance of gender statistics but is also the result of greater awareness of UN Women’s growing capacity.

### More countries are prioritizing gender in national planning and policies

Thirteen countries integrated gender statistics in their NSDSs, thereby strengthening statistical planning. UN Women’s collaboration with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) has been catalytic in this regard (see Partner Spotlight on PARIS21).

In **Zimbabwe**, in collaboration with the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, UN Women conducted an evaluation of the appropriateness and implementation of the Zimbabwe NSDS II 2016–2020 from a gender perspective. In addition, national Gender-Responsive M&E Guidelines were established. Both these products will inform planning and resource allocation around gender statistics for the next phase of the NSDS.

In **Cameroon**, the National Council of Statistics adopted a resolution that gender should be one of the key priorities in the next NSDS, whose development started this year. This outcome follows a report supported by UN Women highlighting important gender gaps in the 2015–2020 NSDS. As the only legal reference framework for all statistical activities in the country, this means that going forward all institutions

producing official statistics will have to make sure gender issues are taken into consideration in order to comply with the NSDS requirements.

### Institutional mechanisms were strengthened, resulting in increased collaboration to produce gender data

Sixteen countries created institutional mechanisms and/or strengthened the coordination of gender statistics (an increase of 15 since 2018).

In **Cameroon**, consistent government investments in gender data signal a sustainable future for Women Count. In 2020, the Government provided XAF 200 million (USD 363,000) for the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Family (MWEF) to finance gender statistics activities and reforms, bringing their total investment to XAF 300 million (USD 544,000) since 2019. The MWEF will use the money to facilitate the functions of coordination bodies on gender statistics created under Women Count, strengthen the Gender Statistics Information

System and improve the communication of gender statistics. This was the result of strong advocacy efforts by the Inter-ministerial Committee established under Women Count, which lobbied the National Council of Statistics to increase investments in gender statistics.

In **Tanzania**, UN Women's support for institutionalizing the Gender Statistics Technical Working Groups (GS-TWGs) in both Zanzibar and the Mainland and support to integrate a gender perspective in the Zanzibar Strategy for the Development of Statistics have improved the availability and use of gender data for SDG monitoring. UN Women's support has also helped strengthen the capacities of data producers and ensure the inclusion of gender data and statistics in key government plans, such as the Mainland's third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III) and Zanzibar's fourth Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA IV).

In **Bangladesh**, strengthened coordination resulted in strong government commitment to collect data on women's unpaid care work for the first time ever (See Box 1).

#### BOX 1:

#### Promising practice: Overcoming early challenges, the Women Count Bangladesh project is showing important signs of progress

With the support of UN Women, work in Bangladesh picked up much-needed momentum in 2020, with the establishment of the first institutional mechanism for interministerial coordination on gender statistics. Composed of steering, monitoring, and technical committees, this mechanism is central to improve the governance, production and use of gender statistics in Bangladesh's NSS. Furthermore, the Gender Statistics Cell established with UN Women's support is now considered a strategic unit and knowledge centre that is institutionalized within the structure of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The interministerial coordination mechanism – which includes the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Planning – was central to finalizing plans, developing the methodology and implementing the Time-Use Survey (which was finalized in April 2021). In addition, the Parliament of Bangladesh has requested that data from the Time-Use Survey be used by BBS to create a satellite account to calculate the value of time-use activities, which is expected to inform policymaking on unpaid care and domestic work (SDG Target 5.4). Finally, through UN Women's support, the country's 8th Five-Year Plan includes gender statistics as one of the key priorities for the first time, with a commitment to strengthen collaboration between the BBS and MoWCA.

If sustained, the progress made in Bangladesh in 2020 bodes well for the development of gender statistics in the country, going forward.

### Improving coordination at the regional level led to increased coherence and system-wide action on gender data

**Gender is now mainstreamed in the work of the Committee on Statistics for Asia and the Pacific.** As a result of UN Women's advocacy, technical support and partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Committee on Statistics agreed to mainstream gender across all of its workstreams. During its 7<sup>th</sup> Session, the Committee discussed the importance of mainstreaming gender across all of its areas of work, including on statistics on gender and the environment. UN Women has already begun working with UNESCAP to enhance gender mainstreaming across the workstreams on Disaster Statistics, Economic Statistics, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and Data Integration. For instance, a dedicated gender session is now included in the agenda of the upcoming inter-ministerial conference on CRVS, and a related decision to promote women's registration throughout their lifecycle is expected to be adopted.

**A Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa (MSGIA) was adopted by the Statistical Commission for Africa.** Developed under the leadership of UN Women in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the MSGIA provides strategic direction and scope for all actors in the gender data ecosystem to set gender data priorities at the national, regional and international level. In addition, the first-ever joint webinar on gender statistics in Africa was held, resulting in better understanding and appreciation of the Africa Gender Index, enhanced capacities of Gender Data Focal Points, data production on the impact of COVID-19 and communicating gender statistics.

### Global inter-agency coordination and advocacy are influencing others to take action on gender data

UN Women contributed to various inter-agency initiatives, including the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and SDG Indicators, the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS), the UN Geospatial Network, all of which are mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) to increase coordination of international statistical activities. UN Women's participation and contribution to the ISWGHS, including as co-chair (along with the World Bank), was critical in ensuring that gender statistics are now one of the core areas of work of the group (see for example the work on the Counted and Visible Toolkit in Outcome 2).

UN Women has been leading on mainstreaming gender in Geospatial Information Systems (GIS), through cutting-edge research and analysis on intersecting inequalities to map those left behind. For instance, CEGS' research on geospatial and gender data yielded 5 research papers that elaborate on a methodological framework for geospatial and gender data analysis, a framework for the correlation of geospatial and economic data to inform economic empowerment, and the application of the framework to the case of **Mexico** (see CEGS Partner Spotlight). UN Women has also used GIS data to better understand the gender-environment nexus, and has conducted data integration exercises using GIS and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data in **Bangladesh, India and Nepal** to study the differential impacts of climate change on women and men. This research was done in coordination with UNESCAP and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and is being made accessible through an upcoming module in the gender statistics training curriculum.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

# COLLABORATING WITH PARIS21 TO MAINSTREAM GENDER IN NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS

The collaboration between PARIS21 and UN Women aims to strengthen statistical systems to produce high-quality gender statistics that are timely and aligned with national priorities and the 2030 Agenda. PARIS21 has implemented four major activities between 2018 and 2021:

- **Improving the coordination and planning of gender statistics** by developing an assessment framework and integrating a gender perspective in statistical strategies
- **Improving the dissemination and communication of gender statistics** through media engagement, data visualization trainings and user-producer dialogues
- **Reporting on the use of gender data (and its value)** by analysing citizens' use in national newspaper archives, and policymakers' use
- **Reporting financial resources for gender statistics** through a special issue of the 2018 Partner Report on Support to Statistics, and annual updates for 2019 and beyond.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

#### Improving the coordination and planning of gender statistics

- **Demand met from NSOs across the globe to improve gender statistics.** Despite disruptions due to COVID-19, Egypt, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan and the Maldives validated gender statistics assessments and initiated the development of national gender strategies. El Salvador and two other countries (Cambodia and Lesotho) also launched gender statistics assessments. Progress continues on strategy development in other countries, including the Dominican Republic, where an assessment provided a strong foundation for the NSO to include gender statistics as a key priority.
- **Diversified approaches to gender strategies were developed to accommodate shifting priorities.** Multiple countries, including El Salvador, Dominican Republic and Egypt, opted to put NSDS designs on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19. In response, PARIS21 introduced options for designing a gender strategic framework or stand-alone National Strategy for the

Development of Gender Statistics (NSDGS), in cases where gender mainstreaming in the NSDS is not possible.<sup>10</sup> The NSO in El Salvador, for example, is developing a stand-alone strategy in collaboration with the Salvadorian Institute for Women's Development.

- **Improved strategic guidance to advance gender mainstreaming integrated in statistical planning.** Based on insights from the country pilots, PARIS21 updated its gender statistics assessment framework and guidelines and initiated the design of a new module for mainstreaming gender statistics in the NSDS lifecycle. The updated guidelines were piloted in Lesotho, allowing the NSO to fully mainstream gender in all phases of the NSDS design process, including the wider NSS assessment.
- **Collaboration with civil society ignited scoping for the reuse of citizen-generated data (CGD).** Working with pilot countries has also opened doors for new forms of engagement. User-producer dialogues conducted during the assessment in the Maldives, for example, provided a platform for CSOs to voice concerns around data gaps related to women's empowerment, people

with disabilities and children's well-being. Building on this discussion, the NSO is developing an inventory of alternative data produced by CSOs to close critical information gaps and bring gender advocates into the data production process.

#### Improving the communication and dissemination of gender statistics

- **E-learning met with strong public reception.** PARIS21 and UN Women's free, first e-learning course on "Communicating Gender Statistics" hosted on the PARIS21 Academy has received more than 1,000 individual registrations from journalists and statisticians since its launch in July 2020. And participants are applying their new knowledge in their own work. For instance, a participant from Jamaica is using lessons and skills learned in the course to develop national campaigns on violence against women. Course testimonials have been widely publicized through social media to spur further engagement. A second course has been launched in 2021.
- **Local government units have been trained to analyse and communicate disaggregated/ sub-national gender statistics.** In light of disruptions due to COVID-19, PARIS21 put plans to initiate trainings on gender statistics communication and visualization on hold. E-learning materials introducing key concepts in gender data were leveraged in the Philippines to strengthen awareness and use of gender statistics among local government units. The Mayor of Samal, for example, has reported that the local government has been able to use these skills to identify the limitations of basic services that disproportionately affect women and girls.

#### Monitoring of financial resources for gender statistics

- **The PRESS Report provided insights on financing for gender data in COVID-19.** In the 2020 edition of PRESS, in addition to insights on bilateral and multilateral financing trends, new techniques for "now-casting" revealed that only 11% of funding for data during the crisis included a gender dimension. These results were presented alongside insights on bilateral and multilateral financing trends in gender statistics.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- **Improving the coordination and planning of gender statistics:** In 2021, PARIS21 will finalize the development of statistical strategies in the remaining pilot countries to advance gender statistics production and use at the country-level. A cross-regional "learning day" and global synthesis report will capture and disseminate insights from the pilots to inform future work. In addition, PARIS21 will integrate a focus on gender statistics in its wider support to countries, including the launch of a gender module in the NSDS guidelines and new initiatives on CGD.
- **Improving the dissemination and communication of gender statistics:** Building on the success of the first e-learning course, PARIS21 will expand its work in this area with new training packages, including a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) on Communicating Gender Statistics – in collaboration with the Women Count Asia and the Pacific Project's Training Curriculum on Gender Statistics – and a new gender module for the PARIS21 DataViz Toolkit. The new material will be piloted in a regional ToT and two national gender data visualization trainings.
- **Reporting on the use of gender data (and its value):** PARIS21 will publish a working paper and methodology for measuring the use of gender statistics in policy documents to shed light on the extent of gender data uptake by policymakers in low- and middle-income countries.
- **Reporting of financial resources for gender statistics:** In addition to sustaining analysis of support for gender statistics in the PRESS Report, PARIS21 will contribute to the development of the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data. The new platform, which will include a dedicated channel for gender statistics, will provide near real-time data and forecasts on donor financing trends and country financing needs for statistical development.

\* PARIS21 is taking steps to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 containment on ongoing workplans, continuing implementation through remote engagement and technical guidance.

# 2.2

## OUTCOME 2: INCREASING DATA PRODUCTION

Outcome 2 aims to increase the production of quality and comparable gender data and statistics to address gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments. Demand for new data collection to measure the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality increased significantly.

The Women Count programme's response has been timely and noteworthy, with 62 new surveys conducted or analysed in 53 countries, bringing the total to 78 surveys since 2018.<sup>11</sup> Along with data-collection activities, through mostly virtual trainings, the technical capacities of 1,308 data producers were strengthened (for a total of 2,893 since 2018). Partnerships also continued to be strengthened to generate new data to monitor the SDGs.

In 2020, Women Count conducted/planned the following surveys across 53 countries:

52

Rapid Gender Assessments

8

Time-use surveys

3

Violence Against Women Surveys

**Data collection and analysis were supported to fill critical gender data gaps to monitor the SDGs and influence national policies**

**Eight countries<sup>12</sup> developed survey plans to collect data on women's unpaid care work.** In **Tanzania**, UN Women supported three sample surveys, including the Household Budget Survey (HBS) in **Zanzibar**, which included a time-use module. Along with the HBS in the Mainland supported in 2018, the survey data were used to revise the minimum salary of government employees. The data were also used to target beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund, a poverty-reduction strategy whereby beneficiaries receive cash

transfers to increase their income and livelihoods. The data helped to identify poorer women who are the majority of recipients in various locations across the country to cover under this social protection system. In **Senegal** and **Georgia**, preparations for both countries' first-ever time-use surveys are underway and field operations are set to begin in 2021.

**Three countries<sup>13</sup> developed plans or conducted violence against women surveys**, bringing to 8 the total since 2018. In **Uganda**, UN Women secured the collaboration of UNFPA, UNICEF, the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development and worked closely with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics to design and conduct

**New data on the consequences of COVID-19 are supporting evidence-based responses**

**New data are available for 52 countries on the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on women and girls**, leading to important policy and programmatic impacts (see section Building back better and Case Study 1).

Uganda's first-ever stand-alone Violence against Women and Girls, Children and Family (VAWG/VAC/Family 2020–2021) Survey. The integrated survey will complement work currently underway with the Justice, Law and Order Sector to build a comprehensive national gender-based violence database and reporting system. In **Morocco**, following the 2019 Violence Against Women Survey, UN Women supported the first-ever costing of violence against women and girls which revealed that domestic

violence costs 1.98 billion Moroccan Dirham (USD 222 million). The study has been published on the website of the High Commission for Planning and disseminated during a webinar organized by UN Women. The cost of violence received great coverage by Moroccan media. The results contributed to a national and international campaign to eradicate violence against women and are expected to inform policy and advocacy initiatives underway in Morocco.

### CASE STUDY 1:

## IS THE RGA A GENUINE NEW STATISTICAL TOOL?

As the pandemic forced governments to improvise responses, Women Count moved quickly to collect data on how COVID-19 was impacting women and men to inform decision-making. Between March 2020 and March 2021, rapid gender assessments were conducted in at least 52 countries, with notable uses by policymakers across all regions.

Identifying the RGAs that were most successful in generating interest and uptake allowed for some analysis of the factors behind their success. The following lessons learned aim to help guide future studies:

- 1. Timing matters – the earlier the better.** Providing data at a time of great need and little availability increases the chances of shaping responses. RGAs such as those in Albania and the Maldives, both conducted in April 2020, had strong impacts on a number of government responses, while RGAs conducted in late 2020 or early 2021 served more to justify or refocus existing policies or programmes.
- 2. Dissemination plans and attractive formats increase effectiveness.** A clear advocacy strategy and follow-up are key, with dedicated launches to reach wider audiences and share findings with media and decision-makers. Presenting findings in attractive formats, such as infographics and videos, such as in Albania and the Maldives, and disseminating results quickly, as in Chile and Senegal, increased their visibility and uptake for greater policy influence.
- 3. Partnering with government institutions increases uptake.** RGAs conducted in partnership with line ministries and/or NSOs saw greater ownership from partners, resulting in a natural multiplier effect. In Chile, the RGA conducted with the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality was widely used and promoted, with similar results in Colombia, Rwanda, Senegal and the Maldives.
- 4. Data can be effective tools for resource mobilization.** In many countries, RGA data were included in UN Socio-Economic Response Plans and in UN Women and other organizations' proposals for project funding. That many of these proposals succeeded is a testament to the RGAs' usefulness for resource mobilization, as seen in Albania, Chile, Senegal, the Maldives, Ukraine and the Regional Office for the Arab States. The RGAs' ability to inform, shape and influence programmes, policies and service-delivery may also have a domino effect on future funding.
- 5. More follow-up is needed on use cases.** Monitoring whether data actually influence policymaking is essential. This can be difficult, particularly during a pandemic, when officials are overstretched. Women Count developed a [practical tool for the systematic reporting and monitoring of RGA use cases](#), but more varied means of tracking impact, including through case studies and stories for the Data Hub, may be needed.

In **Colombia**, UN Women contributed to strengthening the gender perspective in key statistical projects for the country, including the Economic Census and the Multipurpose Cadaster, by adjusting conceptual and methodological aspects, and proposing new segments in statistical operations to close information gaps and promote intersectoral and inter-institutional

approaches. Produced by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), the National Planning Department (DNP) and the Agustín Codazzi Geographical Institute (IGAC), the publication guides the collection and production of data on access, tenure and use of land to provide data to policymakers on the barriers faced by women to own land in Colombia.

#### BOX 2:

##### Promising practice: Gender data breaks glass ceiling in Kenya

With the support of UN Women, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) released its *2020 Kenya Economic Survey*, which included a chapter on gender equality and women's empowerment for the first time, as well as new data on gender and women's economic empowerment, political leadership and social protection. A testament to the growing recognition of the importance of women's empowerment for sustainable economic development in Kenya, the chapter serves as a platform to advocate for and implement programmes and policies, legislative and administrative measures designed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. The introduction of the chapter was spearheaded by KNBS as a result of multisectoral collaboration under the aegis of the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee, formed in 2018 to boost gender statistics production and use.

This inclusion of gender data comes at a crucial juncture, when Kenya's economy is suffering setbacks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and there is a need to better understand who is being hardest hit and how to reach them. In Kenya, 70% of low wage-earning women are in the informal economy – the sector hit hardest by movement restrictions and falling consumer demand. Targeted social protection and economic stimulus packages should be implemented fast to mitigate the worst effects.

The new gender chapter is an important example of the foundations laid by the Women Count programme in Kenya to build a robust and sustainable gender data ecosystem and to close data gaps.

Source: <https://data.unwomen.org/news/2020-economic-survey-kenya-now-includes-chapter-gender-equality>

### Global SDG monitoring is improving as a result of inter-agency collaboration to produce new data

**More data are now available to monitor SDG 5 targets.** Building on the completion of the methodological work and successful reclassification of SDG indicators 5.1.1 (*Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex*), 5.5.1b (*women's representation in local governments*), and 5.c.1 (*gender-responsive budgeting*) in 2017–2019, data were collected for the first time and used to inform the UN Secretary-General's 2020 annual SDG report. As a result of data-collection efforts, 52 countries have data on legal frameworks (5.1.1); 66 countries have data on gender-responsive budgeting (5.c.1); and 150 countries have data on women's representation (5.5.1b).<sup>14</sup>

**The new Counted and Visible Toolkit was launched to improve monitoring of the 'leave no one behind' principle.** *The Counted and Visible: Toolkit to Better Utilize Existing Data from Household Surveys to Generate Disaggregated Gender Statistics (Counted and Visible Toolkit)* provides a compilation of tools and mechanisms used by several countries to produce evidence to inform gender-responsive policies and catalyse actions to leave no one behind. The toolkit was developed by UN Women, in collaboration with the ISWGHS, and benefited from the outcomes of the Counted and Visible Global Conference in 2020.

Launched on the margins of the 52nd Session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC52), the Toolkit takes a holistic approach to the production of disaggregated gender statistics using household surveys – from the commitment of the statistical system, methodology

development and estimation, to uptake and use. During UNSC52, Member States such as the United Kingdom expressed great interest in the Toolkit, emphasizing the importance of producing disaggregated statistics to leave no one behind. Cognizant of its value to NSOs, UN Women is expanding the section on how to include more gender-specific SDG indicators as well as applying it to other statistical packages to increase the relevance and accessibility of the Toolkit to users.

### Training on gender data is increasingly institutionalized, strengthening the capacities of data producers amid lockdowns

Due to the inability to conduct face-to-face trainings, the Women Count programme employed new virtual methods to allow for continued learning. As a result, 1,308 data producers improved their skills to collect gender data, including on violence against women and unpaid care and domestic work – a total of 2,339 since 2019. The design and conduct of RGAs increased statistical capacity, internally and externally, on alternative methods for collecting data in times of crises. Throughout the year, UN Women statistics focal points across all regions engaged in technical discussions and periodic webinars, which benefited more than 1,000 gender data producers and users.

In technical discussions with UN Women and private sector survey partners, national partners, especially NSOs, increased their knowledge of computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI). The tools developed by UN Women were used to inform the work of the ISWGHS Task Force on COVID-19 and Household Surveys.

**In Asia and the Pacific, the Gender Statistics Training Curriculum is now virtual.** Launched in 2019 in collaboration with SIAP, the Training Curriculum produced e-learning modules in 2020. A total of 11 institutions (universities and statistical training institutes across the region) are currently using the curriculum for related course work. As a result, an increasing number of professionals and students are increasing their knowledge on gender data production and use, across disciplines ranging from economics to journalism. In 2021, a training certification system will be put in place for the first time in SIAP's history, enabling certified trainers on gender statistics to add their details to a repository of experts created by UN Women. Even countries beyond the Asia-Pacific region, including **Kyrgyzstan**, have begun using the Training Curriculum. Recently, government officials from the Central African Republic, for instance, have contacted UN Women to request permission to use these materials.

# 2.3

## OUTCOME 3: IMPROVING DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND USE

Outcome 3 aims to make gender data and statistics accessible and to promote their use by governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to inform research, advocacy, policies and programmes. A total of 940 data users were trained in 2020 on topics related to the basics of gender statistics, how to assess gender data quality and using gender data in reporting (for a total of 1,935 since 2019); 53 user-producer dialogues took place (an increase of 29 since 2019); and 81 knowledge products with new data and analysis were produced, resulting in increased awareness of the importance of gender statistics and the greater use of data to inform policies.

### Robust gender data analysis is informing global normative processes and national gender-response recovery plans

In **Uganda**, UN Women in partnership with the national SDG Secretariat published eight national reports on the implementation of the SDGs. These include the SDG Factsheet 2020 and the Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2020, which provides information on the country's delivery on the 2030 Agenda and was presented to the High-Level Political Forum held in 2020. Similarly, UN Women supported **Rwanda** to publish the DHS report in 2020, including a module on violence against women. The new data will update SDG Target 5.2 indicators and be included in Rwanda's VNRs in the coming years.

In **Colombia**, under the leadership of DANE and the Presidential Council for Women's Equality, UN Women supported the development and launch of the first issue of the publication *Women and Men: Gender Gaps in Colombia*. The publication shows areas of progress and challenges on gender equality and provides recommendations on the need for and design of actions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The launch of the report in December 2020, which featured opening remarks by Colombia's Vice-President, Martha Lucía Ramírez, received wide media coverage, including two special reports in the most influential media outlet in the country, 47 publications

in national regional and local media and 87,300 impressions.<sup>15</sup> Subsequently, recognizing the importance of the report, DANE committed to producing it annually as a flagship publication.

**The Gender Outlook provides the latest data on Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries' progress on gender equality.** Through collaboration with the ASEAN Committee on Women and ASEAN Secretariat, UN Women developed the first-ever ASEAN Gender Outlook report, which reveals the paucity of gender data and calls for investments and prioritization of data for tracking progress towards gender equality and the achievement of the SDGs by member countries, in line with the ASEAN Complementarities Initiative, which seeks to align the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda. As a result of this collaboration, the publication will now be produced biannually, providing the latest evidence and knowledge to track progress on achieving the SDGs from a gender perspective.

### New publications make the latest data and analysis available on progress on the SDGs in the context of the pandemic.

The *Gender Snapshot*, produced annually in collaboration with UNSD, provides the latest evidence on gender equality across the 17 Goals, underscoring progress made but also interrupted as a result of COVID-19.

The report has been used by partners to emphasize the importance of gender across all 17 goals, including in trainings on mainstreaming gender across all SDGs. The *Times of India* covered the report's findings on women health-care workers being disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis, prompting the Government to release statistics on infected health-care workers by sex.

Two publications summarizing UN Women's COVID-19 data were widely cited by media organizations and informed policies. *From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19* summarized UN Women's data and policy research on the impacts of the pandemic on women and girls, including on extreme poverty, employment, health, unpaid care and violence against women. The findings have been widely covered by national and international media (*Forbes*, *Devex*, *Reuters*, *CNBC*, *El Diario*, *Al Jazeera*, *Guardian Africa*, *China News Daily*, *Times of India*, etc.). In particular, the findings on extreme poverty by sex and age are among the most cited statistics produced by UN Women and have been used to inform the work of other sister agencies, including the *State of the LDCs report 2021*, which helps inform updates to the list of Least Developed Countries.

The data brief *Whose time to care: Unpaid care and domestic work during COVID-19*, which used data from the RGAs of 38 countries, revealed that while both women's and men's unpaid work burdens have increased during the pandemic, women and girls are still bearing the brunt of domestic and care work at home. It also highlighted shifts in women's participation in the paid workforce in light of the increased demands at home (see Chapter 3 for additional information about media impact).

**In Asia and the Pacific, big data analysis showed how the pandemic is triggering increases in violence against women.** In partnership with UNFPA and Quilt.ai, UN Women used big data to identify patterns pertaining to increased violence against women since the onset of the pandemic. Online searches and social media posts were analysed to gather evidence on women's violence-related concerns, searches for support, and success in locating the necessary services. A related study was published and associated training was offered to select service-providers to help them refine their online interaction strategies to better reach survivors during COVID-19. As a result, service-providers are enhancing their online presence, with more

targeted messaging and higher engagement from online users. The data have been used in the publication *Standing Up To The Challenge*, which is currently being used by the UN Women Ending Violence against Women section to train women's organizations on how to enhance their digital strategies.

### Producers and users worked together to improve gender data use at the national level

**In Kenya, student grants programme started in 2019 expands results.** Following the collaboration between Women Count and the University of Nairobi, two grantees were selected to join the Young Professionals Programme, KIPPRA's flagship programme for young researchers. KIPPRA will mentor the grantees for one year to enhance their technical competence in evidence-based policy processes, introduce economic analysis tools, and build research capabilities. Additionally, two grantees were nominated to join the University of Iceland's Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme, which promotes research on gender quality and women's empowerment in fragile and middle-income countries. UN Women also extended the partnership with the University of Nairobi to produce a compendium of 15 peer-reviewed student gender research papers, showcasing their data and policy recommendations (publication forthcoming).

**User-producer dialogues strengthen collaboration to improve data production in Pacific Island countries.** A dialogue was held, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), representatives from ministries of women, NSOs and CSOs from Pacific Island countries and territories. The dialogue allowed data users and producers to share information about the implementation of the Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics in different countries, and to brainstorm on possible next steps to enhance the production and use of gender data across the region. As a result of the dialogue, two key initiatives were proposed, namely: 1) the creation of a Pacific Gender Statistics Coordination Group, which UN Women is currently in the process of establishing in partnership with SPC and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and 2) the organization of targeted training on communicating gender data for Pacific Island countries, which UN Women plans to organize in partnership with SPC and SIAP in 2021.

**A community of practice for data users and producers in East and Southern Africa was established and is promoting the exchange of best practices on gender data.** The Community of Practice on Gender Data and Statistics was created during Q2 of 2020. With 58 members from NSOs, ministries of women, UN and regional bodies, the Community of Practice has led to greater knowledge-sharing and better gender statistics coordination and collaboration in the region, including through regular South-South exchanges.

### Trainings are strengthening the statistical literacy skills of data users and producers to improve how gender data are communicated

**A new e-learning course is helping journalists and statisticians turn gender statistics into stories.** UN Women and PARIS21 launched a new online course on communicating gender statistics, which teaches participants how to develop thoughtful and informative communications materials that incorporate gender data in an effective and gender-sensitive manner. The course is focused on peer learning among journalists and statisticians and provides essential knowledge on the use of gender statistics to understand and address

inequalities in society. At least 1,000 participants stand to benefit from the course (see Partner spotlight on PARIS21).

### The Women Count Data Hub has become the go-to resource for SDG monitoring, data and analysis on COVID-19

Since the launch of the Women Count Data Hub in September 2019, its audience and functionality have been expanding. Key updates included making the dashboards mobile-responsive and automating the country factsheets to be aligned with updated data in the dashboards. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic changed best-laid plans. However, the Data Hub was able to pivot and rise to the challenge of visualizing emerging data and sharing stories that offer evidence of what needs to be done to build back, not just better, but smarter. The following resources were created:

- In April 2020 a resource page was published, highlighting emerging gender data on COVID-19. Working with WHO, for the first time, data on COVID-19 cases by sex were made available.
- As soon as the earliest results from the RGAs came in from the Asia-Pacific region, they were published on a resource page that visualized the findings.

#### BOX 3:

#### Promising practice: Making new data accessible through stories

In 2020, UN Women leveraged storytelling on the Women Count Data Hub to release new data. Rather than holding on to new data for a report, which can be a time-consuming process, publishing short stories allows new data to be publicly available as soon as its ready. Some examples include the results from an 18-country poll in May 2020, that revealed that women were taking on more household chores and care work during the pandemic. Later in the year, results from a follow-up poll found that nearly half of all women with children at home were reporting spending more than 5 hours each day on childcare. In both these cases, the data took less than 8 weeks from fielding the poll to publishing the results, which meant that users had timely access to gender data on the effects of COVID-19 on women and girls during a rapidly unfolding crisis when access to such data was limited.

Similarly, UN Women (with ILO) was able to produce new data on labour force participation by marital status, showing that married women were more likely to be pushed out of paid work as a result of domestic responsibilities. Once again, UN Women was able to publish the data rapidly, and they were subsequently covered by the *Wall Street Journal*. Using the 'stories' modality of the Hub, with more journalistic language and limited word counts, results in accessible stories with interactive data visualization that have the potential to reach more audiences more quickly. For instance, the story on the 18-country poll had more than 10,000 page views, while most publications don't get more than 5,000.

- A COVID-19 and Gender Monitor, built in collaboration with 10 UN agencies, was driven by demand from the MPTF for gender-specific indicators for the COVID-19 policy response.
- A dedicated COVID-19 landing page (and callout in the main navigation) ensured that all related content was consolidated in one place, making sure that UN Women stood out as a key data resource.

The first year of the Data Hub was prolific, publishing: 34 gender data stories, 12 news items, 35 publications and seven resource pages. As a result, it received

457,593 total page views from 224 countries and territories.

Top-performing stories include new data on the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. The story "Ipsos survey confirms that COVID-19 is intensifying women's workload at home" got notable traction, being cited by influencers such as Melinda Gates.

#### CASE STUDY 2:

### TRAINING ON COMMUNICATING GENDER DATA IS IMPROVING HOW JOURNALISTS AND STATISTICIANS USE DATA

Training and capacity-building for data users and producers to effectively communicate gender data and statistics is instrumental in strengthening how gender data are used for advocacy and decision-making.

The Gender Statistics Training Curriculum developed by UN Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) has a module on communicating gender data, which has been adapted and replicated across countries within and outside the region. For instance, in **Kyrgyzstan**, the American University of Central Asia has developed a curriculum on communicating gender statistics for university lecturers, which has already begun to show results in improving the statistical literacy of media students. Content from this module has also helped to build the skills and capacity of statisticians in **Kyrgyzstan** who have benefited from training on presentation, development, structure and message delivery, with practical examples using gender statistics.

The **Philippines** Statistical Research and Training Institute has developed a user-oriented gender statistics training for gender and development focal persons and planning officers in three local government units. The training incorporates content from UN Women's curriculum, notably on data visualization and using infographics for engaging the public. By the end of the training, groups from the three government units had developed compelling gender data communication products using data from their respective fields of expertise – health, education and literacy, and the labour sector.

For statisticians from the NSOs of **Malawi** and **Liberia**, participating in the Africa-wide training on communicating gender data has led to an increased awareness of the appropriate use of data visualization tools and audience-centred messaging, receiving feedback that their statistical products resonate more strongly with target audiences. In Malawi, for example, repurposing data into infographics and user-friendly visual materials has improved the reach of data on issues like gender-based violence and women's empowerment in rural areas, where literacy may pose a challenge. There is increased demand for these materials from CSOs here who now feel better equipped to lobby policymakers on these issues.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

# JOINT PROGRAMME ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA

UN Women and the WHO are implementing the five-year (2018–2022) global Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data with funding from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development.

The Joint Programme seeks to ensure that quality, comparable data on different forms of violence against women are collected over time to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the SDGs. The programme focuses on three areas:

- **Methodological developments:** Strengthening and disseminating standards for violence against women data collection; developing guidelines for the collection, analysis and use of administrative data on violence against women; updating country, regional and global estimates on the prevalence of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence; and coordinating a United Nations inter-agency working group on violence against women data for monitoring and reporting on SDG Target 5.2 indicators.
- **Capacity-building:** Strengthening the ability of national institutions, particularly in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa, to collect, analyse and use population-based prevalence data on violence against women in line with globally agreed methodological, ethical and safety standards. The programme also contributes to institutionalizing prevalence surveys in national statistical systems.
- **Data use:** Ensuring data on violence against women are readily accessible for advocacy, policymaking and programming, including through strategic data literacy and data dissemination initiatives such as data user-producer dialogues.

### LINKAGES WITH WOMEN COUNT

- The programme has engaged with Women Count in providing technical assistance and quality assurance on data collection, primarily through substantive inputs to the design of the rapid gender assessment surveys on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.
- It has contributed data on five indicators included in the Women Count Gender [Data Hub](#).
- It has closely collaborated with Women Count to advocate for national partners to commit resources to prevalence studies and other data work (i.e., strengthening administrative data systems).
- The programme is also working closely with the CEGS to develop an operational definition of femicide for statistical purposes.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

In 2020, its third year, the Joint Programme has led global efforts and inter-agency coordination in guiding violence against women data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been done mainly through the development of guidelines and standards to ensure that safety and ethical principles are not compromised. The programme continued to advance in the field of violence against women research and data by spearheading the updating of research instruments and standards. It also paved way to institutionalize national capacities by partnering with research institutions in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa.

### Methodological developments

- **Measurements of psychological/emotional intimate partner violence have been enhanced** through the analysis of existing data and the review of question wording and severity thresholds against globally agreed operational definitions.
- **Measures to better capture the experiences of violence faced by women with disabilities were strengthened** with the development of a protocol paper for the scoping review.
- **Inter-agency collaboration advanced towards a global femicide measurement**, through the production of an initial framework to inform the global consultation.
- **The high demand for guidance on the production of violence against women data was met** through the production of tailored guidance on safety risks for respondents and reflections on the usefulness of collected data in unsettled conditions, including a global guidance note on violence against women and girls data collection during COVID-19 and, with UNFPA, a decision tree on violence against women surveys during COVID-19. The RGAs on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 supported by Women Count in 52 countries also received substantive technical inputs from the Joint Programme. Learnings will inform a round of RGAs on violence against women in 14 countries in 2021.
- **A new database was created with updated national, regional and global estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.** The database was informed through country consultations and includes data for 161 countries and territories across all geographical regions for surveys conducted between 2000 and 2018.

### Capacity-building

- **Two strategic partnerships were launched** with the Arab Institute for Women of the Lebanese American University and with the African Population and Health Research Centre to lead regional capacity-development initiatives that strengthen in-country resources on violence against women measurement in the Arab States and the East and Southern Africa regions.

### Data use

- **Four countries were supported to collect data on violence against women**, as the Joint Programme provided technical support and quality assurance to Jamaica, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Suriname.
- **A rapid assessment on the impacts of COVID-19 on service-provision to women survivors of violence was designed and implemented** at the beginning of the pandemic in 49 countries in five regions.
- **Government measures to prevent and respond to violence against women during COVID-19 were collected and analysed** through the UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker.

### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Launch the Global Database on Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates platform.
- Develop global guidance on psychological intimate partner violence, femicide measurement and experiences of violence among women over 50 and/or with disabilities.
- Update the global guidance on violence against women data collection during COVID-19 informed by RGAs on COVID-19's impact on women's well-being.
- Finalize the Technical Guidance Note 'Using Administrative Data on Violence Against Women' through a qualitative multi-country field research and consultation process.
- Develop a training curriculum on conducting prevalence surveys in partnership with research institutions in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON GENDER STATISTICS

The Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS), based in Mexico City, is an innovative first that contributes to the strategic efforts of UN Women and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI).

Launched in 2018, the CEGS aims to strengthen gender statistics through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, research and innovation on key thematic areas such as unpaid care work, extreme forms of violence against women, and geospatial analysis. The CEGS has three main goals:

- To facilitate **access to technical expertise** by establishing multidisciplinary networks, connecting gender statistics users and producers in areas such as violence against women data and geospatial analysis.
- To serve as a **knowledge hub** for best practices and innovations in gender statistics, through the development of a digital repository.
- To act as an **innovation lab** to conduct research on emerging and cutting-edge issues related to gender statistics, such as geospatial analysis.

### LINKAGES WITH WOMEN COUNT

- The CEGS worked closely with the Women Count programme to commission cutting-edge research on time use that will serve as important resources for Women Count countries undertaking time-use surveys.
- The CEGS collaborates with Women Count to promote gender and geospatial work, in particular through convening a network of gender and geospatial experts and facilitating South-South collaboration between INEGI, Colombia's DANE and the Women Count Colombia project to develop geospatial tools on women's economic empowerment.
- The Joint Programme on Violence Against Women Data has supported CEGS in its work to develop an operational definition of femicide from a statistical perspective.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

#### Access to technical expertise

- **Research to promote cross-country comparisons of time-use surveys (TUS) and the quantification of supervisory care are significantly contributing to the development of global tools and standards on time-use measurement.** Women Count and CEGS commissioned two reports to assist with identifying methodological inconsistencies in the design and implementation of TUS. The findings were discussed with 164 statisticians and stakeholders from 64 countries in a global webinar in August. Findings are informing efforts by the United Nations Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics to develop a harmonized instrument that recognizes and integrates parallel/secondary activities on care. The instrument will be submitted to the 53rd Session of the UNSC in March 2022 for endorsement.

- **Evaluation of CEGS for 2018–2020 endorsed work on gender and geospatial research and analysis.** The CEGS evaluation conducted in 2020 emphasized the Centre's importance in the global policy discourse on gender and human rights, and gender and geospatial research while also highlighting the need for an improved dissemination strategy. Particularly, the area of gender and geospatial research and analysis, due to the strong alliance with INEGI, is recognized as a strength and a topic of enormous potential. All recommendations were integrated in the CEGS' Strategic Plan (2021–2023), and the collaboration agreement with INEGI.

#### Knowledge hub

- **The Digital Repository is built to improve the dissemination of knowledge, best practices and learning on gender statistics.** The new database makes available conceptual papers, emerging methodologies and policy memos on CEGS' work, primarily on three topics: violence against women, unpaid care and domestic work, and geospatial analysis. The development of the Repository will continue to be a key area of work for the CEGS in 2021.
- **Eleven knowledge products on emerging issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment have been prepared.** The analysis and research conducted by CEGS in 2020 led to the production of 11 peer-reviewed knowledge products to enrich international dialogue on gender statistics.

#### Innovation lab

- **Research on the interdependencies of geospatial and gender data was concluded.** CEGS' research on geospatial and gender data yielded five research papers that elaborate on a methodological framework for such analysis, a framework for the correlation of geospatial and economic data. The framework was applied in Mexico. The findings increase awareness of spatial inequalities and are expected to support the design of integrated programmes and policies.

- **The production of new gender data on the impacts of COVID-19 sparked new research interests.** CEGS supported the implementation of three rapid gender assessments: one each in Mexico, Chile and Colombia. The newly generated data informed policymakers on the gendered impacts of COVID-19. Further research on the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of women and girls will continue to feature strongly in the CEGS's work in 2021.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Launch the Digital Repository and Geoweb to improve accessibility and increase the dissemination of CEGS' knowledge products and research studies.
- Develop the next strategic plan 2022-2025, using the results of the CEGS 2020 Midterm Review to strengthen the CEGS' business model.
- Organize an event during the 52nd UN Statistical Commission, in coordination with the Center of Excellence on Crime Statistics of UNODC, to present the results of the global consultations around a common statistical framework to measure gender-related killing of women and girls to inform the international classification of crimes for statistical purposes (ICCS) from a gender perspective.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic



# 3 STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY FOR GENDER DATA

## Strong, consistent and diversified financial commitments sustain the Women Count programme

Women Count continued to grow as a result of sustained contributions from existing partners, an increased allocation of core (regular) resources, and greater mobilization of resources at country and regional levels.

Thanks to the continued support from current and new Women Count donors, USD 4.9 million was contributed to support programming activities, bringing the total to USD 44.5 million since 2016.

A new grant of EUR 247,525 (USD 295,729) from the Government of Ireland was secured in November 2020, bringing Ireland's total contribution to date to USD 1,780,084 million. To support the Women Count Senegal project, a new grant from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) was secured for EUR 1.5 million (USD 1.8 million) (see Table 1).

The year 2020 also saw a greater diversification of partners and funding sources, demonstrating Women Count's catalytic effect on resource mobilization for gender data, particularly at national and regional levels.

Four countries were successful in engaging new partners to secure USD 1.2 million for regular programming activities. Building on the framework of the Women Count project, UN Women **Morocco** secured EUR 700,000 (USD 829,000) from the European Union to strengthen the capacity of the national statistical office to produce gender statistics and conduct gender analysis on rural women's economic empowerment. In **Tanzania**, USD 50,000 was secured from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to produce the Country Gender Equality Profile for Zanzibar. In **Uganda**, USD 150,000 was contributed by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office under the Spotlight Initiative to support the dedicated survey on the prevalence

of violence against women and girls, children and the family (VAWG/VAC/Family). And in **Cameroon**, USD 200,000 was secured from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support the production and use of gender statistics on gender-responsive budgeting, in addition to USD 50,000 from UN Women's own core contributions to conduct a violence against women prevalence survey. Beyond funding, these new partnerships are strengthening coordination and collaboration across the UN system.

Additionally, as a result of the Women Count programme's work on RGAs, several new partnerships were established, creating greater synergies with several UN agencies and resulting in USD 4.2 million in new funding to support COVID-19-related data collection being spearheaded by UN Women. New investments include a grant from the Government of Australia for AUD 3.5 million (USD 2.6 million) to support a new project that will collect data on the impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls in the **Pacific and Southeast Asia** and USD 835,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support remote data collection on the impact of the pandemic on violence against women in **14 countries**. In **Africa and Asia-Pacific**, USD 596,975 was mobilized from UN agencies (UNICEF, OHCHR and UNFPA) and bilateral donors (IrishAid and Sweden) to support RGAs in various countries. **Three countries** (Colombia, Uganda and Kenya) were also successful in mobilizing USD 185,000 to conduct rapid gender assessments.

Finally, in-kind support has been critical to the success of the RGAs. UN Women partnered with mobile network operators and governments to roll out surveys through text messages to enable swift data collection. Collaboration with public institutions, including NSOs and line ministries, was also critical to ensure ownership of the RGAs, the quality of the data and their responsiveness to national needs.

TABLE 1: Summary of contributions received and expected, by donors, per year

Donor	Value of contributions as per agreement*	Percentage of total contribution	Contributions received from 2016–2019	Contributions received in 2020	Total contributions received (as of 31 December 2020)	Expected contribution in 2021	Main area of work supported
Australia	4,835,485	11%	4,835,485	-	4,835,485	-	Non-earmarked, fully flexible (with strategic interests in Asia and the Pacific)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	10,000,728	22%	10,000,728	-	10,000,728	-	Global Policy Support project, Kenya, Tanzania and Nepal project
Ireland	1,780,084	4%	1,484,355	295,729	1,780,084	-	Non-earmarked
Mexico	1,300,000	3%	870,000	430,000	1,300,000	300,000	Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS)
United States	2,500,000	6%	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	-	Global Policy Support Project
United Kingdom	7,959,589	18%	5,978,083	990,753	6,968,836	990,753	65% to the Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data and remaining 35% non-earmarked
Sweden (Sida)	8,642,885	19%	7,487,750	1,155,135	8,642,885	-	Non-earmarked, fully flexible
Elizabeth Arden	700,000	2%	700,000	-	700,000	-	Non-earmarked, fully flexible
Alwaleed Philanthropies**	1,750,000	4%	1,750,000	-	1,750,000	-	Non-earmarked (with strategic interests to support Jordan, Morocco and Senegal projects, and some support for the Global Policy Support project)
Alibaba Foundation	760,000	2%	760,000	-	760,000	-	Non-earmarked, fully flexible)
Agence de Développement Française***	1,801,633	4%	-	-	-	915,000	Senegal project
Covid-19 resources	781,975	2%	-	781,975	781,975	-	Earmarked for COVID-19 activities with geographic flexibility
Core Resources	280,000	1%	230,000	50,000	280,000	-	Asia and the Pacific project and East and Southern Africa project (in 2019); Cameroon project (in 2020)
Other****	1,398,000	3%	200,000	1,198,000	1,398,000	-	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (in 2019); Uganda, Morocco, Tanzania and Cameroon (in 2020)
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,490,379</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>36,796,401</b>	<b>4,901,592</b>	<b>41,697,993</b>	<b>2,205,753</b>	

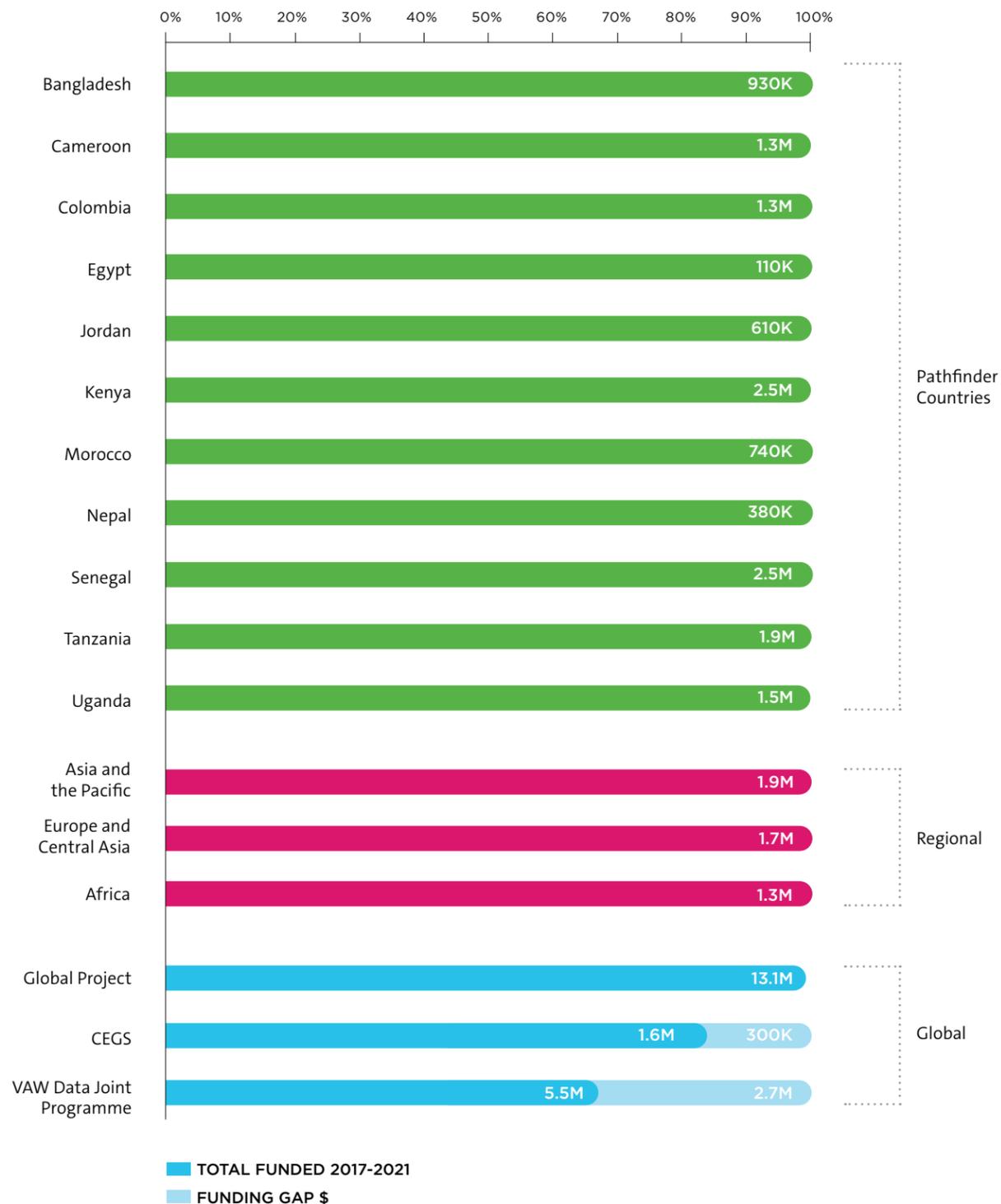
\*values are in USD

\*\*Total value of contribution agreement reduced by USD 750,000 per donor's request

\*\*\*Donor agreement signed in 2021

\*\*\*\*Other includes resources secured from other programmes and pooled funding sources.

**FIGURE 3.**  
Approved budgets per project\*



Note: Figures are in USD. Total budget for each project has been updated as a result of the Mid-term Review.

### Advocacy keeps gender data in the spotlight

In 2020, Women Count’s advocacy plans quickly shifted in light of the unfolding COVID-19 crisis. Advocacy pivoted to highlight the role of data in understanding the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls. UN Women used social media, media articles and newsletters to reach stakeholders, leveraged partnerships with media to expand visibility, and organized and participated in more than 95 advocacy events, workshops and roundtable discussions worldwide, including during key global events.

**Global leaders call attention to the need for data on intersectionality at UN Statistical Commission (UNSC).** Held on the margins of the 52<sup>nd</sup> UNSC, the Counted and Visible Global Conference co-organized in February 2020 by UN Women and UNSD brought together over 200 key stakeholders from UN agencies, government officials, leaders from private foundations and CSOs to create a common understanding among data users and producers on how to measure intersecting inequalities from a gender perspective in order to ‘leave no one behind.’ To ensure that the key messages from the event were widely disseminated, a Counted and Visible editorial series was launched on the Women Count Data Hub, with several speakers contributing articles. A key outcome of the conference was the development of the *Counted and Visible Toolkit* to support countries to increase the disaggregation of data (see Chapter 2).

**Women Count messages permeate the UN World Data Forum and World Statistics Day campaign.** As the UN World Data Forum was heavily truncated in 2020, UN Women focused on social media and articles, including a *Q&A for Women Deliver*, a *blog post for the UN World Data Forum*, and a *podcast episode with Paris21*. A UN Women campaign for World Statistics Day ensured global uptake of messaging, from an event in Morocco to social media outreach in Kenya. UN Women’s tweet shared on the World Data Forum account received nearly 19,000 impressions, and one of the highest engagement rates of their World Statistics Day campaign.

**The Women Count Newsletter ensures updates from the Data Hub reach gender data community.** In 2020, UN Women introduced an email newsletter to an initial base of 1,000 subscribers, to share the latest updates from the Women Count Data Hub. The first coincided with the one-year anniversary of the Hub, and four updates had been shared as of Q1 2021. These

targeted updates have seen consistently high and climbing ‘open rates’, averaging 38% across all four.

### Media partnerships increase the visibility of Women Count

**Partnership with Devex brought gender data closer to key user audiences.** UN Women and Devex created a *Focus Area on Gender Data*, which came to an end in early 2021. The aim of the partnership was to increase coverage and visibility of gender data for an audience of development professionals. Over the course of the partnership, 51 pieces of content were produced, including op-eds, blogs and articles; 12 newsletters were sent out to 1.4 million people, with an open rate of over 31% (higher than the average of 16-22%); there were more than 160,000 visits to the Focus Area landing page, and social media outreach generated over 8.5 million impressions. In July 2020, UN Women and Devex hosted a *Twitter chat* on gender data, with over 90 contributors, including UN and CSO partners, among others, which generated over 3.2 million social media impressions.

**RGA findings were used by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to shed light on women’s unpaid work.** UN Women partnered on the BBC’s 100 Women initiative, which highlighted women’s unpaid work in the context of COVID-19 as one of its themes. As a result of the partnership, UN Women developed a data brief, *“Whose time to care: Unpaid care and domestic work during COVID-19”*, (see Chapter 2). The BBC used this data for a feature article, *“Coronavirus and gender: More chores for women set back gains in equality”*, which was translated into 10 languages, reaching a total of up to 1 million readers, and Instagram posts with upwards of 6,000 views. Since the publication of the article, the data were also picked up by CNBC, CNN and other international and regional news outlets, including data on *mothers’ exodus from the workforce* picked up by the *Wall Street Journal*.

### A call for sustainable financing for gender data during the Generation Equality Forum

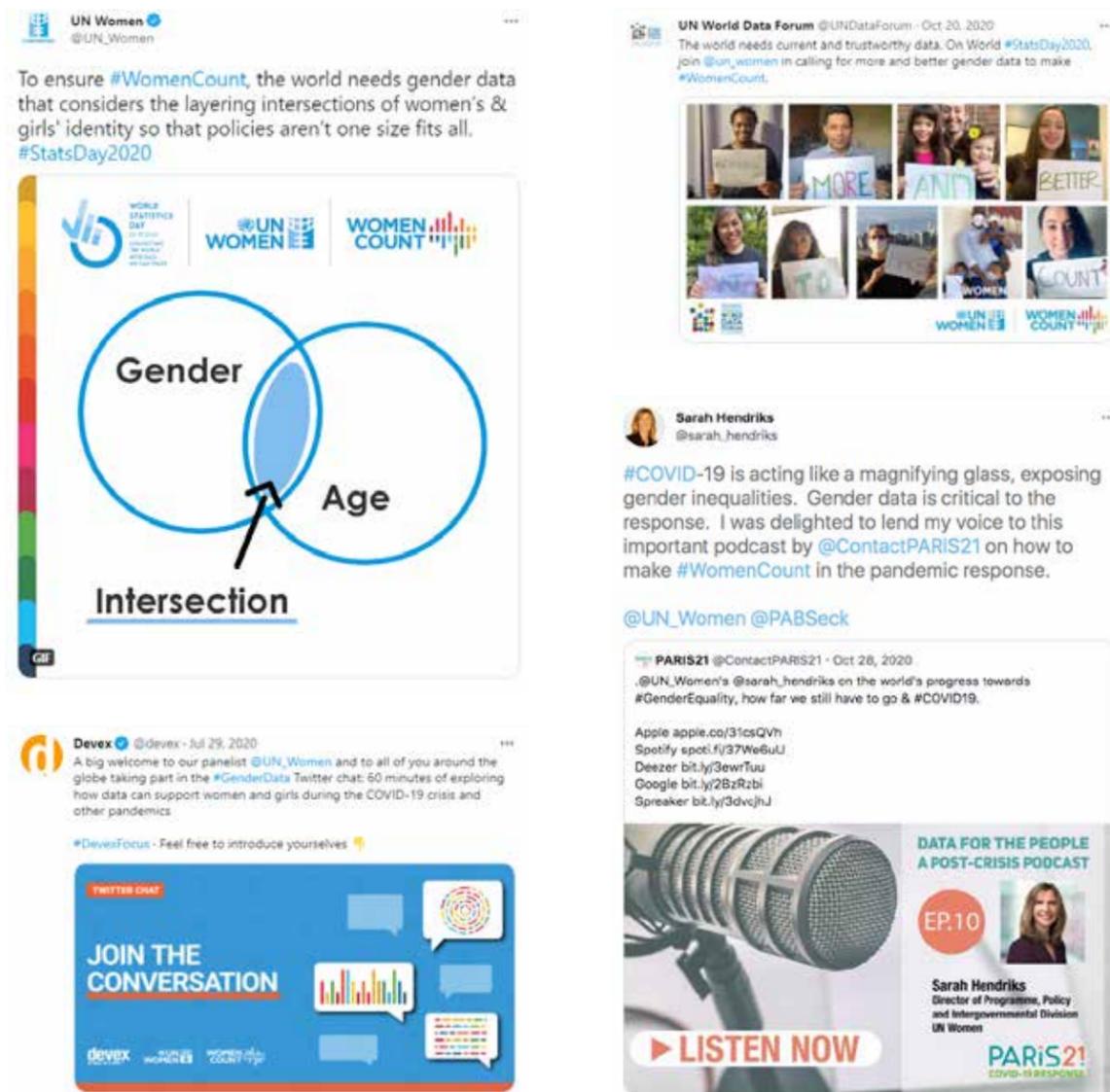
At the Mexico City Gender Equality Forum in March 2021, UN Women organized a special session on data availability for the Action Coalitions<sup>16</sup> to learn from existing innovative solutions for producing and using gender data to fill gaps and drive policy change. It also set the stage for what a data and accountability agenda should look like, while underlining the need for advocacy and investment in gender data.

At the time of writing this report, the Forum set to take place in July 2021 in Paris represents an important advocacy opportunity. UN Women is organizing a high-level event convening global leaders to underscore the central role of gender data in achieving the ambitions of the Action Coalitions to fill data gaps, promote greater uptake of data for policy action, drive investments to address these critical challenges and improve our understanding of progress towards gender equality. Working with Action Coalition leaders

and partners, such as Data2X, UN Women will push for commitments in five key areas:

- Collecting and disaggregating data
- Funding to address gender data gaps
- Using data to inform decision-making
- Sharing and using data best practices
- Increasing the visibility, inclusion and accountability of gender data.

**FIGURE 4.**  
Social media outreach increased visibility of gender data



# 4 MONITORING, LEARNING AND EVALUATING RESULTS

Monitoring, learning and evaluation (MLE) is a key component of the programme. The MLE plan includes three key objectives: 1) measuring effectiveness, 2) learning through diversity of experiences and 3) monitoring sustainability.

## Regular Donor Committee meetings kept members updated on programmatic shifts as a result of COVID-19

The spring Donor Committee meeting in 2020 presented the steps the Women Count programme has taken in response to Mid-Term Review (MTR) recommendations. Overall, the key changes included: improving internal communication; knowledge management and sharing through webinars and regular interregional meetings; reprioritizing existing projects and activities; improving results reporting through qualitative case studies; and increasing local fundraising.

Given the uncertainty about the pandemic, the Women Count programme team started providing regular updates to the Donor Committee, including four virtual meetings to keep members abreast of how UN Women was reprioritizing activities to inform the COVID-19 response.

To better capture project adjustments, the target results for 2020 were revised following consultation with the Donor Committee, driven by two main factors:

- Operational changes as a result of COVID-19 restrictions affecting all projects, which saw many activities either cancelled, scaled down or moved to 2021.
- The scaling down of project activities in a few countries (following MTR recommendations) to allow for project closure by the end of 2020.<sup>17</sup>

The main revised targets were:

- The number of trainings for data producers/users were reduced from 77 to 38 – a reduction of more

than 40% – with the number of beneficiaries reduced by almost 60% – from 2,460 to 1,002.

- Increased demand for support from non-pathfinder countries and increased demand for data on the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a significant increase in the number of planned data-collection activities, from 16 to 49, representing an increase of more than 300% (see Chapter 2).
- Despite the changes and challenges faced in 2020, the programme still achieved 89% of Outcomes and Outputs in 2020.

## Lessons learned through quarterly reviews and interregional meetings

Four virtual quarterly review meetings were held to assess programme progress, generate lessons learned and provide feedback to ensure that deliverables would be met by the end of the year. Four quarterly reports and progress highlights were also produced and shared with the Donor Committee. In addition to continuously improving the effectiveness of the programme's strategic interventions, these meetings have been instrumental in mitigating unforeseen risks, especially amid COVID-19.

## Regional consultations yield critical lessons learned for the future of Women Count

As part of the preparatory and conceptualization stage of a Phase II of the programme, the HQ team initiated a series of consultations with senior leadership across all UN Women Regional Offices, together with Women Count Regional Gender Statistics Advisers, to identify

key lessons learned from the implementation of Phase I (if applicable)<sup>18</sup> and to identify future priorities on gender data. In addition, Regional Advisers held country-level consultations among existing pathfinder countries and non-pathfinder countries and national partners. The initial lessons were presented at the fall 2020 Donor Committee meeting, to inform Phase II:

- Most pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries indicated that **mainstreaming gender** in national development strategies for statistics and development plans was critical to creating an enabling environment.
- All regions indicated the need to continue technical support for the production of **violence against women** and **time-use surveys**. An emerging thematic priority in most regions for data production was **environment statistics**, with Asia and the Pacific citing the strongest need.
- An emerging priority for **improving data use** to fill gender data gaps is **non-conventional data sources**, namely citizen-generated data and administrative data, particularly in East and Southern Africa where the need was most prominent. Almost all regions indicated interest in exploring the potential of **Big Data, artificial intelligence and geospatial data** to improve gender research and analysis and/or data collection.

- These key lessons learned helped inform the planning for Phase II (see Chapter 5 on Plans).

### Corporate evaluation of Flagship Programmes dubs Women Count a best practice

UN Women's Independent Evaluation Service and Internal Audit Service conducted a corporate evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of UN Women's Flagship Programme Initiatives (FPIs) and the thematic priorities of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021. The evaluation noted key drivers of success of the 12 FPIs and conducted in-depth case studies for selected initiatives, which included Women Count, to extract impact stories.

The key findings of the evaluation are that Women Count was one of the most successful FPIs, maintaining consistently good results across regions and being regarded as a good practice. The programme stands out among the FPIs for its timing and positioning of UN Women, strong governance and operational effectiveness, effective donor engagement, calibrated approaches and strong advocacy. These factors were instrumental in building UN Women and its partners' capacities and bringing stakeholders to the table for resource mobilization.



## PLANS FOR 2021 AND THE FUTURE OF WOMEN COUNT

In the final year of implementation of Women Count, a key focus for 2021 will be the operational and financial closure of the first phase of the programme. Country projects in Nepal and Egypt have operationally closed in December 2020; Senegal and Cameroon are expected to close in July 2021 and remaining country projects in Bangladesh, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Colombia, Jordan and Morocco are expected to close by September. The regional projects in Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Africa, together with the global policy project at Headquarters, are expected to close by December 2021.

Besides operational closure, countries will continue with certain activities, including conducting eight second-round RGAs on COVID-19 as well as 14 RGAs on violence against women. While 12 population-based surveys are planned to be conducted or analysed, including on violence against women and time use, the outlook will continue to depend on the pandemic's trajectory in each country. Similarly, several activities to increase data use, including 10 national reports, user-producer dialogues and trainings are planned.

At the regional level, the offices for Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and Europe and Central Asia, will continue to provide direct technical and financial support to pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries, support data production for SDG monitoring, and lead preparations and planning for Phase II of Women Count.

At the global level, in addition to regular technical support for country and regional offices, activities will include: building new features of the Women Count Data Hub; continued advocacy; organizing high-level events; and monitoring and reporting of programme implementation. In particular, the Women Count programme will support the Generation Equality Forums and Action Coalitions to ensure that the 'Gender Data and Accountability' theme is prioritized in the design of blueprints and commitments.

In 2021, the Women Count programme will conduct a gender-responsive end-term evaluation for Phase I, as per UN Women's Evaluation Policy. The evaluation will be managed at the global level but include all projects at regional and national levels. The end-term evaluation will build on the findings of the Mid-Term Review but also provide an in-depth analysis of the expected and achieved results, determining the relevance, impact, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the interventions and contributions of the programme.

### Planning for Women Count Phase II

As part of the preparatory and conceptualization stage of a Phase II of the Women Count programme, a series of global, regional and national consultations were initiated by UN Women to identify key lessons learned from implementation of Phase I and to identify future priorities on gender data to inform the preparation of a Phase II.

As a result, the Women Count team was able to: 1) determine the critical gains that should be sustained/built on and the challenges that should be considered and addressed in Phase II; 2) identify key thematic priorities for gender statistics and data; and 3) secure the commitment of UN Women's senior leadership across all regions to participate and contribute to the development of a Phase II as an important vehicle to

strengthen the technical expertise and capacities on gender data in their respective regions.

During the 9<sup>th</sup> Donor Committee meeting, held in November 2020, the Women Count team presented the most salient features of Phase II, including the approach, strategy and priorities envisioned for the next phase of the programme and, following the meeting, held bilateral consultations with members of the Donor Committee to hear their reflections and suggestions.

In 2021, the planning and design phase of the new programme as well as internal appraisal and approval will take place throughout the year, as follows:

- February: The Women Count team will further consult internally with Regional Gender Statistics Advisors and colleagues from other thematic areas in UN Women through two half-day workshops to further define the “what” and the “how” to help develop the new structure and framework of Women Count Phase II.

- March–April: Prepare and submit the first draft of the project document (prodoc) to the Donor Committee. Hold the spring Donor Committee meeting.
- May–June: Develop project regional concept notes to inform the second draft of the prodoc.
- July: Submit the second-draft prodoc to the Donor Committee and define the criteria for: 1) classification of countries along the maturity model<sup>19</sup> and 2) selection of countries for Phase II.
- August–September: Complete the country selection process and submit the final draft of the prodoc to the Donor Committee.
- October: Internal appraisal and approval of final draft of the prodoc.
- October–December: Regions and selected countries include Phase II in their 2022 annual workplans and start preparatory work (i.e., negotiate partner agreements, get human resources in place, etc.).

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## Detailed Budget 2020

Budget Women Count Programme	2020 Total	Percentage(%) Direct Costs
<b>Budget by outcome</b>		
Creating an enabling environment	\$4,099,205	43%
Increasing data production	\$3,238,157	34%
Improving data availability and use	\$1,845,692	20%
Learning, monitoring and evaluation	\$258,039	3%
Total Direct Costs	\$9,441,093	100%
Total Support Costs	\$290,328	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,731,421</b>	

Budget by category		
Salary Costs - National Programme Staff	\$223,508	2%
Salary Costs - General Service Staff	\$195,967	2%
Salary Costs - International Programme Staff	\$2,136,456	22%
International Consultants	\$784,465	8%
Local Consultants	\$505,510	5%
Contractual Services - Individuals	\$523,848	5%
UN Volunteers	\$18,105	0%
Travel	\$202,482	2%
Contractual Services-Companies	\$815,202	8%
Equipment and furniture	\$21,236	0%
Communication and audiovisual equipment	\$20,782	0%
Supplies	\$61,255	1%
Grants	\$1,563,974	16%
Information technology equipment	\$1,488	0%
Rental and maintenance premises	\$240,475	2%
Professional Services	\$406,046	4%
Audio Visual & Printing Production Costs	\$67,627	1%
Facilities & Administration	\$290,328	3%
Training, Workshops and Conferences	\$513,445	5%
Salary costs - Temporary appointment/IP staff	\$829,228	9%
Other Costs	\$309,996	3%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,731,421</b>	<b>100%</b>



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## IN BRIEF: GLOBAL

# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

## THE ISSUE

The Women Count global policy support project aims to address three interrelated challenges:

- A weak policy space, and legal and financial environments, are barriers to progress. In many countries, the production of gender statistics is not specified in statistics laws and policies, and as a result, the sector is underprioritized and underfunded in national budgets.
- Technical and financial challenges limit the production of gender statistics. Areas such as violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and unpaid care and domestic work, are important to measure but are under resourced. Also at-risk are emerging areas, such as gender and poverty, gender pay gaps and women's participation in decision-making, where more methodological work is needed.
- Lack of access to data and limited user capacity to make use of gender statistics limit their ability to inform policies. Where data are available, they are not accessible or shared in user-friendly formats, impeding their analysis or use to inform evidence-based advocacy in decision-making. When data are not used to inform policy and advocacy, this leads to low demand, which in turn reduces the incentive to produce gender statistics.

## WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** In response to these challenges, UN Women developed guidance to integrate gender statistics in National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), in collaboration with PARIS21. Support includes programmatic and technical guidance to pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries to implement gender statistics activities.
- **Increasing data production:** Global monitoring of the SDGs is improving thanks to methodological work and data compilation of gender-related SDG indicators. Partnering with the World Bank, International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN-Habitat is also generating new data on women's economic empowerment.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The Women Count Data Hub launched in 2019 has become a one-stop-shop for gender data. Knowledge products, statistical briefs and research on gender and the SDGs are being produced and widely disseminated. Global advocacy on gender data is also improving through UN Women's participation and organization of major global and regional events.
- **Monitoring, learning and evaluation:** The Mid-Term Review and annual review meetings have provided an opportunity to take stock of progress, lessons learned and to inform the future direction of the programme.

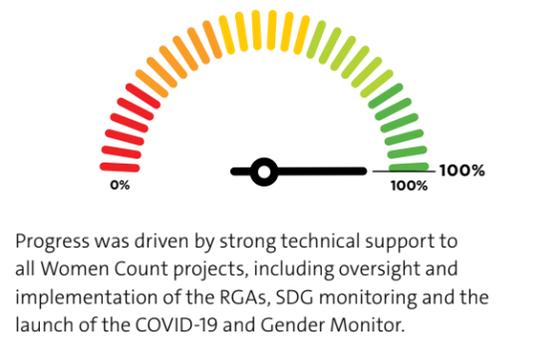
## RESULTS

Amid the pandemic, the global project employed several measures to mitigate COVID-19 risks. Support mechanisms for countries and regions went fully virtual; learning on data production and analysis during lockdown measures was made available across all projects; and advocacy instruments such as the existing Women Count Gender Data Hub facilitated dissemination at a large scale. Importantly, the global project responded to the increasing demand for gender data during the pandemic by supporting the implementation of rapid gender assessments (RGAs), providing interregional knowledge exchange, conducting gender statistics assessments, and promoting gender statistics through knowledge products and advocacy events. Key results in 2020 include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Interregional exchange institutionalized cooperation, communication and knowledge-sharing on gender statistics.** Twelve interregional meetings were conducted to facilitate discussions and provide guidance on the implementation of the RGAs, surveys on time use and violence against women, programmatic priorities on gender statistics, and localizing global initiatives such as the Counted and Visible Toolkit. Based on the experiences shared in these meetings, global and regional projects collaborated to design a training programme on time use surveys to respond to the expressed needs of NSOs for capacity-building. Country teams cooperated with national partners to implement 52 RGAs, successfully leading to gender-responsive, COVID-19 emergency response plans, among other things.
- **Eight non-pathfinder countries improved gender statistics environments, including the adoption of RGA methodology in the design of official household surveys.** Technical support was provided to El Salvador, Cambodia and Lesotho to assess gender statistics and develop a detailed strategy. Following gender statistics assessments in 2019, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and the Maldives developed NSDSs with the support of PARIS21. In two non-pathfinder countries – the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Philippines – UN Women made progress on developing national stand-alone gender statistics projects. In the Philippines, RGA questions were integrated in the 4th quarter 2020 Labour Force Survey and the results of at least two other quarters will cover the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



- **Practical guidance and tools expanded the influence of the Women Count programme in the planning, production and use of gender statistics on COVID-19.** Guidance was produced on conducting RGAs to support regional and country offices and others seeking to measure the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls. It included a reference questionnaire which facilitated 52 countries to successfully implement RGAs, including countries that are not part of Women Count. A guidance on monitoring use cases to capture data use from the RGAs has also been developed, helping to document use cases.
  - **Almost 2,000 people increased their gender statistics capacities through 15 webinars, paving the way for a series of surveys to be implemented.** UN Women's webinar series were organized to foster dialogue on experiences, challenges and lessons learned on the thematic priorities identified by UN Women staff to facilitate the implementation of regional or country projects. Through 154 gender-data-focused webinars, 1,984 participants learned about qualitative data collection for time use surveys, RGAs and Census implementation. The webinar on time use surveys helped to better equip UN Women staff to support national partners implementing time use surveys in Kenya, Senegal, Georgia and elsewhere.
- ### 2. Increasing data production
- **There is now greater availability of data to monitor and report on SDG 5.** Following the reclassification of SDG indicators, 78% of Member States are now monitoring and reporting on SDG 5.5.1b (women's representation in local governments), with 34% of data available for SDG indicators 5.c.1 (proportion of

countries with data on gender-responsive budgeting) and 27% for 5.1.1 (legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex).

- **New gender data on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 revealed pre-existing inequalities.** During the first year of the pandemic, UN Women supported 52 RGAs, the vast majority of which showed that the COVID-19 pandemic is feeding on pre-existing inequalities and deepening gender-based discrimination and vulnerability. The results of the surveys have informed governments' gender-responsive COVID-19 policies, programmes and/or national strategies in countries such as Albania, Chile, Jordan, Senegal and the Maldives, while shaping UN and UN Women programming to better respond to the crisis.
  - **New data were produced on COVID-19 cases by sex and age and women's experience in poverty.** UN Women collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to produce sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 cases and on the pandemic's economic impacts on women and girls. Findings suggest that a reversal in gains towards eradicating poverty is likely to be observed post-pandemic, with women and girls among the most vulnerable to extreme poverty. These data and recommendations are among the most-cited statistics produced by UN Women and have been used to inform the work of other sister agencies, including the *State of the LDC's Report 2021* – which informs the work of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Committee and updates to the LDCs list.
  - **UN Women is increasing the availability of data on the impacts of COVID-19 on violence against women and updating guidelines on the remote collection of such data.** In 2020, UN Women embarked on a project to produce reliable, cross-country and nationally representative data on COVID-19 and violence against women in 14 countries. The objective of the surveys are to measure the impact of COVID-19 on violence against women through specialized, ethically and methodologically sound surveys, increase knowledge on safe, effective and techniques to conduct remote VAW data collection and inform policies and advocacy to address violence against women during the pandemic.
- ### 3. Improving data accessibility and use
- **A comprehensive report revealed progress and interruptions on gender equality across all SDGs during the COVID-19 pandemic.** The 2020 edition of *The Gender Snapshot: Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals* showcased the latest available evidence on gender equality across all 17 Goals, underscoring progress made, and progress interrupted, as a result of COVID-19. Women and girls are facing acute hardships, including higher poverty rates, increased care burdens, greater exposure to violence and obstructed access to sexual and reproductive health services. The *Times of India* covered the report's findings on women health-care workers being disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis, prompting the Government to release statistics on infected health-care workers by sex.
  - **The Women Count Gender Data Hub is pivotal for global dissemination of gender-related SDG indicators.** In 2020, the Data Hub continued to be recognized within the global gender statistics community. It has been especially crucial in increasing the accessibility of gender data on the SDGs and on the impacts of COVID-19. Through interactive dashboards, the COVID-19 and gender monitor, feature stories, and resource pages, the Data Hub has fomented international dialogue on gender statistics. In 2020, the Hub received 457,593 views from 224 countries and territories – a monumental increase over the 44,400 views in its first three months after launching in 2019.
  - **UN Women strengthened global dialogue on gender statistics and intersectionality.**<sup>1</sup> UN Women organized "Counted and Visible: A global conference on the measurement of gender and intersecting inequalities", which brought together over 200 representatives from Member States, UN agencies, CSOs, academia, and NSOs to develop a common understanding of how to measure gender and intersecting inequalities in order to 'leave no one behind'. The conference aimed, among other things, to inform the work of UN Women and the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys on producing disaggregated gender data using existing household surveys to inform policies and advocacy on gender equality and concretely led to the production of the Counted and Visible Toolkit. Learnings from the conference also fed into the Friday Seminar on

<sup>1</sup> The Counted and Visible global conference; the 51st Session of the UNSC; individual attendances at the G20 Civil Society 20 (C20) Summit 2020; and Making Girls Count: Using data to ensure no girl is left behind.

Emerging Issues held during the 51st Session of the UN Statistical Commission. The conference is also informing the current work of UN Women and UNSD on data disaggregation.

- **BBC partnership increased the visibility of data on unpaid care and domestic work during COVID-19.** UN Women partnered on the BBC's 100 Women initiative, which highlighted women's unpaid work in the context of COVID-19 as one of its themes. UN Women also developed a data brief, "Whose time to care: Unpaid care and domestic work during COVID-19", to share available data from 38 countries that show that while both women's and men's unpaid work burdens increased during the pandemic, women and girls still bore the lion's share. The BBC also used these data for a feature article, "Coronavirus and gender: More chores for women set back gains in equality", which was translated into 10 languages and shared via social media, reaching an estimated 1 million readers.
- **Partnership with Devex brought gender data closer to key users.** UN Women and Devex partnered to create a Focus Area on Gender Data to increase coverage and visibility of gender data to an audience of development professionals. Over the course of the partnership, 51 pieces of content were produced; 12 newsletters were sent to 1.4 million people, with an open rate of over 31% (far higher than the average 16–22%); the Focus Area landing page received more than 160,000 visits; and social media outreach – including a Twitter chat on gender data – generated over 8.5 million social media impressions.

#### 4. Monitoring, learning and evaluation

- **Regular reviews of programme effectiveness and strategic guidance improved programme delivery and reporting.** Despite the limitations of COVID-19 restrictions, which led to the cancellation of the annual review meeting, the programme gathered lessons learned through quarterly reviews and monthly interregional meetings. Four virtual quarterly review meetings were held to assess programme progress, generate lessons learned and provide feedback to ensure that deliverables would be met by the end of the year, leading to four quarterly reports and progress highlights shared with the Donor Committee. Monthly interregional meetings have also been held to discuss strategic programme issues, plan capacity-building initiatives, improve data quality and share implementation experiences. In addition to continuously improving the

effectiveness of the programme's strategic interventions, these meetings have been instrumental in mitigating unforeseen risks, especially amid COVID-19.

- **Technical backstopping on results-based management led to a revised results framework of the Women Count programme.** Reduced implementation of activities following COVID-19 restrictions resulted in the need to revise and update the results and resources framework of the programme. Revisions included amending an existing indicator to include COVID-19 RGAs.
- **Taking stock of Phase I and planning for Phase II.** Consultation and review meetings with regional and country projects allowed for assessment of the Women Count programme and informed the preparatory stage for a Phase II. A draft framework for Phase II, including the approach, strategies and priorities envisioned, was presented at the 9th Donor Committee meeting in November 2020. The full programme document will be developed in the third quarter of 2021.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Developing and implementing a strategy on the role of data as a cross-cutting lever across the Action Coalitions, including organizing sessions to highlight gender data at the Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and Paris;
- Increasing data on SDG 5.a.1 (on gender parity in tenure rights over agricultural land) in partnership with FAO, by utilizing existing household survey data and increasing the number of NSSs that can produce such estimates;
- Preparing guidelines and methodological notes to improve policies, strategies and data collection, including on remote data collection on violence against women
- Drafting and publishing statistical briefs and reports showcasing gender data taken from the 52 RGAs and on violence against women;
- Conducting a training-of-trainers on communicating gender statistics;
- Launching and disseminating the Counted and Visible Toolkit;
- Operational closure of the first phase of the programme and conducting the final evaluation.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ANNEX III.



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#### IN BRIEF:

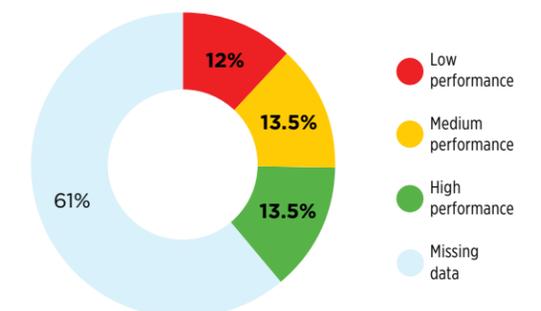
## MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### THE ISSUE

A regional assessment on gender statistics in Asia-Pacific, conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Only a quarter of countries in the region have a law on gender statistics or explicitly cover gender data in a general statistics law. The subregion with the lowest availability of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) gender data is the Pacific, which lacks data for more than half of gender indicators.
- Specialized surveys in important areas, such as time use, are not carried out regularly in most countries, either due to limited financial resources, lack of technical skills or both.
- National statistical systems often have limited capacity to disseminate and communicate data. This limits the ability of media, governments, women's organizations, and other stakeholders to use gender

**FIGURE 1**  
How is the Pacific doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: Women Count Data Hub

statistics to inform decisions, research, advocacy, policies and programmes.

## WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Regional coordination is being improved. By working with organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Island Countries are being supported to mainstream gender in national plans through the Roadmap on Gender Statistics.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of national statistical systems are being strengthened and quality data are being generated on the gender and environment nexus, climate change and women's land ownership. This aims to improve SDG monitoring and leave no one behind.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Training on gender statistics is being standardized across the region. Through work with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), users' capacities are being strengthened to conduct gender data analysis, while the accessibility of gender statistics is increasing through better reporting. Training is also improving capacities to communicate gender data, while data- and metadata-sharing are being encouraged to facilitate data flows, including between regional and global SDG-related databases.

## RESULTS

To respond to COVID-19-related challenges, RGAs were undertaken in 11 countries and Big Data analysis have guided countries in addressing gender gaps in their emergency responses to COVID-19. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States were supported to reprocess data to monitor progress on gender equality; the regional project digitalized training modules to produce e-learning modules to complement the *Gender Statistics Training Curriculum* and enable remote learning, and user-producer dialogues have enhanced data availability and use for gender-responsive policymaking. Key results in 2020 include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender statistics became a key area of work for the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.** As a result of UN Women's advocacy, technical support and partnership, in 2020, the Committee on Statistics agreed to mainstream gender across all of its workstreams. As a result of this decision, UN Women, in collaboration with ESCAP, has been enhancing gender mainstreaming in disaster statistics, economic statistics and civil registration and vital statistics

FIGURE 2  
Measuring Progress in 2020



Progress was made in Asia and the Pacific as a result of influencing the work for the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, newly established steering groups in Pacific Island countries, data production on gendered COVID-19 impacts, and the publication of the ASEAN Gender Outlook.

(CRVS). In the area of environment and disaster statistics, UN Women and its partners (International Union for Conservation of Nature, ESCAP, Food And Agriculture Organization, and UN Environment Programme) have developed indicators and a model questionnaire, that will be field-tested in Bangladesh and Mongolia in 2021. This will significantly increase the availability and quality of data on gender and the environment, an area with traditionally low gender analysis. Further, a dedicated gender session has been included in the upcoming Asia-Pacific Inter-ministerial Conference on CRVS and a decision to promote women's registration of lifecycle events is expected to be adopted by attending ministers.

- **Newly established gender statistics steering groups enabled Pacific Island Countries to prioritize gender data in national strategies.** Continuing the *Pacific Roadmap* implementation, four Pacific Island countries (Palau, Tonga, Fiji and Micronesia) have created national coordination mechanisms and gender statistics plans informed by Roadmap guidelines. A Pacific Gender Statistics Coordination Group is also being established together with SPC and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which will support countries further in this endeavor. Utilizing the Pacific Roadmap, Tonga set up a Gender Statistics Taskforce and promoted inter-ministerial dialogue to identify key areas for gender production (women's leadership, gender and environment). Palau used the Pacific Roadmap to identify 40 NPGEIs as a first step towards a centralized gender data repository and with UN Women's support is reprocessing existing SDG data and include a time

use module in the upcoming Household, Income and Expenditure Surveys 2021. These efforts will be reinforced through a Pacific Statistics Coordination Group, a sub-regional platform for exchange on Pacific Roadmap implementation, which will be created in 2021.

- **At least 21 countries were supported to strengthen gender statistics.** In Viet Nam, UN Women supported the generation of estimates for the new National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEIs) and microdata reprocessing to drive the periodic *Women and Men in Viet Nam* report – a publication that is widely consulted by policymakers. In the Philippines, support was provided to design a Gender and Development database, which will collate all gender-related data into a central repository that the Philippine Commission for Women and other policymakers can use to inform policy decisions.

### 2. Increasing data production

- **RGAs conducted in 11 countries' strengthened evidence-based emergency responses to COVID-19.** The pandemic increased gender data demands across sectors, such as employment and food security, to inform evidence-based responses to the crisis. As a result, UN Women rolled out RGAs in 11 countries in Asia and the Pacific shortly after the pandemic began. Based on the *study's* results, the Maldives, for example, extended their COVID-19 Income Support Allowance to informal workers. RGA data were also used by the Ministry of Women in Indonesia to influence the work of the national COVID-19 taskforce and to request that additional funds be allocated to targeted support for women.
- **Regular sample surveys were supported despite COVID-19 related challenges.** In Mongolia, UN Women supported the NSO for the collection of data on (1) Women's Herders, through the livestock census, and (2) gender and the environment, through a stand-alone survey using the Model Questionnaire developed by UN Women and partners. In Bangladesh, UN Women also supported the design, training and implementation of the country's first time use survey as well as the testing of the Model Questionnaire on gender and the environment in 4 selected provinces.

<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Thailand.

<sup>2</sup> Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, SESRIC (sub-regional), Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Central African Republic, Germany

<sup>3</sup> Access to clean fuels, water, sanitation, child marriage, skilled attendance

- **The Asia-Pacific Training Curriculum on Gender Statistics was implemented across the region, and beyond.** The curriculum, developed by UN Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) under the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training, was implemented in states and Universities in 10 countries in 2020.<sup>2</sup> Nearly 300 students and statisticians from 11 universities and statistical institutions increased their knowledge on gender data production and use through a virtual training of trainers. These institutions have created gender statistics programmes, and regularly provide related training to students and statisticians. For example, based on the Training Curriculum materials, the National University of Mongolia developed a post-graduate course on Gender and Economics, to be rolled out in Spring 2021. Following this interest and to ensure a pandemic-friendly learning environment, UN Women, SIAP and ESCAP have created e-learning materials for a virtual gender statistics training that will be launched in 2021. This will be complemented by a training certification system, the first of its kind for SIAP. UN Women will also maintain a repository of training experts, to support the easier mobilization of gender data experts.

- **Countries reprocessed existing data to reveal gaps and improve measurement.** Reprocessing existing data can yield diverse gender data for policymaking and SDG monitoring. In Afghanistan, UN Women supported the reprocessing of time-use survey data, which revealed large gender gaps and capacity-building needs on survey methodologies. In Mongolia, 60 statisticians benefitted from a training on reprocessing data led by the National Statistics Office (NSO) to conduct 4 trainings in 4 provinces, with the aim to effectively disseminate knowledge about producing multiple disaggregated estimates. As a result, more than 5 broad indicators<sup>3</sup> were generated that will support the country's commitment to improving women's well-being.

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **The new ASEAN Gender Outlook was published, promoting gender mainstreaming in national and regional strategies.** In partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the ASEAN Committee on

Women, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, and NSOs across the region, UN Women has supported all 10 ASEAN Member States to reprocess existing data, disaggregate it at multiple levels, and identify the population groups lagging the furthest behind for each of the SDG goals from a gender perspective. This data was then published in the first edition of the biannual ASEAN flagship publication on gender equality. UN Women has also been working with all 10 Member States to promote the use of the data to formulate strategic policies and decisions in line with the findings of the publication. ASEC is already using the report's findings for future regional strategies, such as the implementation of ASEAN's Complementarity Initiative and ASEAN Cares. Key messages are also being disseminated to civil society and academia in partnership with the ACSDS, in Mahidol University, in Thailand, to ensure the prioritization of gender data for tracking progress towards gender equality and achieving the SDGs.

- **Big Data analysis empowered women in micro and small businesses during COVID-19.** In partnership with Pulse Lab and Gojek, UN Women produced the report *Leveraging digitalization to cope with COVID-19* and launched a [data visualization tool](#) using Big Data and qualitative and quantitative data on women's participation in the digital economy. The data was used by the Indonesian Government to promote women's access to finance, including advocating for cash-support stimulus packages for small businesses.
- **Service-providers improved outreach to reduce violence against women during COVID-19.** UN Women, in partnership with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labor Organization (ILO) and Quilt.ai, produced a [Big Data analysis](#) on social media posts and online searches for support services for violence against women and girls in eight countries<sup>4</sup> during the pandemic. The analysis also assessed their success in locating necessary services

and results were imparted through a training to help service-providers, such as civil society organizations, helplines, and emergency service providers for victims of violence, to better reach survivors by using targeted messages and greater engagement with online users.

- To promote data use, [interactive infographics were designed](#), [op-eds were produced](#), [data stories were posted](#), [articles were published in news outlets](#) and [UN Women participated and presented findings in numerous events](#) organized by partners. [Videos](#) were also created to disseminate findings.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Continuing implementing the Roadmap on Gender Statistics;
- Providing technical support to countries for the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Outlook;
- Supporting countries in the implementation and analysis of specialized surveys, such as the Bangladesh time use and gender-environment surveys;
- Rolling out a second round of surveys on the medium-term impacts of COVID-19 in eight countries,<sup>5</sup> in partnership with the Asian Development Bank;
- Organizing targeted training on utilizing big data for Pacific Island Countries, in partnership with SPC and SIAP;
- Continue implementing the Training Curriculum on Statistics and roll out its e-learning module;
- Publishing two briefs, one, regarding registration of births, deaths and civil events in times of humanitarian crises, one regarding the connections between climate change and gender inequalities;
- Continue organizing user-producer dialogues to improve gender data dissemination and use.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>4</sup> India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

<sup>5</sup> Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Kiribati.

#### ANNEX IV.



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#### IN BRIEF:

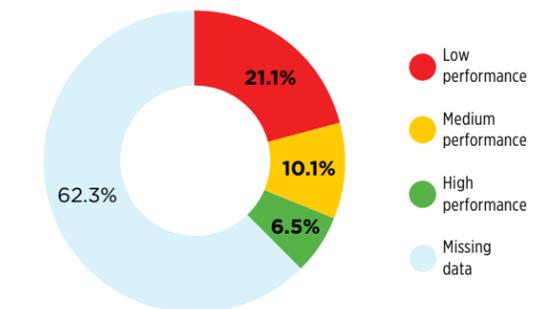
## MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN AFRICA

#### THE ISSUE

A regional assessment on gender statistics in Africa was conducted in 2018, revealing three interrelated challenges:

- Despite regular censuses and surveys conducted by National Statistical Offices (NSOs), there are huge gaps in data to track gender-related SDG indicators across Africa. Regional stakeholders acknowledge that lack of coordination and poor communication has been a major drawback, leading to duplication of efforts and missed opportunities to leverage resources.
- Technical challenges limit the production of gender statistics and the ability to inform regional and country-level interventions – on economic empowerment, violence against women and girls, political participation, and peace and security.
- NSOs and other producers of statistics are still using outdated or ineffective methods of dissemination and communication, which results in the limited use of gender-sensitive data to influence policy dialogue, planning and budgeting.

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Africa doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: Women Count Data Hub

#### WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Regional coordination is being improved. By working with organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African

Development Bank (AfDB), countries are being supported to identify and address institutional, legal and financial constraints to mainstream gender into national statistical systems and establish an efficient monitoring and evaluation system for the SDGs.

- **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of national statistical systems are being strengthened and quality gender data – on violence against women, unpaid care work, gaps in access to decent work and pay, participation in public life and decision-making, and access to/use of information and communications technologies – are being produced to improve SDG monitoring.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The capacities of users are being strengthened to conduct gender data analysis, while the accessibility of gender statistics is increasing through better reporting. Training is also improving capacities to communicate gender data, and data- and metadata-sharing are being encouraged to facilitate data flows, including to regional and global SDG-related databases.

## RESULTS

To respond to COVID-19 related challenges, coordination committees were quickly established in 10 countries to support the implementation of rapid gender assessments (RGAs). Surveys were conducted to provide timely data on the impacts of the pandemic across 15 African countries, many of which have fed into UN socioeconomic impact reports and some of which are already shaping government policy responses. UN Women research in 28 countries also paved the way for gender-sensitive solutions to support the COVID-19 recovery. In addition, 2020 was marked by: strengthening relationships to implement Women Count; creating gender steering committees and gender statistics frameworks; fostering South-South cooperation on gender and statistics through the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Community of Practice (COP); improving production and use of gender data; and increasing gender statistics capacities, including through training on gender data communication. Key results include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **The *Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa (MSGIA)* was adopted by the Africa Statistics Commission (ASC) in October 2020, providing strategic direction and scope for gender data actors.**

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



Progress in Africa was a result of strong engagement and coordination with regional partners to form steering committees for the implementation of RGAs, SDG monitoring and capacity-building on gender statistics communication provided to countries.

In partnership with UNECA and AfDB, UN Women supported the finalization and adoption of 53 gender indicators across six domains at the third meeting of the revitalized African Group on Gender Statistics. In setting new gender data priorities and norms, the MSGIA will strengthen the regional collaboration among NSOs. The validated and approved MSGIA was used by NSOs, in collaboration with UN Women and the AfDB, in the preparation of Country Gender Equality Profiles.

- **Newly formed thematic Steering Committees ensured the successful implementation of RGAs in 10 countries.<sup>1</sup>** Building on the learnings of previously established coordination mechanisms, UN Women supported 10 countries in establishing and coordinating committees for the implementation and analysis of RGAs. The thematic Steering Committees ensured that the RGAs were implemented following international data standards. The RGAs results, validated through the Committees, are widely accepted by national governments. The success of the committees proves that multi-stakeholder coordination committees are effective mechanisms to close gaps in gender statistics in the region.
- **A gender-responsive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework and guidelines were produced to strengthen Zimbabwe's gender statistics.** Following the revitalization of Zimbabwe's Gender Statistics Sector Committee as the nodal entity for the coordination of the production and use of gender statistics, UN Women supported the country to establish

an M&E framework and guidelines, which will be used to evaluate the current National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) and to incorporate gender data within the upcoming NSDS.

### 2. Increasing data production

- **Gender data produced in 15 countries<sup>2</sup> informed evidence-based programs and policymaking.** UN Women, in partnership with various UN agencies, donors, international organizations and NSOs,<sup>3</sup> conducted RGAs to address the gender data gap revealed amid the pandemic. Findings from the surveys have fed into several UN Country Teams' (UNCTs) COVID-19 socioeconomic impact assessments. UN Women also developed guidelines to support UN Women staff and gender focal points in UNCTs to ensure that all COVID-19-related assessments are sufficiently gender-responsive, as well as guidelines on using and generating qualitative data during the pandemic. In Rwanda, after the RGA revealed that more women than men have ceased economic activities, the Government expanded an Economic Recovery Fund to cover Small and Medium Enterprises, where women are concentrated, and UN Women also launched a programme to support women business-owners and informal traders.
- **13 non-pathfinder countries improved their gender statistics production.** The focus in 2020 was on producing and analyzing data, and generating reports on the gendered impact of COVID-19 in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- **More gender data are available for SDG monitoring.** The production and availability of gender data are crucial to assess and address gender-based challenges. UN Women provided technical support to Kenya to conduct a time use survey and to Rwanda and South Africa to conduct surveys on violence against women. The new data generated provided insights into gendered patterns of behavior, which are being used to inform intersectional and inclusive policymaking. UN Women further assessed the availability of sex-disaggregated COVID-19 prevalence and mortality data in the region and held discussions with

the Centre of Disease Control for Africa to discuss possible strategies to overcome the gaps.

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **UN Women research paved the way for gender-sensitive solutions to build back better in COVID-19 recovery.** UN Women, in partnership with UNFPA, produced a 28-country study in Eastern and Southern Africa that revealed opportunities and constraints for gender equality in post-COVID-19 recovery. It includes the findings of the RGAs conducted in the region as well as concrete recommendations for advancing gender equality and for shaping policies and programmes in the COVID-19- and post-pandemic era. The launch event was attended by nearly 200 participants from 98 countries. A harmonized ESA regional RGA database and report highlighting the expected impacts of the pandemic on achieving the SDGs was also produced. The findings suggest that COVID-19 deepened poverty and vulnerability for both women and men and heightened gender inequality. Furthermore, the original trajectory towards achieving gender equality by 2030 was significantly disrupted by the pandemic as well as the re-prioritization of resources during the mitigation of its impact. UN Women was invited to present some of the findings of this study at a conference on 'Development challenges in Africa in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic' jointly hosted by UNU-WIDER and UONGOZI Institute, at a session on the implications of the pandemic for livelihoods and welfare.
- **South-South cooperation on gender data and statistics was strengthened through the creation of an inter-agency exchange forum among data producers and users.** A Community of Practice (COP) on Data and Statistics was founded in Eastern and Southern Africa to create an enabling environment for learning and coordination around gender data and statistics. In three meetings, the COP discussed and finalized the MSGIA. Attended by NSO representatives, Ministries of Women, regional bodies and UN agencies, the COP is a formal forum for user-producer dialogues to foster South-South learning and expand the knowledge base on gender statistics best practices in East and Southern Africa.

<sup>1</sup> Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Mali, and Sierra Leone.

<sup>2</sup> Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mozambique, Uganda, Malawi, Cameroon, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, CAR, Mali, and Sierra Leone

<sup>3</sup> UN Human Rights, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, Irish Aid, Sida, Oxfam, and CARE

- **More than 200 data producers and users from 28 African countries are applying new knowledge on communicating gender data to improve dissemination of data products.** In regional training sessions on gender statistics communication, more than 200 data users from 28 African countries increased knowledge on the adoption and use of improved communication and visualization techniques, aimed at improving the outreach of COVID-19 RGA findings in Africa. This includes one training co-organized by UN Women, UNECA, and the AfDB in October-November. All training sessions imparted gender data communication and visualization techniques, which have since been used in the dissemination of Kenya's RGA, for the launch of the Zanzibar Gender Indicator Report, and in Uganda's revised National Priority Gender Equality Indicators report, with easy-to-understand results illustrated through infographics and targeted messaging.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Completing assessments of the gender statistics systems in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan and South Sudan;
- Finalizing and publish the reports from remaining countries who conducted the first round of RGAs,

and developing a policy brief in partnership with UNFPA on gender-based violence during COVID-19 in ESA based on analysis of RGA data;

- Conducting RGAs, in collaboration with UNICEF and SIDA, in Benin, DRC, Niger and Togo;
- Developing training materials on methodology and implementation of time use surveys through a continent-wide online training;
- Conducting an evaluation of the Africa Programme of Gender Statistics (2017-2021) and develop a new programme for 2022-2025, in partnership with UNECA and AfDB;
- Harmonizing the gender statistics training materials developed for the Asia-Pacific region with materials from UNECA;
- Developing a gender data and statistics information system for ESA;
- Publishing two research reports, one on the determinants of youth not in employment, education and training in ESA, and one on gender and urban public transport in two East African cities.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ANNEX V.



© UN Women Europe and Central Asia/Rena Effendi

#### IN BRIEF:

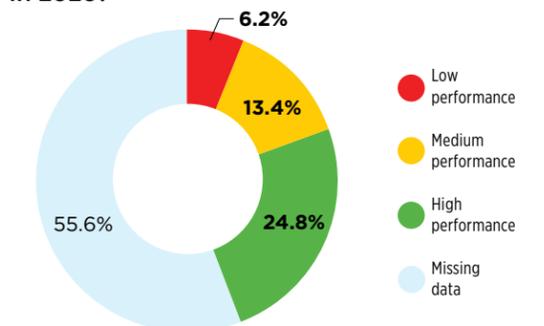
## MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

#### THE ISSUE

A regional assessment on gender statistics, conducted in 2017 in Europe and Central Asia (ECA), revealed three interrelated challenges:

- The low priority given to gender data within national statistical systems (NSSs) is evident in organizational structures, budget allocation, and the absence of a strong commitment to gender monitoring and reporting in national statistical strategies and plans. A weak policy space, limited resources, and a lack of coordination mean gender statistics are not adequately mainstreamed in statistical production.
- Technical challenges limit the effective and efficient production of gender statistics. Although data production is relatively strong in the ECA region, ongoing issues related to data sensitivity and transparency result in data either not being collected or not being released.
- Ineffective use of gender statistics is the most problematic issue in the region. The demand for support to improve dissemination, communication and use of data seems to outweigh the supply of funding and technical assistance.

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Europe doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: Women Count Data Hub. Note: Central Asian countries are not included in this calculation.

#### WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Regional coordination is improving, by working with organizations such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional UN Coordination Group on Data and Statistics. Countries are being supported to

identify and address institutional, legal and financial constraints to gender mainstreaming in their national statistical systems and to establish an efficient system for monitoring and evaluating the SDGs.

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of national statistical systems are being strengthened and quality data on violence against women and unpaid care work are being produced to improve SDG monitoring.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The capacities of users are being strengthened through training on how to analyze gender data and improve how gender data are communicated. Meanwhile, the accessibility of gender statistics to all users is increasing through better reporting.

## RESULTS

In light of the pandemic, adjustments to meetings and trainings aided project implementation, and a regional rapid gender assessment (RGA) was conducted on the gendered impacts of COVID-19, collecting timely data that have informed responses, policies and programmes in 16 countries. Beyond this, several countries in the region have been supported to improve planning of gender statistics, conduct surveys and improve the availability of gender statistics for SDGs monitoring. Key results in 2020 include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Kyrgyzstan is prioritizing gender statistics by developing the first National Gender Statistics Strategy (GSS) and establishing an inter-agency working group.** The National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan (NSC) is building a gender-responsive statistical system through the development of the GSS and an Inter-Agency Working Group on Gender Data (IAWG-GD), which is a national mechanism for cooperation and coordination on gender statistics established in October 2020. UN Women, in cooperation with PARIS21, supported the NSC to conduct three national consultations to assess the need for data to inform gender equality policies and programmes and to identify the strategic priorities for the GSS for 2021–2024. A Gender Assessment of the National Statistics System of the Kyrgyz Republic was finalized in May 2020, which served as the basis for Kyrgyzstan's first-ever National Gender Statistics Strategy. The GSS will also inform the priorities of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics until 2030 (both strategies will be finalized and

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



Significant progress was made in Europe and Central Asia as a result of strong country support, SDG monitoring, capacity-building on violence against women, data production on gendered COVID-19 impacts and regional coordination on gender statistics.

approved in 2021), and concrete activities to be undertaken by the Government under the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2021–2023. The NSC also developed a plan to improve the communication of gender statistics and embedded it in its annual action plan on disseminating official statistics.

- **Eight new gender indicators strengthened Albania's NSS through inter-agency cooperation.** The National Human Rights Institution and Office of the Ombudsman increased their capacity to mainstream gender into data-collection processes, stemming from cooperation within the framework of the IAWG on Human Rights Data. As a result of one training and four coaching sessions delivered by UN Women in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), the Office of the Ombudsman reviewed and published eight new priority gender equality indicators for the first time as part of the annual statistical publication Women and Men in Albania, 2020 edition. The new indicators compile statistics about a number of complaints of alleged human rights violations disaggregated by sex, including from imprisoned persons. This also boosted user-producer dialogue as a regular exchange format on data issues within the established Inter-Agency Working Group on Human Rights Data, led and coordinated by INSTAT.

### 2. Increasing data production

- **RGAs in 16 countries<sup>1</sup> informed national COVID-19 response and recovery plans.** UN Women supported RGAs to assess the gendered impacts of COVID-19 on women and men across the region. National results have been incorporated in COVID-19 national

response and recovery plans in several countries. At least two countries (Georgia, Ukraine) used the findings as part of their advocacy for additional resources to mainstream gender into recovery programmes and policymaking. In Albania, the RGA findings supported discussions with Parliament and line ministries to expand the coverage of government subsidies and support packages to self-employed women farmers, small businesses, and jobseekers. The regional RGA has also been widely used by international organizations to deepen analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality. For example, the findings were used by the OECD to develop a data-based Gender Gap analysis in Eurasia. UN Women also provided support to UN Country Teams from Georgia, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244) and Kazakhstan to review survey tools for a second wave of RGAs in December 2020.

- **The availability of gender-related SDG indicators increased across seven countries.** With UN Women's support, the NSOs of Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, Belarus and Tajikistan have increased availability of SDG gender-related indicators through the production and reprocessing of available data. The national capacity to produce gender-related SDG indicators now ranges from 50% in Tajikistan to 70% in Kazakhstan. The produced and published indicators will feed into national reporting mechanisms on the SDGs and will also inform data-driven policies on gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2021, at least two countries (Albania and Georgia) will start producing new indicators to inform their 'Leaving no one behind' national policy agenda.
- **New data on time use patterns and measuring unpaid care and domestic work was produced in Georgia and Armenia.** UN Women supported the NSO of Georgia to implement its first ever time use survey in September 2020, and NSO of Armenia developed time use survey methodology to be piloted in 2021.
- **Eighty-five data producers are better equipped to produce and analyze gender data after two virtual regional trainings and eight national workshops tailored to countries' specific needs.** For example, more than 40 data producers and users from 17

countries<sup>1</sup> improved their skills and shared knowledge on how to harmonize, collect, analyze and report data on violence against women and girls at a three-day training in December, organized by UN Women in partnership with UNFPA and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Based on the workshop outcomes and increased demand for administrative data in the region, UN Women in partnership with EIGE will develop a guidance and provide further support on violence against women data for Western Balkans countries. In Georgia and Armenia, UN Women built the capacity of 18 statisticians by delivering trainings on time-use statistics' design and methodology ahead of the first-ever time-use survey in Georgia in September 2020, and in Armenia in 2021. The trained personnel will generate internationally comparable time-use data and will inform the baseline indicator for SDG target 5.4 (on unpaid care).

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Access to gender data has increased in Belarus thanks to a one-stop-shop gender data portal.** UN Women supported Belarus in improving access to gender-related indicators through the development of a dedicated gender data portal to be launched in 2021. It is intended to become the "one-stop-shop" for gender data as part of the official statistics dissemination strategy. The portal aims to adopt modern tools such as Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) to standardize and modernize data-exchange processes among national gender statistics producers.
- **Regional report took stock of status of gender equality in Europe and Central Asia 25 years after the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) to inform policy and advocacy.** A regional data-driven snapshot Keep the promise, accelerate the change was produced and launched in October 2020 and has increased awareness on progress towards gender equality in ECA, 25 years after the BPfA. Based on national reviews conducted by 53 countries, the report highlights key achievements and challenges, serving as a reference point for activists, policymakers and other decision-makers. It issues a clarion call for stepping up progress to realize the promises of

<sup>1</sup> Georgia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), North Macedonia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Montenegro, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Beijing. Three factsheets<sup>2</sup> were also developed and peer-reviewed with national stakeholders, to provide key issues and relevant facts on progress towards gender equality.

- **A datathon produced innovative communication materials on RGAs for advocacy.** UN Women, in partnership with ForSet, a Tbilisi-based creative enterprise in data, design and technology, organized a Datathon on the margins of the 4th DataFest Tbilisi 2020 to produce innovative communication products on gender statistics. The event brought together up to 60 participants who developed six visual products in teams using microdata from the RGAs in 13 countries across ECA. The winning two products (infographic and animated video) have been widely used for advocacy and outreach on the gendered impacts of COVID-19 on women and men lives.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Supporting the finalization and adoption of a gender-responsive NSDS in Kyrgyzstan.
- Conducting agender assessment of the Armenian NSS;
- Finalizing the guidance note on the minimum set of suggested questions for data producers, in partnership with the UNECE Steering Committee on Gender Statistics, to capture the gendered impacts of COVID-19;

- Supporting Kazakhstan’s NSO to launch the second round of a violence against women and girls survey in 2021–2022 and Armenia’s NSO to launch a pilot survey of their first ever TUS;
- Supporting Georgia’s NSO and Albania’s INSTAT to increase the availability of gender indicators and providing additional levels of disaggregation based on available data sources at the national level;
- Continue building capacity for CSO representatives in Albania on gender data and analysis in partnership with INSTAT and for policy makers in Kyrgyzstan in partnership with NSC;
- Finalizing two gender statistics training curriculums: 1) Communication of Gender Statistics for Media in partnership with American University for Central Asia (AUCA) and School of Data Kyrgyzstan, and 2) Gender Statistics and Analysis for Gender-Responsive Budgeting;
- Supporting Kyrgyzstan’s NSC and Georgia’s NSO to develop their national priority gender equality indicators;
- Supporting Kyrgyzstan’s NSC to implement a plan of action on the communication of gender statistics through the development of a gender data portal and launching new publications on Gender and the SDGs;

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>2</sup> Regional snapshot on Women and Families in Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia

## ANNEX VI.



© UN Women/Ryan Brown

### IN BRIEF:

# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN KENYA

### THE ISSUE

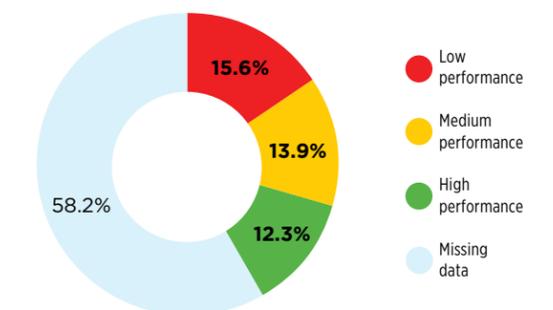
A national assessment on gender statistics in Kenya, conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Lack of trust, siloed data communities and limited push for data-driven decision-making have hampered the generation of gender statistics in Kenya.
- Very few data are disaggregated by sex, age, wealth quintile or region, among others, which undermines the extent to which data can inform the implementation and monitoring of gender-related SDGs.
- Insufficient training and awareness are the main factors behind inadequate demand for and use of gender statistics in Kenya.

### WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination within the national statistics system (NSS) is being improved through the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics and ministries, departments and agencies. Selected counties will be supported to systematically integrate gender statistics into national and county planning documents.

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Kenya doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: Women Count Data Hub

- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) are being strengthened and quality data on unpaid care work, access to decent work and census data is being produced to improve SDG monitoring. Existing data will be reprocessed to produce gender-related SDG indicators, and routine data collection tools will be reviewed and improved.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** County gender data sheets, a women’s empowerment index and other gender statistics knowledge products have been developed and disseminated. Research grants have bolstered student research on gender data and civil society organizations (CSOs) are being supported to engage in gender statistics dialogues with data producers.

## RESULTS

To respond to COVID-19-related challenges, the programme conducted a rapid gender assessment (RGA) to inform emergency responses on COVID-19. RGA data on gender-based violence is being cited by government policymakers. Building on the partnerships strengthened in 2019, results in 2020 focused on supporting KNBS to produce its gender strategies, plans and reports; preparing the time use survey; and fostering partnerships with academia and civil society. Key results in 2020 include:

### Creating an enabling environment

- **The first *Gender Sector Statistics Plan (GSSP)* was approved to strengthen gender statistics in Kenya’s NSS.** The GSSP, launched in 2020, is geared towards addressing the data gaps between what is currently produced/available and the data that is required to inform policy, advocacy, accountability, and other priority development issues. UN Women supported KNBS in its efforts to produce quality and relevant gender statistics through the GSSP, which is part of the Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KSDS). The GSSP seeks to strengthen Kenya’s capacity in gender statistics and guide the coordination of the Kenyan NSS particularly on achieving the SDGs and implementing the third Medium-Term Plan (MTP III). It aims to facilitate evidence-based policy formulation, planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation for the national strategy in the period 2019–2023.
- **Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee (IAGSTC) facilitated the continuous improvement of gender statistics.** The IAGSTC is pivotal for coordination and consultation on gender statistics in Kenya. During its two meetings held in 2020, the Committee consulted and validated methodological approaches for data production, such as for the time use survey that was postponed to 2021. IAGSTC’s continuous involvement in implementation and monitoring of the project activities resulted in increased ownership and accountability for achieved results.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



Progress in Kenya is the result of a strong coordination mechanism, leading to strong overall programmatic impact, including a new Gender Sector Statistics Plan, Women’s Empowerment Index, tracking of gender-related spending, and preparations for the country’s first time use survey.

## 2. Increasing data production

- **Kenya’s COVID-19 rapid gender assessment provided key data to guide the formulation of gender-sensitive, evidence-based policy responses.** UN Women, in partnership with the Government of Kenya, UNFPA, OXFAM and CARE, conducted the survey in August-September 2020 to understand the gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls in Kenya. The data were analyzed by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research (KIPPRA) and published in a report in December. The RGA provided policy and decision-makers with reliable evidence and information to design appropriate interventions to address the needs of the population and to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. The survey included questions about gender-based violence, with 35% of respondents citing sexual violence as the most prevalent form during the pandemic, followed by child marriage (25%) and physical violence (17%). Both the Minister of Gender and the Council of Governors (COG) have since cited this data in speeches. A popular version of the report was also produced, filled with visually appealing infographics to increase uptake.
- **New tools and reports strengthened Kenya’s ability to monitor gender-related SDGs.** UN Women supported KNBS to produce new or updated tools to monitor women’s empowerment, violence against women, and women’s multidimensional poverty. The Women Empowerment Index (WEI), prepared in partnership with KNBS and UNICEF, is a major milestone as the first comprehensive and systematic measure of women’s and girls’ empowerment in Kenya. It will enable KNBS to report on women’s empowerment

targets under SDG 5. After noting that the WEI’s violence against women data were sourced from the 2014 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), technical and financial resources have since been put in place by UN Women for a gender-based violence module of the upcoming 2021 KDHS to be reviewed, followed by a full-fledged violence against women survey from 2023 onwards. Meanwhile, the new Comprehensive Poverty Report provided a baseline for measuring multidimensional poverty for women and will enable Kenya to adequately report on SDG 1.2.

- **Gender allocation and spending will be easier to track.** With UN Women’s technical and financial support, the National Treasury approved proposals on including gender, children and climate change programmes among those tracked for allocations and expenditures in the updated Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA), which were peer-reviewed by the International Monetary Fund in 2019. In 2020, the National Treasury approved the capacity development and transition plan to the new SCOA. A training of trainers was also carried out. This will enable Kenya to report on SDG indicator 5.c.1.<sup>1</sup>
- **Gender indicators adopted by KNBS inform policy-making and SDG monitoring.** Following the UN Women-supported Kenya Population and Housing Census conducted by KNBS in 2019, KNBS adopted new indicators that reflect a selected SDG minimum set of gender indicators as well as the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa (MSGIA) in 2020. The new gender indicators will fuel the production of a Gender Statistics Monograph as part of the Census analysis in 2021.
- **The 2020 Kenya Economic Survey now includes the first-ever chapter on gender equality.** This was achieved through UN Women’s support and multi-sectoral collaboration. The chapter provides new data on gender and women’s economic empowerment, political leadership and social protection, which can be used to improve advocacy and influence policymaking. Moreover, the 2021 Economic survey will also include a gender chapter, a further demonstration of KNBS’s commitment to showcasing gender data.
- **More than 100 data users and KNBS field personnel/enumerators now know effective tools and methodologies to conduct time-use surveys and how to write better analytical reports.** Ahead of the time-use

survey to be rolled out in 2021, UN Women supported KNBS in preparing tools and methodologies through a training on data collection according to international standards, including on the International Classification on Time Use Surveys (ICATUS). KNBS staff also learned how to write Census-based analytical reports at a dedicated workshop. KNBS’s increased capacities enabled two pilot surveys to be designed. The surveys will enable more accurate measurement of women’s contribution to the economy and help Kenya develop policies that reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women.

## 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Excelling student grantees were selected to join prestigious programmes at KIPPRA and the University of Iceland (UoI) and a research compendium is being produced to showcase key policy recommendations.** Following the 2019 Women Count collaboration with the University of Nairobi (UoN), two grantees were selected to join the Young Professionals Programme, KIPPRA’s flagship programme for young researchers. KIPPRA will mentor the grantees for one year to enhance their technical competence in evidence-based policy processes, introduce economic analysis tools, and build research capabilities. Additionally, two grantees were nominated to join the UoI’s Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (GEST), which promotes research on gender quality and women’s empowerment in fragile and middle-income countries. UN Women also extended the partnership with the UoN to produce a compendium of 15 peer-reviewed student gender research papers, showcasing their data and policy recommendations (publication forthcoming).
- **UN Women’s partnership with GROOTS Kenya expanded to boost the dissemination of gender statistics.** Building on the partnership initiated in 2019, UN Women expanded its collaboration with GROOTS Kenya through a partnership agreement in 2020, to increase dissemination of gender data, including the WEI, the Comprehensive Poverty Report, and the COVID-19 RGA. The dissemination activities were able to reach multiple stakeholders, such as academics, CSOs, government policymakers, including County Gender Directors. This partnership has helped drive demand for the use of gender statistics in county annual plans, budgets and implementation reports by county and sectoral departments. The

<sup>1</sup> Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

social media campaign was able to generate 147 million impressions while receiving 3,595 engagements from 364 participants on Twitter. Facebook engagement reached 7,596 people. The Facebook statistics were disaggregated by gender and age, and the most engaged audience was aged 25-34 years, with 56.6% of those reached being men.

- **The launch of the WEIs garnered significant and positive media and social media coverage.** Realized in collaboration with strategic partners and stakeholders, key messages and WEI data were turned into a variety of information and communication products that were customized and repackaged – such as infographics and a popular version for diverse audiences, including media, industry actors and the general public. Several articles were published in mainstream media, including an editorial in a leading regional news outlet. Social media were actively used, before, during and post-launch. As of March 2021, social media posts about the WEI generated 46,808 impressions and 683 engagements according to Country Office analytics. The production of user-friendly information packs from the gender data products was key, as was the strategic dissemination of these products to and by pre-identified stakeholders. These included the Gender Sector Working Group, KNBS, UNICEF, the State Department for Gender, the Council of Governors, county

governments, the National Gender and Equality Commission, the SDG Forum and GROOTS Kenya. Stakeholder involvement in development, planning and dissemination also ensured their ownership.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Continue support to the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee in the provision of oversight during the implementation of Women Count in Kenya.
- Provide technical assistance to KNBS, including on the Kenya Statistics Act Regulation, metadata sheets for 34 SDG indicators, and the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2021.
- Implement the time use survey.
- Develop an inequality index to complement the Census 2019 analytical reports, in partnership with UNICEF.
- Publish the University of Nairobi compendium of student research papers.
- Disseminate and conduct advocacy on gender data knowledge products, in partnership with GROOTS Kenya.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ANNEX VII.



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#### IN BRIEF:

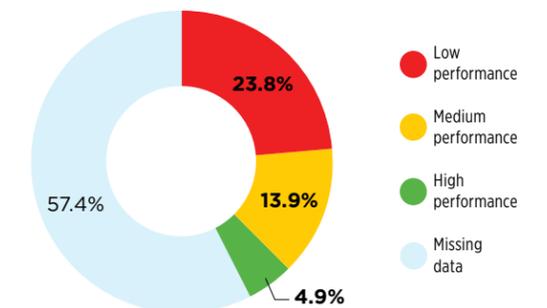
## MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN UGANDA

#### THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics was conducted in 2016, revealing three interrelated challenges:

- There has been inconsistent and unpredictable financial and technical support for gender data, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) lacks specialized staff to liaise with or validate gender data produced by ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).
- Gender data are quite limited, with baseline information available for only half of the SDG indicators in Tier I. Even where they can be obtained from surveys, data are not disaggregated at the district level, limiting their usability.
- Despite improvements in Uganda's data dissemination, significant barriers to accessing gender data

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Uganda doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: Women Count Data Hub

remain. Statistics are not processed and shared in a user-friendly manner, and there is a lack of institutional, financial and technical capacity to validate and widely disseminate data online.

## WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** National coordination on gender statistics is improving as a result of establishing technical working groups. Gender is also being mainstreamed in national development plans and statistical development plans to improve monitoring progress on gender equality.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the UBOS have been strengthened to produce and analyse quality data on time-use, violence against women and girls, and governance, peace and security, to close key data gaps.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** A partnership with the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) has increased the dissemination of data, policy briefs and analytic reports on gender equality. User-producer dialogues are being institutionalized, including the Annual Gender Statistics Forum, and tailor-made trainings on gender statistics are being provided for data users and producers.

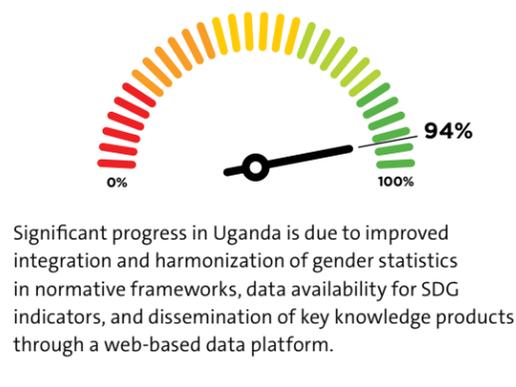
## RESULTS

Following the pandemic, UN Women extended technical support for the production of a rapid gender assessment (RGA) to inform evidence-based emergency responses. Building on progress in 2019, UN Women actively supported UBOS on updating the third Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD III), data production, monitoring of gender-related SDG indicators, distributing knowledge products through a web-based data platform and training data users on standard statistical methodologies and tools. Key results in 2020 include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Improved integration and harmonization of gender statistics in normative frameworks through the PNSD III, resulting in increased commitments and accountability.** The third PNSD 2021-2025 is now aligned (timeframe and priorities) with the national development plan III, programme implementation action plans and the United Nations Sustainable

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). As a result, the UN system in Uganda is currently planning to develop a joint programme on statistics. Gender data will be generated continuously at all levels. The integration of gender perspectives in these national statistics planning documents will facilitate more systematic tracking of gender statistics production and use to support policy formulation, programming and decision-making processes and reporting.

- **The national coordination mechanism guided gender data production, dialogues and the PNSD III.** UN Women supported UBOS in implementing 30 multi-sectoral coordination meetings with the now-institutionalized Gender Statistics Advisory Committee (GSAG) and the Gender Statistics Sub Committee (GSSC). They guided the positioning of gender statistics in the preparation of the PNSD III, in two surveys in 2020<sup>1</sup> and for two user-producer dialogues. The GSAG was acknowledged by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development for its pivotal role in promoting gender statistics in the NSS as the custodian of gender in the PNSD III. Working together on 25 knowledge products has increased appreciation of gender statistics, harmonized efforts and triggered multisectoral collaboration among members of the GSAG and GSSC.
- **Monitoring and reporting on the SDGs has improved.** UN Women and UBOS supported MDAs in identifying data to monitor and report on 28 additional gender-specific SDG indicators, which . The updated SDG indicator matrix was used in Uganda's

second Voluntary National Review (VNR) and an SDG Factsheet in 2020. In addition, it is now mandatory for all MDAs to integrate gender-specific SDG indicators and targets within their local Strategic Plans for Statistics, a requirement introduced in the PNSD III. As of 2020, 30 institutions have integrated gender statistics with SDG targets, while all others have initiated the drafting process. All MDAs are required to localize gender-related SDG monitoring, which will bring the number reporting on the SDGs to 135, once all strategic plans are concluded.

### 2. Increasing data production

- **More than 120 field staff and data managers from 13 institutions have improved their capacity to produce gender-based violence (GBV) statistics and developed systems to harmonize their data.** Through three trainings, UN Women supported UBOS and EPRC in strengthening administrative data-collection mechanisms and harmonizing management systems. Between September and November 2020, 83 field staff and facilitators from UBOS learned the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of gathering prevalence data for the VAWG/VAC/Family survey through two trainings. In November, 41 data management personnel from 13 institutions in the justice, law and order sector improved their capacities to produce and use GBV administrative data to close gender data gaps. The training resulted in a needs assessment of the six core data-producing institutions in the justice sector, which found that available GBV information sources were not comparable. In response, action is being taken to streamline and harmonize data-collection systems on GBV by developing a Crime and Criminal Justice Management Information System that retrospectively tracks GBV and other offences from the moment they are reported to police to their conclusion in the justice system.
- **Uganda's National Priority Gender Equality Indicators (NPGEIs) have produced 77% of the minimum set of gender-related SDGs and been integrated into government reporting tools.** This is a result of UN Women's support to UBOS in reprocessing data for the NPGEIs. They have already been used in key monitoring and reporting tools, including the VNR, PNSD III and the UNSDCF. These data have further been used to report on Uganda's international

commitments, such as under CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Maputo Protocol. The NPGEIs have also been integrated into the Government Annual Performance Review reporting framework, periodic assessments by the Ministry of Local Government, and MoFPED's Programme-Based Budgeting framework. The NPGEIs have also been uploaded on the [Gender statistics portal](#), launched at the fourth Annual gender Statistics Forum (AGSF IV 2020) 2020.

- **New gender data informed about the gendered effects of COVID-19 with RGA methodology having become pivotal for additional studies.** UN Women, in partnership with UNFPA and UBOS, conducted a [RGAs](#) in late 2020. The results provided decision-makers with evidence to design appropriate interventions that address the current needs of the population and influence policy and practice to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The RGA will be complemented by a qualitative study to be by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and UNFPA to include survivor experiences and coping mechanisms in 2021. Moreover, the RGA methodology has been adopted in similar studies<sup>2</sup> in Uganda.
- **Data from the ongoing VAWG/VAC/Family survey bolstered four reports on violence against women, girls and children.** UN Women worked closely with UBOS, UNFPA, UNICEF and MGLSD to spearhead the design, implementation and analysis of the VAWG/VAC/Family Survey. Building on the data produced, four reports are being finalized on the survey, VAW, VAC and older women in Uganda. The key recommendation is to undertake the Social Institutions Gender Index (SIGI II) to further complement the survey data for evidence building to address the VAWG and VAC.
- **Guidelines for Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) enable data from Uganda's National Statistics System to be complemented by non-traditional sources.** Uganda developed and approved the CGD to support the compilation of data from non-traditional sources, such as from CSOs and the private sector that form part of the NSS. Harnessing CGD is a strategic step towards increasing gender data generation and its use in reaching women and girls.

<sup>1</sup> The RGA as well as the violence against women and girls/children/family survey (VAC/VAW/Family).

<sup>2</sup> Two RGAs on the impact of floods on women, men, girls and boys, in both the Pakwach and Kasese districts, and the Inter-Agency/Inter-Sectoral Rapid Gender Analysis to Assess the Impact Of COVID-19 on Refugee and Host Communities in Uganda (November 2020).

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Ugandans now have increased access to gender statistics, through UBOS' new Gender Statistics Portal.** In response to the increased availability of gender data, UBOS launched a web-based portal for gender statistics publications, with support from UN Women, at the 4th Annual Gender Statistics Forum (AGSF IV). This one-stop-shop for gender statistics in Uganda enables data users to access all recent publications, with 19 initial knowledge products featured, including the NPGEl. The portal is a huge milestone for increasing the availability of gender statistics for evidence-based decision-making and the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Uganda.
- **Policy briefs strengthen policymaking to confront gender-based violence.** Through UN Women's continued partnership with EPRC, five additional policy briefs were produced (for a total of 10), focusing on GBV and budget allocations. Published at a user-producer dialogue workshop during the 16 Days of Activism in November, three policy briefs analysed access to justice for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking while two highlighted the need for revised budget allocations to ensure financing for gender equality and were shared at the ASGF IV. The GBV briefs further informed policy dialogue on financing for GBV prevention.
- **User-producer dialogues increased the dissemination of gender statistics knowledge products and the awareness of policymakers.** Knowledge products on gender statistics were shared with 248 participants at two user-producer dialogues, at the AGSF IV and the Joint Policy Dialogue on evidence-building and financing for GBV. The debate generated recommendations for improved evidence-based policy, programming, monitoring and evaluation and reporting of government performance on gender equality and

the SDGs. It also made policymakers aware of the need to invest in data and research and a strengthened data-management system. The recommendations were well-received, especially given the need to improve timely access to justice for survivors of GBV during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions around adequately capturing gender data will inform future data collection and are partially addressed in surveys completed in 2021.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Supporting the revision of the UBOS Act 1998 to integrate gender and equity;
- Finalizing and publishing surveys and reports on gender statistics, such as the nation-wide, integrated VAW/VAC/Family report, the RGA, and the National Governance, Peace and Security survey (NGPSS II);
- Concluding analysis of election data, administrative data and reprocessing of existing data to monitor gender-related SDG indicators, to be published on the web-based gender data portal;
- Conducting a validation meeting to finalize and disseminate the RGA;
- Providing support in the development of CGD;
- Conducting a baseline survey on land ownership to establish the proportion of land owned by women;
- Updating the administrative data-collection methodology and operationalize the tools for harmonized data collection for the Department for Refugees and Disaster Management;
- Conducting training on gender statistics for data users and producers;
- Holding the Annual Gender Statistics Forum during Statistics Week and arrange an Advocacy Symposium.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ANNEX VIII.



2020

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### IN BRIEF:

# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN TANZANIA

### THE ISSUE

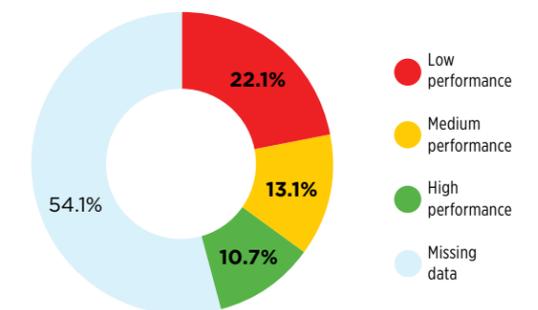
A national assessment on gender statistics in the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania hereafter) was conducted in 2018, revealing three interrelated challenges:

- Neither Tanzania's national gender and development strategies nor its statistical plans explicitly seek to improve the production and use of gender data.
- Despite existing capacity within the national statistical system (NSS) to generate gender data to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other gender equality commitments, fewer than 30% of the gender-specific SDG indicators are fully available, and few have additional disaggregation, beyond sex.
- There is no one-stop-shop or comprehensive source for Tanzania's latest gender data, featuring both quantitative and qualitative information. User-producer forums on gender statistics are not regularly or systematically organized.

### WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Gender statistics are being integrated in monitoring of national and sectoral strategies and plans. The institutional capacities of key statistical actors and inter-agency

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Tanzania doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#).

coordination mechanisms are being strengthened as a result of the establishment of gender statistics working groups.

- **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) are being strengthened. New quality data on unpaid care work, social norms and institutions are being produced, while existing gender data in censuses, surveys and routine data systems are being

reprocessed to fill gender data gaps to improve SDG monitoring.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Support to OCGS and the NBS to develop a centralized and responsive online database hosting national-level gender statistics is improving monitoring of global and national commitments, including on social norms and institutions. The capacities of users are being strengthened to conduct gender data analysis, while reports, profiles and booklets on gender across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being regularly produced to improve the use of gender statistics.

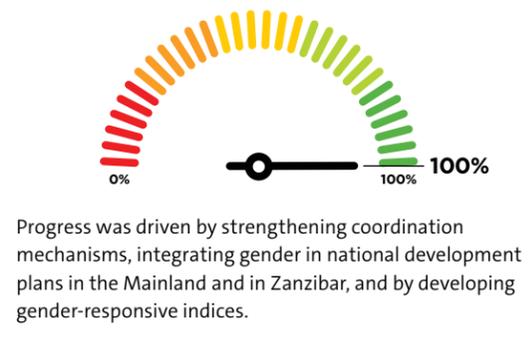
## RESULTS

In response to COVID-19, UN Women supported the NSS to produce new gender data on the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on women and girls in order to inform government responses. Moreover, building on the progress achieved in 2019, the institutionalized statistics units established under Women Count prepared and validated national development strategies to include gender-related SDG indicators in monitoring frameworks and to implement research such as on the impacts of COVID-19 on women and men. User-producer dialogues have also increased the demand for gender statistics in Tanzania and Zanzibar. Key results in 2020 include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender statistics are mainstreamed in the Zanzibar Strategy for the Development of Statistics (ZSDS).** UN Women supported OCGS in preparing a detailed Gender Statistics Strategy as part of the ZSDS in 2019, which was finalized in 2020. The Strategy highlights the importance of sex-disaggregated data for policymaking, planning and decision-making. Through four goals, the ZSDS seeks to improve data availability while strengthening the institutional capacity of the Zanzibar statistical system and with the end goal to fuel future gender-responsive policymaking. The ZSDS will be launched in 2021 with support from the African Development Bank.
- **Institutional gender statistics mechanisms are improving data quality and gender dimensions in government plans.** UN Women's support for institutionalizing the Gender Statistics Technical Working Groups (GS-TWGs) in both Zanzibar and the Mainland has improved the availability and use of gender data for a better policy environment for gender statistics. Concretely, these committees

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



advocated in various fora for the use of sex-disaggregated data to inform policies and programmes. The availability of gender data for SDG indicators and the capacities of data producers have increased steadily. Latest, reprocessed data from Zanzibar's Household and Budget Survey (HBS) 2017/2018 have led to new insights and improved the quality of gender statistics, and are included in government plans, such as Tanzania's third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III) and Zanzibar's fourth Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA IV).

- **Gender data have enriched SDG monitoring and development strategies.** The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, finalized in 2019, was adopted for the Mainland and Zanzibar in 2020, paving the way for the inclusion of 26 (out of 54) gender-related SDG indicators in the new FYDP III and the MKUZA IV as well as within their monitoring frameworks, both expected to be launched in 2021. This is institutionalizing the generation of critical gender data by OCGS, NBS and sectoral ministries to influence future policymaking.

### 2. Increasing data production

- **A rapid gender assessment (RGA) provided a snapshot of the impacts of COVID-19 on women and fostered regional discussions.** The study, based on a desk review, measured the gendered effects of the pandemic on women and girls in Tanzania, noting that women and girls were most affected by: gender-based violence (with increases in child marriage and female genital mutilation in particular), work-life balance in the health sector, small business in urban areas, cross-border trade, and the increased burden of care work. Since its validation, the report

has become a key reference document for finalizing Tanzania's COVID-19 response plan and drafting the Country Gender Equality Profile.

- **The new National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has allowed for more accurate measurement of women's poverty.** The national MPI enables Tanzanian decision-makers to prepare a pragmatic, needs-based policy response to alleviating poverty across the country. Through 15 indicators, the MPI can determine whether or not a household is poor based on more criteria, such as access to health and education. NBS, with support from UN Women and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), compiled the MPI by reprocessing HBS data from 2017/2018, disaggregated by sex. This disaggregation is invaluable in assessing the true extent of poverty among Tanzanian women and will be instrumental for developing relevant policies.
  - **Training and joint production of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) enhanced NBS and OCGS' ability to conduct the SIGI survey.** UN Women, in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), supported the NBS and OCGS in the design, data collection and analysis of the first-ever SIGI survey on social norms and harmful practices related to gender. Leading up to the successful creation of the SIGI, 80 officials, enumerators, quality-control supervisors and senior managers of the NBS and OCGS were trained in three workshops on gender-sensitive data collection and compiling gender statistics for the SIGI and related indicators. The SIGI reduces gender data gaps to improve reporting on gender-related commitments (such as for CEDAW, the Voluntary National Review, and Beijing+25). Moreover, its joint implementation has significantly enhanced NBS' and OCGS' capacities for future data production.
- ### 3. Improving data accessibility and use
- **Gender statistics collected through the Household Budget Survey (HBS) informed policy planning and decisions in Zanzibar.** UN Women supported the 2019/2020 HBS in Zanzibar, which included a time use module. Along with the 2017/2018 HBS supported by UN Women, the survey data were used to revise the minimum salary of government employees, benefitting women, many of whom are in lower-level positions. The HBS findings were also used to target the allocation of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), a government poverty reduction

strategy where beneficiaries receive cash transfers to increase their income and livelihood. The data helped identify poorer women who are the majority of recipients covered under the Fund.

- **The Zanzibar SDG Gender Indicators Report strengthened reporting.** Following data reprocessing and the finalization of Zanzibar's Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, OCGS, with support from UN Women, published the Zanzibar SDG Gender Indicators Report in early 2021. During the report development, 30 data users from sectoral ministries and civil society organizations (CSOs) learned how to compile relevant data for SDG reporting and to identify and present key gender-related challenges in their respective sectors. Building on existing and new data sets, additional data disaggregation led to the production of 35 gender-related SDG Tier I and II indicators now being included in the report.
- **A newly launched OCGS Action Plan on Gender Statistics facilitated policy dialogue on the future of gender statistics in Zanzibar.** UN Women supported OCGS in the preparation of an Action Plan on Gender Statistics that will guide future dialogue on gender statistics in Zanzibar. Launched by the Chief Statistician of Zanzibar during a user-producer dialogue for Africa Statistics Week in November 2020, the Action Plan generated new interest in the use of gender statistics among the 74 participants and showcased data users' needs, including for citizen-generated data and time use data. The plan focuses on three key issues – migration, marriage and divorce registration, and crime – that will inform the monitoring of MKUZA III and the SDGs.

## PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Continuing strengthening gender statistics mechanisms in the Mainland and in Zanzibar;
- Supporting the finalization and launch of the FYDP III;
- Completing ongoing surveys and reports, such as the Social Institution and Gender Index and the time-use survey reports;
- Reprocessing female genital mutilation data for research on the role of men for gender equality;
- Publishing gender data factsheets on different gender issues.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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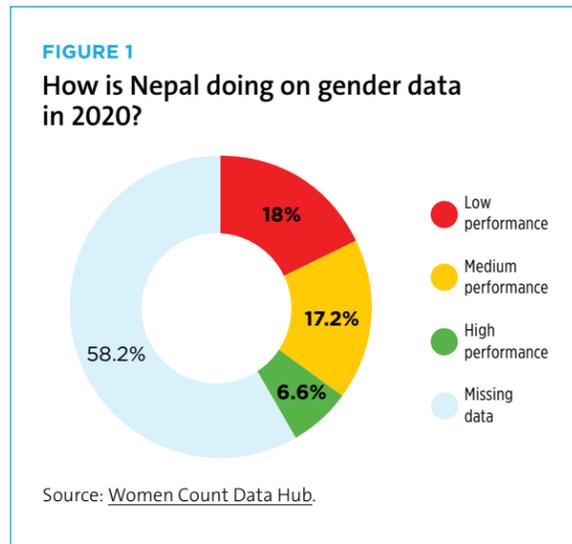
IN BRIEF:

# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN NEPAL

THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Despite political will to monitor gender equality and women’s empowerment commitments, gender statistics are weak or lacking in Nepal. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) does not specifically mention gender statistics. Due to ever-increasing demands for data and recent reforms, the mandate to produce statistics has been extended to several institutions, rendering the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) less effective as a leader and coordinator.
- Nepal lacks mechanisms to monitor many SDG targets, with data available for only 37% of all gender-related global indicators. Most data are



extracted from national censuses and surveys, which are undertaken only every 5 or 10 years, limiting their effectiveness.

- Data accessibility is a key challenge for non-governmental users, with many stakeholders relying on personal and informal contacts to access gender data. When data are available, they are not always used effectively.

WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Partnership with the CBS is strengthened to improve coordination around the production and use of gender statistics in the national statistical system.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the CBS are strengthened to produce quality data on violence against women and gender identity in the 2021 Census round.
- **Improving data use accessibility and use:** User-producer dialogues are bringing together government, civil society organizations and development partners to understand the needs of data users and producers.

RESULTS

In response to COVID-19-related challenges, and using remote data-collection techniques, UN Women conducted a rapid gender assessment (RGA) on the socio-economic effects of the pandemic on both women and men as part of a broader regional survey. After delayed inception and in the concluding year of the Women Count Nepal project, UN Women focused its 2020 support on building CBS’s gender statistics capacities in one core statistical process: the development of a manual on the inclusion of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and GESI responsive advocacy and communication material. Key results in 2020 include:

1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Partnership between UN Women and CBS strengthened to ensure that gender statistics is prioritized in Nepal.** As a result of the partnership established between UN Women and CBS, strengthening gender data will remain an area of priority for Nepal’s NSS. The partnership was instrumental for the inclusion of GESI in the planned 2021 Census and it has helped fuel interest in developing an analytical report on gender and social diversity after the Census. A formal acknowledgment letter was received from CBS commending UN Women on the results achieved

FIGURE 2: Measuring Progress in 2020



With a significantly reduced scope, Nepal delivered key results, including an RGA with an intersectional approach and the production of a gender equality and social inclusion manual that used to train 55,000 Census staff and enumerators.

under the project, the quality of partnership, and the inclusive process that engaged a wide range of partners and operationalized the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’. Building on the existing partnership, UN Women will continue to support CBS in the implementation, analysis and dissemination of the Census as well as in broader efforts to improve gender statistics in Nepal. The partnership will also continue to guide efforts to produce a prevalence survey on violence against women in 2021.

2. Increasing data production

- **New gender data provided early and regionally comparative results of the impact of COVID-19 on women and men in Nepal.** Under the leadership of the Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC), in April 2020, UN Women Nepal jointly with the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific administered an RGA, which received more than 8,000 responses in Nepal and fed into a broader regional report. Among other things, it found in Nepal that 68% of informal women workers had lost their job or worked fewer hours, compared to 72% of women (and 59% of men) in formal employment. Findings informed UN Women Nepal’s programme intervention on COVID-19 response in 2021.
- **More than 55,000 Census Supervisors, Enumerators and Government officials are learning how to incorporate gender equality and social inclusion within the 2021 Census, thanks to a new GESI manual.** UN Women supported CBS in the inclusion of a GESI perspective in the Census Enumeration and Supervision Manual and also completed a GESI Manual that illustrates how to collect sensitive

GESI data. It includes a comprehensive definition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+) groups that was elaborated during a 2019 workshop. This manual and related material are being used to train 9,265 supervisors, 43,277 enumerators, and 1,957 government staff on the GESI components of the NPHC 2021.

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Gender data enabled the development of Nepal's first Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP).** The CGEP will be a pivotal resource for policymakers and gender equality advocates in Nepal. UN Women supported the inclusion of key statistics on Nepal's gender equality commitments to produce the Gender Equality in Numbers document, for CGEP's Statistical Annex. A total of 43 UN Women partners<sup>1</sup>, consulted during the data-collection phase in early 2020, were instrumental in sharpening the research questions and framing pertinent issues under each thematic area. Once published and disseminated, the CGEP will allow a better national understanding of progress towards Nepal's international, regional and national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. It will equally support the design of interventions to tackle gender inequalities and discrimination that are grounded in local realities and that reflect the needs of girls, women, boys, men, and those who are gender non-conforming.
- **An advocacy and communication strategy and inclusive audiovisual materials are promoting broad public participation to provide data in the upcoming NPHC 2021.** After organizing a Census data user-producer stakeholder consultation in September 2020, UN Women developed a GESI advocacy and communication strategy to ensure the meaningful engagement of decision-makers and other stakeholders – in all stages of the census. The consultation included CBS data producers as well as data users from relevant ministries and civil society networks representing ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ communities. A range of advocacy and communications materials were developed – including documentaries, audio and video public service announcements, posters and brochures aimed at encouraging the public to provide more

accurate data during the survey enumeration. The products are planned to be disseminated in August and September across the country using the 11 most-spoken local languages, with closed-captioned videos to reach people with disabilities. The engendered census will generate data for 58 SDG indicators disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity that are needed for gender-responsive policymaking and for SDG monitoring and making progress on gender equality in Nepal.

### FUTURE GENDER STATISTICS PLANS

As a result of the mid-term review conducted in 2019, the Nepal Women Count project was closed in December 2020 with the partnership agreement concluding in December 2021. UN Women's support on gender statistics has provided a significant push in the country to prioritize gender data. Building on the initial gains of the Women Count project and to continue the effort to produce quality and comparable data, and to promote the use, in 2021, UN Women Nepal will continue to support activities to provide gender-related data for informed decision-making to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, in the following ways:

- As a member of the Violence against Women Survey Steering Committee and Technical Community, and under the leadership of MoWCSC, UN Women will jointly conduct the Violence against Women prevalence survey with UNFPA in 2021, subject to availability of funds;
- Continue providing technical support and training for CBS in the conduct, analysis and dissemination of the findings of the engendered NPHC 2021;
- Support CBS to prepare a time use survey, including by developing a survey protocol, training, organizing user-producer dialogues, forming a steering and technical committee and mobilizing resources;
- Conduct dedicated research on violence against the LGBTIQ+ community in Nepal;
- Reprocess the Nepal Labour Force Survey 2019 and the National Economic Survey 2018 to develop an analytical paper on women's contribution to the national economy.

## ANNEX X.



2020

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### IN BRIEF:

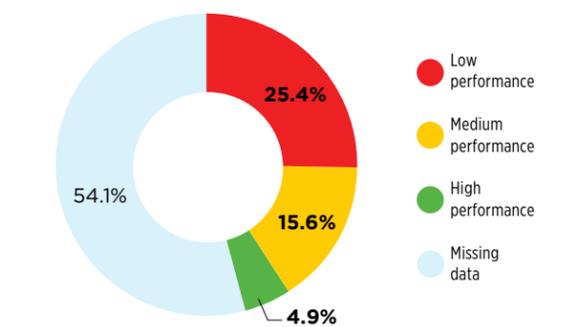
# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN BANGLADESH

### THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics, conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- The availability of gender data and statistics are uneven – across sectors and topics, as well as in regularity and timeliness. While there are numerous laws, policies and plans to address gender equality and women's empowerment, the gender data and statistics needed for monitoring and reporting are not available for many areas, and those statistics that are available are not updated.
- Surveys and censuses are not conducted regularly. Moreover, the national statistical system (NSS) does not have designated statistics – meaning there is no assurance that data collection will be resourced and done regularly.

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Bangladesh doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: Women Count Data Hub.

<sup>1</sup> including civil society organizations, academics, UN agencies, development partners, ministries and agencies

- Systems to facilitate efficient access and dissemination are virtually non-existent. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the statistical system, in general, do not have a dissemination policy or advance-release calendar. Access to statistics is complicated for non-government users.

### WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

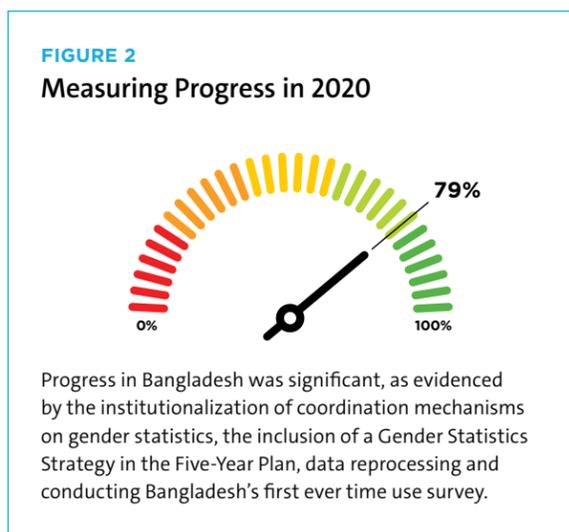
- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination mechanisms were established to strengthen coordination of gender statistics activities in the NSS.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacity of the national statistical system is being strengthened to collect data on unpaid care work to improve the monitoring of the SDGs.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** User-producer dialogues will be organized to improve gender statistics analysis and use in planning, budgeting, policy-making, and decision-making.

### RESULTS

To respond to COVID-19-related challenges, UN Women provided timely data on the impacts of the pandemic that fueled evidence-based emergency responses, through rapid gender assessments. In addition, institutional mechanisms were strengthened and expanded; the 8th Five-Year Plan now includes both a Gender Strategy and a dedicated chapter with gender indicators in its results framework. Methodology development of a time use survey (TUS) began in November 2020 and has already generated interest from policymakers, including calls from Parliament to develop a Satellite Account of unpaid care and domestic work. A data-reprocessing study is fueling a push to mainstream gender across all BBS surveys. Key results in 2020 include:

#### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **The latest Five-Year Plan (FYP) now includes Gender Strategy and the first-ever chapter on gender.** UN Women supported the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and the BBS in the preparation of a Gender Strategy that is now incorporated in a gender chapter within the 8th FYP (2021–2026). The Plan's results framework includes 15 gender-specific indicators and calls specifically for a TUS to help track SDG 5.4.1.



- **An institutional mechanism on gender statistics strengthens coordination and boosts gender data production, including on time use.** Composed of a Steering Committee, a monitoring committee and a technical committee, this inter-ministerial coordination mechanism is central to improving the governance, production and use of gender statistics in Bangladesh's NSS. The mechanism, which includes the Ministries of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Health, Education and Planning, was central to the implementation of the TUS (completed in April 2021). Furthermore, the Parliament has requested that the data from the TUS is used by the BBS to create a satellite account for the valuation of time use activities, which is expected to in turn inform policy-making to address unpaid care and domestic work.
- **The Gender Cell is now considered a strategic unit and knowledge center that has been institutionalized within the structure of the BBS.** The Gender Cell, established as part of Women Count activities, was supported to study how the BBS can generate data for gender-related SDG indicators by processing and re-processing existing data. It contributed also significantly to the design of the TUS. Recently, the Gender Cell has started contributing to other BBS departments to include a gender perspective or gender modules in other surveys. For example, the BBS units on 'hygiene statistics' and disability statistics approached the Gender Cell to ask for guidance in collecting data for these sectors. The Gender Cell also plans to provide support for the upcoming Labor Force Survey.

- **Bangladesh's national SDG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEFSDG) was updated to include missing baseline and target information and is nearly doubling the data available since the Women Count project began.** Gender-related data from existing surveys can now be used to generate around 60% of gender-related SDG indicators, including on time use based on UN Women's support. This is a notable increase from the 37% of gender indicators for which data were readily available at the project's inception. The Ministry of Planning initiated this exercise and included as many gender indicators in the framework as possible. The TUS served as a crucial reference for SDG 5.4.1 to set the 2021 baseline of the MEFSDG, and its targets for the next 9 years. The MEFSDG will be used to inform Bangladesh's Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDG progress.

#### 2. Increasing data production

- **Bangladesh began conducting its first-ever time use survey, despite the pandemic, and Parliament requested tracking of the contribution of women's unpaid work to national GDP.** Despite COVID-19-related challenges, the BBS and UN Women continued developing the time use survey as planned, including the questionnaire, manual, and survey plan. The BBS conducted a sampling exercise, pre-tested the questionnaire, and trained both the Gender Statistics Cell and subnational officials, including 72 data collectors, producers, editors and coders who learned detailed techniques for TUS data collection and analysis. TUS data collection began in November 2020, with a sample of 8,000 households in 64 districts and was completed in April 2021. The BBS also received a request from the Parliament to develop a satellite account based on TUS data to measure women's unpaid care and domestic work to estimate its contribution to national GDP. Additionally, with support from UN Women, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is updating the national action plan of the National Women's Development Policy to include women's unpaid care and domestic work issues, in line with the initial findings of the TUS.
- **New gender data provided national and regional analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls.** The first RGA was part of a regional series of surveys conducted in April 2020 across 11 countries, with nearly 2,300 respondents in Bangladesh.

Among other things, it found that women were far more likely to lose their jobs or decrease their working hours than men (83% of women versus 14% of men in formal employment); women were also more likely than men to report spending increased time on unpaid care and domestic work (55% of women versus 44% of men noted increased domestic work). The second RGA, a national rapid gender analysis, was conducted in May 2020, mainly as a desk review by UN Women and the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, but also drawing on the regional RGA survey data. The report noted that it is critical to mitigating the immediate and long-term impact of COVID-19 on child marriages with a comprehensive multisectoral response to preventing child marriage through access to education, psychosocial support, sexual health and reproductive rights and social protection. It also recommended including efforts to end violence against women in national response plans, properly train and equip front-line service providers and CSOs, and ensure that referral pathways are clear and include prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse within protocols and codes of conduct for quarantine centers.

- **A data processing/reprocessing study is helping mainstream gender across all BBS surveys.** Conducted with technical support from UN Women, the study analyzed existing BBS surveys, identified data gaps in relation to gender-related SDG indicators and proposed a methodology to include gender indicators in all BBS upcoming surveys. The BBS plans to organize a workshop with all its departments and wings to share the report (to be published in 2021) and start implementing its recommendations to mainstream gender in all BBS surveys<sup>1</sup>. In 2021, BBS will also organize a workshop with line ministries to validate the study and to develop a strategy to minimize gender data gaps in Bangladesh. The BBS is developing a guidance note that will further use findings from the report and it will upload the study on its website for wider dissemination.

#### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Gender microdata is now available to researchers for further analysis.** Data accessibility is poised to increase with a BBS commitment to upload all survey findings on their webpage at the earliest possible time and to make microdata available to researchers. This institutional commitment was made by the

<sup>1</sup> Such as the Agriculture Census, Labor Force Survey, and Household Income and Expenditure Survey

Secretary of the Statistics and Informatics Division. Microdata are also being made available to researchers through a clearance process.

- **Two policy briefs supported by UN Women are expected to fuel evidence-based decision-making.** The first brief, on gender-based education, found that girls' enrolment is high in primary education but drop-out rates are high in secondary school and there is low participation in tertiary education – the main factors cited being high rates of child marriage and violence against women. The brief, published on the BBS website is expected to inform future decisions of the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) to improve female participation in tertiary education. The second policy brief, on Gender-Based Employment and Wage, will be published in 2021 and will raise awareness about the gender gap in the employment sector in Bangladesh.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

The Women Count project in Bangladesh ended in April 2021 with a focus on completing the field data collection of the TUS before project closure. Despite its conclusion, UN Women will continue to support

activities to provide gender-related data for informed decision-making, in the following ways:

- The BBS will release primary data by September 2021. UN Women will support its analysis and dissemination through seminars and workshops with media and stakeholders. A forward-looking policy advocacy strategy has also been discussed by UN Women and BBS;
- Discussions will continue developing a satellite account using time use data at the request of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Planning;
- User-producer dialogues, postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19, will be organized by BBS;
- A gender compendium-2022 will be developed and a minimum set of gender indicators for Bangladesh will be finalized and disseminated;
- The BBS will conduct a national violence against women survey with support requested from UN Women;
- The BBS will also organize a workshop with line ministries to validate the data reprocessing study and to develop a strategy to minimize gender data gaps in Bangladesh.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ANNEX XI.



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#### IN BRIEF:

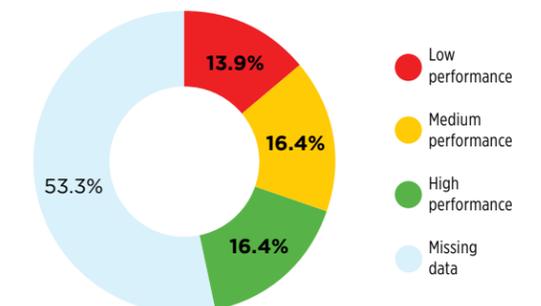
## MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN MOROCCO

#### THE ISSUE

A national assessment of gender statistics in Morocco, conducted in 2019, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Morocco's fragmented statistical system lacks coordination, as several institutions are in charge of producing gender-disaggregated statistics and sensitive data – including the High Commission for Planning (HCP), ministries, independent observatories and the national bank.
- Irregular production of gender data, including related to violence against women and girls and women's economic empowerment, are challenges that are partly the result of the HCP's lack of financial capacity.

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Morocco doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#).

- Gender statistics producers and users lack skills and human resources, while vocational training and capacity-building remains limited.

## WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Efforts include engaging stakeholders and training to advocate for reform, and developing recommendations to improve the legal, political, and institutional environment for the production and use of gender statistics.
- **Increasing data production:** Training is being delivered to increase the capacities of national and regional statistics producers to generate gender-sensitive statistics, in keeping with international norms and standards. Financial and technical support is being provided for the production and analysis of gender statistics, particularly on violence against women and girls and women's economic empowerment.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** User-producer dialogues are being held to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics. The national statistical office is also being supported to produce infographics and user-friendly gender-data-related documents.

## RESULTS

As a response to COVID-19, the activities planned in Morocco were restructured so that in-person trainings were held virtually, and the gendered impacts of COVID-19 were measured through three surveys to inform Morocco's emergency responses. Furthermore, UN Women focused its support to HCP on advancing coordination mechanisms, including making significant progress on amending the Statistics Bill, reporting and disseminating survey results on violence against women, as well as the first-ever violence against women costing estimates. Key results in 2020 include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **A legal framework in Morocco's Statistics Bill was revised to pave the way for strengthened governance of gender statistics.** In a national assessment on gender statistics conducted in 2019, UN Women and HCP highlighted the need to revise Morocco's 1968-dated Statistics Bill to reform the governance of the existing coordination mechanism, and add a gender perspective. In 2020, UN Women drafted a gender-sensitive amendment to draft law N. 109-14, reflecting international best practices on the

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



Progress is due to increased appreciation of the need to improve systems, including through a draft amendment of the country's Statistics Bill, which now includes gender statistics, as well as critical statistical activities, such as the three COVID-19 surveys and the first-ever costing estimates of violence against women.

integration of gender in the NSS and advocated for its approval by HCP. The revised legal framework for gender statistics is expected to be included in the draft Statistics Bill, whose approval is currently on hold due to COVID-19 priorities. Once passed, the bill will reform the governance of gender statistics, a move that will be ground-breaking for the promotion of gender statistics in Morocco.

- **UN Women formed a partnership with the European Union (EU) to jointly strengthen gender statistics in Morocco.** This partnership, worth EUR 700,000 (USD 835,275) to be initiated in 2021, allows the progress achieved under the Women Count project to be furthered, notably by developing gender analyses of existing surveys, producing gender-sensitive relevant indicators and statistics, as well as by facilitating the use and dissemination of gender statistics.

### 2. Increasing data production

- **New gender data was generated to inform Morocco's emergency responses to COVID-19.** UN Women supported the implementation of three rapid gender assessment (RGAs) in Morocco. HCP was supported in implementing two surveys measuring the gendered impact of the pandemic on Moroccan households during lockdown and the social, economic and psychological effects of the pandemic post-lockdown between April and June of 2020. UN Women Morocco also took part in an Arab State regional survey and report that assessed the effects of the pandemic on gender equality and violence against women. Subsequently, UN Women, in partnership

with UNICEF, WHO, FAO, UNFPA and UNDP, started designing a new comprehensive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in Morocco, that will cover a much larger sample (10,000 households). The new survey will ensure better representation and regional coverage, and provide more detailed analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on households, enabling the localization of SDG indicators. The results of this new survey will be available in 2021. For future RGAs, UN Women also trained 10 HCP staff on the inclusion of a gender dimension in the survey design and the analysis of gender data.

- **Morocco's first-ever analysis of the economic costs of violence against women is informing advocacy and driving a new zero-tolerance government policy.** After building the capacities of data producers in 2019, UN Women supported HCP in producing estimates of the costs of gender-based violence in 2020, broken down by type (conjugal, family, in places of study, workplaces and public places), and by form (physical, sexual or psychological) to provide detailed information on the extent of violence and the resulting economic costs. The findings highlight that domestic violence is the costliest form of violence – estimated at 1.98 billion Moroccan Dirham (USD 222 million) – with healthcare expenses accounting for most of the direct costs, and lost income due to missed work (paid or domestic) making up almost all indirect costs. The estimates – a first not only in Morocco but across the Arab States – were widely covered in Moroccan media and will enrich ongoing advocacy initiatives and have helped fuel the Government's call for a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Policymakers identified gender-based violence as a critical obstacle after a report on the Violence against Women and Girls survey was disseminated.** Supporting HCP's ambitions to strengthen gender statistics and the availability of comprehensive reports in Morocco, UN Women published and disseminated the country's first synthesized report on violence against women based on gender data produced in 2019 covering new topics such as cyberviolence and the reproduction of violence and its impact on children, as well as the region's first costing of

gender-based violence. The preliminary report's findings were included in the National Integrated Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment launched in 2020, as well as the New Development Model launched in 2021, with both identifying gender-based violence as a critical obstacle to tackle and call for a zero-tolerance policy. Moreover, at least 30 Moroccan civil society organizations have used the data directly in their advocacy for special measures to protect women during the pandemic.

- **Moroccans have a better understanding of the pivotal role of gender statistics for policymaking thanks to a series of infographics and videos.** Complementing the production and analysis of gender data, UN Women produced easy-to-understand infographics, videos and an online quiz to disseminate the results of the RGAs and violence against women reports and surveys produced together with HCP. In parallel, eight staff members of HCP's communication department learned how to disseminate gender statistics to reinforce the preparation of infographics and videos. The findings were widely covered by national and subnational media. Meanwhile, civil society organizations used this advocacy material to further disseminate RGA data on the impacts of COVID-19, the findings of the violence against women report, and the costing of violence study, thereby contributing to awareness-raising.
- **More than 350 data users and producers are now more aware of the critical role of gender statistics to achieving gender equality, as a result of two user-producer dialogues.** Firstly, during World Statistics Day in October, more than 200 of Morocco's most prominent statistics users and producers<sup>2</sup> discussed ways to facilitate a more favorable environment for the development, integration and use of gender statistics, based on the violence against women survey results. This debate enabled HCP and different stakeholders present to collectively understand the uses, needs and relevance of gender statistics. Secondly, a user-producer dialogue organized during 16 Days of Activism in November discussed the critical role of gender statistics for understanding violence against women in general, and during times of crisis in particular,

<sup>1</sup> National Integrated Plan for Women economic empowerment (Government endorsed in July 2020)

<sup>2</sup> Such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development, High Authority for Audiovisual Communication, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry

based on the RGA and violence reports. The dialogue was initiated by keynote speakers<sup>3</sup> advocating for more violence against women data. The discussion among 150 participants built momentum for gender statistics across Morocco and increased awareness among data users and producers on data needs in order to contribute to ending violence against women. These efforts resulted in a better understanding and readiness from HCP to further discussions to adopt the draft Statistics Law in the coming years.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Developing regional trainings targeting HCP executives on gender statistics;

- Organizing advocacy initiatives to raise awareness for the reform of the Statistical Bill;
- Continue supporting HCP in measuring the impact of COVID-19 on Moroccan households, developing a satellite account of households, and analyzing social norms and gender relations in Moroccan households;
- Developing an online platform displaying results from the employment survey and its multimedia content;
- Finalizing and launching communication products, including animated videos on violence against women and COVID-19.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ANNEX XII.



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#### IN BRIEF:

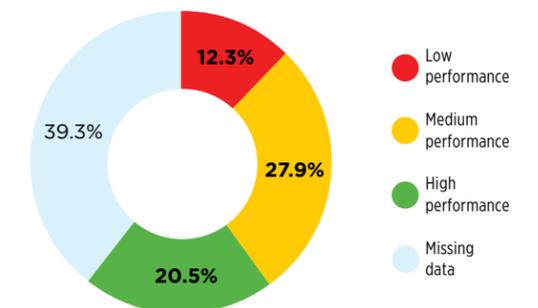
## MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN COLOMBIA

#### THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics conducted in 2019 in Colombia revealed three interrelated challenges:

- The national statistical system (NSS) has multiple entities producing statistical information, which can lead to duplication and inconsistency.
- There is limited information and evidence to inform local policymaking and weak capacity to produce gender data on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the subnational level. There is limited training on gender perspectives or intersectional approaches for staff that produce and disseminate statistics.

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Colombia doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: Women Count Data Hub.

<sup>3</sup> Including: P. Mikos, Head of the European delegation in Morocco, Driss El Yazami, former President of the National Council of Human Rights, and Ouadih Dada Editor-in Chief and news presenter of 2M.

- Gender statistics are not concentrated in a single place and there is limited availability of survey and census microdata. There are also few feedback mechanisms to detect unsatisfied needs from users – with half of the country’s institutions lacking such mechanisms.

### WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination between the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) and the Presidential Council for Women’s Equality (CPEM) is improving. A coordination mechanism will also be established to facilitate exchanges between key actors in the NSS to better mainstream gender in national policies and legal frameworks.
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of DANE are being strengthened and quality data on time-use, political participation and security are being produced to improve SDG monitoring.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Partnerships with national and regional Gender Observatories are being strengthened to improve data accessibility and use. Publications on the status of women and men in Colombia are being produced and widely disseminated to track progress towards gender equality and inform public policies, as a part of broader and substantive support to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of key public policies.

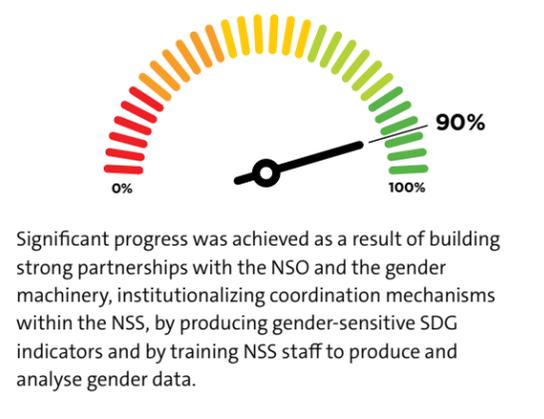
### RESULTS

As a response to the pandemic, UN Women in Colombia conducted a rapid gender assessment (RGA) on the impacts of COVID-19 on women and men. Additionally, UN Women produced the first Country Gender Equality Profile as a key input to inform the National Gender Policy. Support in 2020 also focused on institutionalizing coordination mechanisms within the NSS and through the National Colombian Women’s Observatory, producing gender-sensitive indicators to effectively measure the SDGs, and training NSS staff to produce and analyze gender data. Key results in 2020 include:

#### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **New Technical Advisory Committee paves the way to institutionalize a coordination mechanism on gender statistics.** UN Women supported DANE, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to institutionalize a gender and intersectional approach in the NSS. This

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



is being further promoted through a newly created network of ‘gender champions’, consisting of experts with extensive knowledge on gender and intersectionality, to accompany the six specialized subgroups that comprise the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Statistical System (CASEN).

#### 2. Increasing data production

- **Significant progress was achieved on producing data for gender-related SDGs.** UN Women, in partnership with ECLAC and the World Bank, supported DANE and CPEM in strengthening the Colombian Women’s Observatory to effectively measure the SDGs, by defining and producing the first national set of 99 gender-sensitive indicators. In addition, the latest DANE barometer – a tool to measure progress on SDG indicators – reflects significant improvement on gender equality.
- **The RGA informed socioeconomic policy responses on the impact of COVID-19 on women and men, including justifying a social-welfare programme.** In partnership with CPEM, UN Women conducted an RGA in November 2020 that revealed that most Colombians saw decreased income, lost jobs and lost businesses amid the pandemic, with women faring worse than men. The findings helped justify and extend existing social welfare programmes – such as the Formal Employment Support Programme, which offers differential subsidies (50% for women versus 40% for men) and the Public Employment Service, which has placed 300,000 women in formal employment during the pandemic, while underlining the need to support women’s

entrepreneurship and formalization. The findings also contributed to structuring a pilot project for Women’s Entrepreneurship with prioritized funding from the national tax system for projects that reach rural women. Building on the success of the RGA, UN Women, in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, is developing a second RGA in 2021 focused on the needs of people with disabilities.

- **Nearly 50 data users and producers now have detailed knowledge of how to better produce, analyze and use gender statistics.** DANE and CPEM, with support from UN Women and ECLAC, conducted an intensive 60-hour training on producing gender indicators and gender statistics. Between November and December 2020 20 data producers and 29 data users increased their ability to produce, analyze and use gender statistics, and designed individual strategies for how to integrate gender and intersectional approaches in their work. The National Planning Department (DPN), DANE and two local Women’s Secretariats have also started sensitizing their peers on the importance of a gender-sensitive approach to data. The most active participants in the first edition of the training will be selected as gender champions to continue incorporating gender and intersectional approaches within the CASEN. This training will be replicated in 2021 after positive feedback from this first round.
- **Gender dimensions were strengthened in key statistical projects in Colombia.** UN Women promoted the inclusion of a gender perspective in key statistical projects of the NSS, including the Economic Census and the Multipurpose Cadaster. Following initial workshops in 2019, a methodological guide was produced in 2020 on the “Gender perspective in field interventions for the Multipurpose Cadaster”. The publication guides the collection and production of data on access, tenure and use of land to inform policymakers about the barriers to owning land faced by women in Colombia. Importantly, the incorporation of a gender perspective is one of the main commitments made by the Government of Colombia in the Peace Accord with the FARC guerrilla group on rural reform.
- **Joint analysis of time-use data increased DANE’s capacities and enabled the early release of partial time use survey results.** UN Women supported DANE in preparing two surveys, the time use survey and the second Coexistence and Citizen Security Survey. During the analysis, UN Women supported

DANE to strength staff capacities to integrate a gender perspective in survey design and results analysis to inform future surveys. An analysis of data from the time-use survey (2016/2017) resulted in a special publication in 2020, that is now available to inform decision-making. The analysis informed the third National Survey on Time-Use, for which data collection began in August 2020. Given the need for information during the most critical months of the COVID-19 pandemic, DANE developed a preliminary bulletin with partial results that revealed that women were shouldering more than twice as many hours of unpaid work as men (8 hours vs. 3).

#### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Colombia produces and launches the country’s first Gender Equality Profile, with significant media interest.** *Women and Men: Gender Gaps in Colombia*, the country’s first gender statistical profile was published by DANE, CPEM and UN Women in November 2020 at an event opened by Vice-President Martha Lucía Ramírez – a clear demonstration of the strong and high-level support of the national Government. The launch was livestreamed on Facebook, garnering more than 25,000 views and 1,239 interactions. The report had 87,300 downloads within a month of its release. To amplify the dissemination of the launch event, as well as the results of the publication, an alliance was established with the national newspaper *El Espectador*. Also, the event was covered in at least 47 national, regional, and local media reports, as a result of strong media outreach and the buy-in of the event moderator, a leading journalist.
- **Four partnerships enabled the production and dissemination of 11 knowledge products.** UN Women consolidated four key strategic partnerships with DANE, CPEM, ECLAC, and the University of Nariño to promote knowledge-sharing and methodologies to strengthen the NSS and monitor the SDGs. The partnerships resulted in 11 knowledge products to enhance the accessibility and use of gender statistics, including three books, four statistical newsletters and four infographics to promote the analysis and use of data from a gender-sensitive and intersectional perspective. The paper “*Time for care: inequality figures*” was launched in July at an event with 170 participants. The results of several of these knowledge products are expected to inform the development of the National Care Policy and the National Gender Policy, both of which will be finalized in 2021.

- **UN Women strengthened five Women's Observatories to increase data availability and improve monitoring.** The Women's observatories are a mechanism that facilitates the access, analysis and use of gender statistics to monitor national and subnational commitments to gender equality. UN Women's partnership with the network of observatories at the national and subnational level increased coordination on gender affairs across Colombia. As an example, the subnational observatory in Nariño produced and used infographics and figures amid the COVID-19 pandemic, launched a radio show and a public participation forum, and supported applied research on gender statistics, all with the goal to encourage dialogue and evidence-based decision-making on gender equality.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Implementing the second training on "gender statistics and indicators";
- Supporting data production, the global and national report on SDG indicators 5.1.1 and 5.4.1, and providing technical assistance for the preparation of Colombia's third Voluntary National Review on the SDGs;

- Developing interoperable indicators for the Integrated Information System on Gender Violence;
- Conducting a second dedicated RGA on the characteristics and needs of the people with disabilities;
- Developing the operational framework of the Gender Atlas for the geospatial analysis of issues such as economic empowerment and care work;
- Providing guidance on the design of the new national gender policy and the first district care system in Bogotá as well as the national evaluation system led by the National Planning Department;
- Producing knowledge products to guide decision-making, including a Situational analysis of people with disabilities, and an analysis of the Quality-of-Life National Survey from a gender perspective;
- Continuing the institutionalization of gender statistics within the UN and UN Women in Colombia by incorporating gender statistics as a core function and in new projects and programmes.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ANNEX XIII.



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#### IN BRIEF:

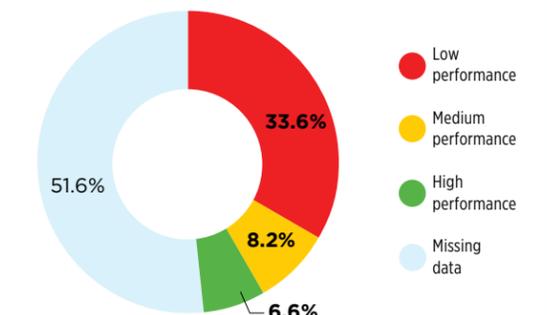
## MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN CAMEROON

#### THE ISSUE

A national assessment of gender statistics, conducted in 2018, revealed three interrelated challenges:

- Gender is insufficiently integrated into Cameroon's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Within the National Statistical System (NSS), there are no specific laws or regulations governing gender statistics, although general references are made by many statistical regulations and laws on gender.
- Few financial resources are allocated to gender statistics within Cameroon's NSS. There is little understanding of gender-related issues by national statisticians, and poor collaboration between the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF).

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Cameroon doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#).

- There is poor dissemination of gender statistics, at both national and local levels, as a result of: limited dialogue between statistics users and producers, the absence of a mechanism to facilitate coordination, and an overall misunderstanding of gender statistics and their importance.

### WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Coordination mechanisms were established to improve coordination on gender statistics, and to improve the normative framework through the adoption of a minimum set of gender indicators.
- **Increasing data production:** Technical capacities of the NIS are strengthened to produce gender data in the General Census of Agriculture and Livestock, and the General Population and Housing Census.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** MINPROFF is being supported to establish a gender information system with a central online database for storing and sharing gender-related SDG indicators, while parliamentarians, media, civil society organizations (CSOs), academics, ministries and the private sector are being trained to use and analyze gender statistics in decision-making.

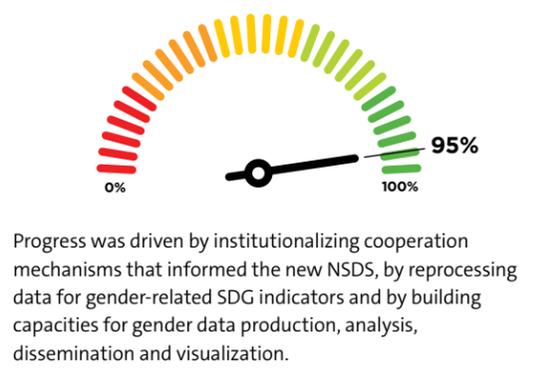
### RESULTS

In response to the pandemic, UN Women, in partnership Cameroon's Central Bureau for the Census and Population Studies (BUCREP) and MINPROFF, produced a rapid gender assessment (RGA) on the impacts of COVID-19 on women and men. Interventions in 2020 focused on institutionalizing cooperation mechanisms which informed the development of the new NSDS, reprocessing existing data for gender-related SDG indicators, preparing reports and building capacities on data production and use. A special focus was put on advocacy and dissemination of gender data through a new web-based data platform and training for data users and producers on gender data visualization and communication. Key results of 2020 include:

#### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **Gender-sensitive data collection has been made mandatory in the third NSDS 2020–2030.** Building on the assessment of gender data gaps in the second NSDS 2015–2020, the National Statistical Council (NSC) conducted a consultative process, aiming to prioritize gender statistics in the third NSDS 2020–2030 (adopted in April 2021). As a result, the new

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



NSDS includes a Gender Action Plan, prepared by the committee with support from UN Women, and a specific objective to collect gender-sensitive data in all surveys in Cameroon. With the NSDS being the only framework for all statistical activities in the country, all institutions producing official statistics are thus required to produce gender data to comply with national requirements.

- **The interministerial committee secured increased funding for gender statistics and was declared the custodian for Cameroon's gender commitments.** Established with support from Women Count, the interministerial committee and the technical committee within the NIS have become driving forces for the promotion of gender statistics, having contributed to the third NSDS, the ongoing General Census for Agriculture and Livestock, and the formulation of the Statistics Law. This mandate was further strengthened through the interministerial committee's nomination in the third NSDS as the guardian for implementing Cameroon's gender commitments. Finally, these committees advocated for financing of gender statistics, resulting in the Government allocating XAF 400,000,000 (USD 728,000) to MINPROFF's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, to finance gender statistics activities and reforms.
- **2. Increasing data production**
- **New gender data were collected on the impacts of COVID-19 on women and men, which informed Cameroon's national response plan.** UN Women, in partnership with BUCREP and MINPROFF, produced an RGA on the impacts of COVID-19. As one of the first countries on the African continent hit by the

pandemic, Cameroon required timely information on the impacts for evidence-based decision-making, particularly on violence against women. The findings have informed the socioeconomic response plan used by the Government and UN agencies to call for special attention to domestic violence and women in the informal sector of the economy. Various women's organizations, mainly those from the CSOs Working Group on Gender and Public Policies, also used the report to develop COVID-19-socio-economic respond related projects.

- **Data reprocessing has strengthened the monitoring of gender-related SDGs.** BUCREP took the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in 2020 as an opportunity to produce a report highlighting progress on all 53 gender-related SDGs in Cameroon, with support from Women Count, using reprocessed data sets.<sup>1</sup> The findings emphasized Cameroon's progress on commitments to improving the rights of women and girls, education and health, while identifying room for improvement in the areas of employment, land tenure and political participation. The results were further reflected in three policy briefs prepared by NIS on data disaggregation that raise awareness and aim to ensure that no one is left behind. The Government used the reports and policies briefs to position gender as one of the key issues to address in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) that will be conducted in 2021.
- **Regional collaboration improved capacities for preparing the Gender Demographic Dividend Index (GDDI).** UN Women partnered with the Senegalese Centre for Intergenerational Economy (CREG) to train Cameroonian experts on preparing the GDDI. The 18 participants from the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MINEPAT), BUCREP, NIS and MINPROFF benefited from CREG's long-standing experience with the GDDI, having developed the index for all Sahel countries as part of a UNFPA and World Bank partnership. The training followed a request from the Government, which wants to use the index to identify gender inequalities in accessing development opportunities in order to take measures to ensure more gender-equitable participation in national development. As a result of the training, a technical team of five trained participants was formed and tasked with drafting a GDDI report that is intended

<sup>1</sup> These include the 2018 Demographic and Health Survey, 2017 survey on financial inclusion, 2016 Census of Enterprises, 2014 Household Survey, and existing administrative data.

to become a reference document to monitor national efforts in capturing gender demographic dividends.

- **Forty-five data producers have improved gender data skills through two trainings, while media coverage and public awareness of gender issues have increased.** Firstly, UN Women trained 15 MINPROFF officials in charge of statistics on how to manage statistical information and present data on gender issues. Secondly, harnessing the Journalist Network created under Women Count, 30 experts from NIS and BUCREP were trained on gender data visualization and statistical inserts in media. After the training, an increasing number of articles and inserts appeared in the media on gender issues, increasing public knowledge and awareness and highlighting the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in Cameroon. This training was widely appreciated by NIS and the MINPROFF, leading to a request to institutionalize the training as an annual session to build the capacities of new data producers that rotate across government positions.

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **The adopted Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (MSGI) informed policymaking.** Following the adoption of the MSGI by the NSC in 2019, the list of 53 gender-related indicators has since been published and widely disseminated to 200 institutions, such as academia, CSOs and development partners who use them for planning, advocacy and decision-making. The MSGI formed the baseline for the preparation of a framework on gender statistics annexed to the third NSDS, which guides the production of new data. The Ministry of Finance, in partnership with the International Monetary Fund, started using the MSGI to prepare a national reform of gender-responsive budgeting. To strengthen the Ministry's capacities, UN Women also delivered a module on indicators for gender-responsive budgeting during an IMF-organized training in 2020.
- **Advocacy and government planning on gender equality was supported through three policy briefs.** Building on the findings of the gender-related SDG indicators report, the interministerial committee requested the production of policy briefs on three priority topics by the technical committee to inform Cameroonian ministries on gender indicators related to: health

(SDG4), poverty and financial inclusion (SDGs 1&8), and women's entrepreneurship (SDGs 5 & 8). Endorsed by MINPROFF as key advocacy instruments for gender equality, the policy briefs provide an overview of gender equality in these respective areas and recommend actions to close gender gaps. Following the finalization of the third NSDS and the Statistics Law, ministries increasingly approach the technical committee for guidance on addressing gender in their policymaking, so these policy briefs are key tools to include gender data in their planning processes.

- **A central online database was launched as a new dissemination tool on gender statistics.** UN Women supported NIS and MINPROFF to develop and launch a central database to serve as a one-stop-shop for users to access all available gender data related to the SDGs, the MSGIs and the BPfA, to inform and improve decision-making on gender equality and women's empowerment. A special page on gender has been created on the Cameroon official open data web-portal and populated with available data. This achievement gave Cameroon an advantage during the negotiations conducted by the Government with the World Bank to host the Sahel Women's Empowerment Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) programme, for which it has obtained 5-year financial support worth USD 80 million.
- **Cameroon's first Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) has paved the way for a National Gender Policy.** UN Women supported the Government through the MINPROFF and Ministry of Economy and Planning in the production of its first CGEP, to be published in 2021. The CGEP highlights gender equality achievements and challenges in the country, across sectors such as the national economy, development of human capital and digitalization. Once validated by the Prime Minister's Office, it will become the main reference for all gender-related interventions in Cameroon over the next five years. MINPROFF will also use the CGEP to inform the development of the National Gender Policy.
- **A user-producer dialogue promoted the inclusion of gender in the new draft NSDS.** During the preparatory phase of the NSDS 2020–2030, UN Women supported the interministerial committee's advocacy to increase the importance of gender statistics in all upcoming strategies. A key event was the user-producer dialogue on gender issues related to the NSDS, attended by 60 data users and producers from government institutions, CSOs and development

partners. During the dialogue, the NSS collected important information on users' gender data needs that informed the development of the third NSDS 2020–2030. Building on this success, the NIS has initiated a permanent user-producer dialogue framework on gender data.

- **More than 100 data users now have the skills to use gender data for advocacy and trained parliamentarians are citing gender data in budgetary discussions.** A total of 110 data users benefited from three trainings on communicating gender statistics and its importance for the promotion of gender equality in Cameroon, including statistics officials, parliamentarians and journalists on using gender data for advocacy and awareness. As a result of the training, more journalists are now including gender-data-related facts and figures in media reports on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, and the Gender Data Journalist Network has established a partnership with BUCREP to develop additional data visualization and Further disseminate in the media the gender-related results of the ongoing population and housing census. Moreover, 20 parliamentarians were trained on how to use gender data for advocacy on gender-based budgeting. All trained parliamentarians subsequently used this knowledge to advocate for the effectiveness of gender-responsive budgeting during a parliamentary budgetary session for 2021 in November 2020.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Continue supporting gender mainstreaming in the NSDS;
- Supporting production and quality control of gender data through surveys, such as on time use and ongoing censuses;
- Building the capacity of national statisticians on collecting, analysing and presenting gender statistics;
- Supporting the production of the GDDI to monitor gender equality objectives in national strategies and plans;
- Updating the central web database on gender statistics with newly released data and knowledge products;
- Continue facilitating user-producer dialogue on gender statistics and collaboration between MINPROFF and the institutions in charge of data production.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ANNEX XIV.



2020

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### IN BRIEF:

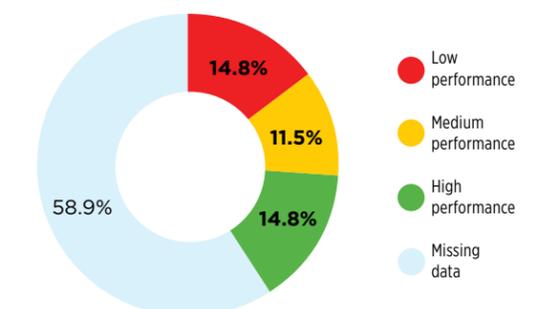
# MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN JORDAN

## THE ISSUE

A national assessment on gender statistics in Jordan was conducted in 2019, revealing three interrelated challenges:

- Gender statistics have not been included in Jordan's national statistics legislation, or in a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). There is a lack of coordination between government institutions on statistical production, in particular when it comes to gender statistics and sex- and age-disaggregated data.
- There is also limited institutional capacity for production, research and training on gender statistics in both the national statistics office as well as line ministries. Jordan faces challenges in technically demanding areas such as measuring time-use on unpaid care and domestic work, and costing a gender-based violence survey.

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Jordan doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: [Women Count Data Hub](#).

- There is limited analysis of statistical data, limited use of statistics by most policymakers and decision-makers and there are limited means used to disseminate data in a timely way.

## WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

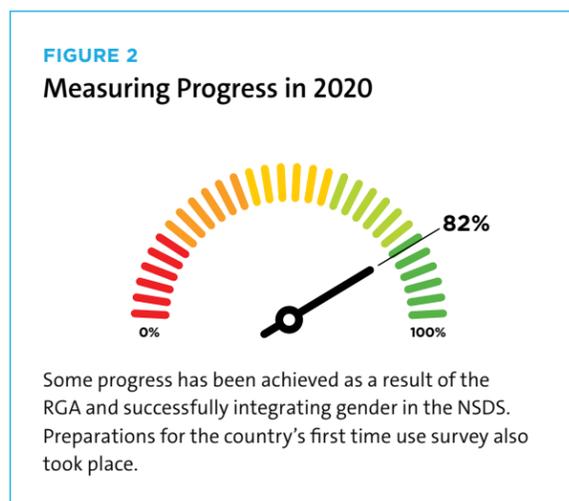
- **Creating an enabling environment:** Technical assistance is being provided to national stakeholders on gender statistics to ensure that data and analysis are integrated in planning documents (including the NSDS).
- **Increasing data production:** The technical capacities of the Department of Statistics (DOS) will be strengthened to map gender-related SDG indicators and analyze data on women's economic empowerment.
- **Improving data accessibility and use:** Gender statistics knowledge products are being produced and disseminated, including a country gender equality profile, while training is being organized for sub-national stakeholders on how to use and disseminate gender statistics data.

## RESULTS

In response to COVID-19, project activities have been adjusted and UN Women was able to pivot quickly to produce two key rapid gender assessments (RGAs) to inform decision-makers' responses as well as guidance on integrating an intersectional approach in RGAs. Support has included a gender review of numerous surveys and impact assessments planned by humanitarian and development partners. Additional work focused on institutionalizing gender statistics across the DOS through the established Committee and by preparing training material. Key results in 2020 include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **A National Gender Mainstreaming Policy and a National Strategy for Women were endorsed with language supporting the institutionalization of sex-disaggregated data collection.** The Gender Mainstreaming Policy seeks to ensure that all information, whether programmatic or institutional, can be analyzed from a gender perspective and can inform decision-making, planning, implementation, and reporting processes. Moreover, Women Count efforts supported the inclusion of an objective on gender statistics and SDG gender-related indicator data collection within the National Strategy for Women (NSW).



- **A new Institutional Capacity-Development Committee was established to build gender mainstreaming infrastructure in DOS.** As a follow-up to the commitment of the Government of Jordan to improve gender statistics in 2019, UN Women supported DOS in establishing an Institutional Capacity-Development (ICD) Committee to build individual and institutional capacities, which has led to the creation of a national coordination mechanism defined as a critical institution for gender mainstreaming by DOS. The ICD Committee seeks to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment tools and approaches in policies and planning across DOS. At the institutional level, a Memorandum of Understanding is being negotiated with DOS for the creation of a formal coordination mechanism on gender statistics in Jordan – a key milestone expected to pave the way for highlighting gender data in the next NSDS. UN Women provided technical support to the Committee and held an introductory workshop in 2020, with the participation of 18 committee members representing the different units and departments within DOS. The workshop ensured ministry-wide understanding of the importance of developing gender statistics capacities.
- **An intersectional approach is now reflected in key strategic documents.** UN Women Jordan has conducted a gender-based review of numerous surveys and impact assessments planned by humanitarian and development partners. It also produced Guidance on the integration of gender and intersectionality in COVID-19 rapid assessments in 2020, coupled with training on integrating an intersectionality lens in

methodological approaches, from survey design to analysis. As a result, an intersectional approach has been included in the UN Socio-Economic Framework for the COVID-19 Response in Jordan, which acknowledges gender equality as an accelerator for recovery, as well as in the addendum to the NSW, which recommends adaptations to strategic outcomes and outputs to account for gendered and intersectional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2. Increasing data production

- **New gender data improved programming to reach vulnerable women impacted by COVID-19.** To strengthen the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women undertook a rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable women. The assessment surveyed 847 Syrian refugees and Jordanians living in refugee camps or remote communities. One of the key findings was that 78% of women who did not have enough money to meet their food needs for two days have had to borrow money or goods from other households. Moreover, 62% of already vulnerable women indicated feeling at increased risk of physical or psychological violence because of the pandemic. As a result of these findings, UN Women transitioned its humanitarian programming towards cash assistance, online dissemination of reliable and accurate health information and remote gender-based violence services. The RGA results were widely disseminated, being referenced or discussed, in key policymaking fora, such as the Inter-ministerial Committee for Women, and the Humanitarian Development Partners Forum.
- **A national RGA provided insights on gender-related effects of COVID-19, and is improving the reporting of domestic violence.** The national survey of 1,300 respondents was conducted in May 2020 by the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, with support from UN Women, and at the request of the Economic and Social Council, which advises the Government on policy matters. The analysis of the socioeconomic and health effects of COVID-19 on women and men highlighted the importance of strengthening women's health and prenatal care and the need for adequate measures to address violence against women. The findings were included in the UN's Socio-Economic Framework (SEF) that served as a roadmap to support Jordan's response to COVID-19.

- **Regional RGA data on violence against women are being considered by relevant ministries.** Following the national RGA, UN Women Jordan collected 2,394 responses for a regional RGA on Violence Against Women (VAW) across nine Arab States countries, including Jordan, to capture regional impacts. Findings include a high number of respondents who reported personally knowing someone who had experienced domestic violence (55%) and online violence (43%) against women and girls since the outbreak. The Ministry of Social Development and the National Council for Family Affairs have both noted the data on violence against women (from both the national and regional RGA).
- **A survey on COVID-19 impacts for women-led small and medium-sized businesses will inform support measures.** In June 2020, UN Women, in partnership with Business and Professional Women Amman, assessed the impact of COVID-19 on women-owned small and medium-sized businesses, with 188 respondents. The collected data will be used to provide support to women-owned and women-led businesses and business that cater to women's needs that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 in 2021, implemented through a collaboration between UN Women and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

## 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Leave No One Behind principles using gender data have been prominently included in Jordan's Common Country Assessment.** The Common Country Assessment (CCA) prepared by the UN Country Team with the support of UN Women and other agencies, is an analysis of Jordan's current development status, to identify trends, priorities and progress towards the SDGs. The updated CCA addresses gender, both as a cross-cutting and stand-alone issue. UN Women has also ensured that data on the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in camp and non-camp settings informed the analysis in the CCA. The results are being used for the UN's 5-year strategic framework (UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework) in Jordan. UN Women successfully integrated the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle, the preparation of an SDG data repository and the identification of future areas of action. For example, the creation of a National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Register is being highlighted as a key initiative to strengthen Jordan's

efforts to improve gender statistics at the national and subnational level.

- **RGA findings launched through an online event with key decision-makers are being used to update the NSW in Jordan.** An online launch event for both the national and regional RGA findings was held in January 2021 to engage participants in deeper discussions through more interactive formats. In light of the findings, the Government of Jordan recognized the need to update the NSW, which was launched on 8 March 2020, just before the pandemic. The Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) worked with UN Women to develop an Addendum in June and July of 2020, which was later published as part of the NSW, using raw data from the national RGA. The JNCW has since also been working with UN Women to align the Government’s Executive Programme for 2021–2024, which will be published in 2021, with the NSW.

#### PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Continuing providing support to the ICD Committee at DOS to improve gender statistics in Jordan, including through the rollout of trainings;
- Conducting training on gender statistics, time use surveys and economic indicators;
- Supporting the JNCW in conducting a study on costing violence against women, in partnership with UNFPA;
- Implementing an inter-agency Rapid Impact Assessment of COVID-19, in partnership with ILO and UNFPA;
- Developing a Country Gender Equality Profile (GCEP).

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ANNEX XV.



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#### IN BRIEF:

## MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT IN SENEGAL

#### THE ISSUE

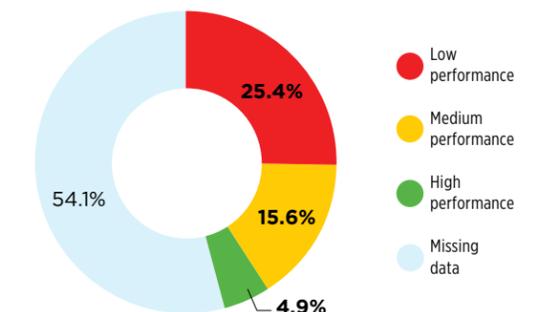
A national assessment on gender statistics was conducted in 2019 and revealed three interrelated challenges:

- There is no dedicated budget for gender statistics in Senegal and no component of the national statistical system (NSS) has a specific entity in charge of gender statistics. Although all NSS structures have a gender focal point or specialist, this is often a single staff member reporting to the head of that entity.
- Several data gaps – including how often gender data are produced and in which domains – are undetermined by the absence or poor quality of gender data. Data on wealth, income, expenditures and time-use of household members are generally not disaggregated by sex.
- There is no regular consultation, dialogue or cooperation between data producers and users, and no unified framework for disseminating gender indicators.

#### WOMEN COUNT RESPONSE:

- **Creating an enabling environment:** Gender was successfully integrated into the third National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2019–2023, setting the foundation for improved gender data.

**FIGURE 1**  
How is Senegal doing on gender data in 2020?



Source: Women Count Data Hub.

- **Increasing data production:** The capacity of the NSS is being improved to compile Tier I and II indicators for the SDGs and the minimum set of gender indicators to monitor commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and national priorities. New data-collection activities seek to address gender data gaps.

- **Improving data accessibility and use:** The regular publication of reports, factsheets and other tools on gender equality is being supported in all sectors, along with gender statistics literacy plans and in-depth research and analysis of Tier I, II and III gender indicators in the minimum set and for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). User-producer dialogues are also being institutionalized.

## RESULTS

In response to the pandemic, face-to-face meetings were held virtually and a rapid gender assessment (RGA) on the gendered effects of COVID-19 was carried out to collect data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, to inform policy and programmatic responses. Interventions in 2020 focused on establishing coordination mechanisms that paved the way for a Gender Statistics Action Plan (2020–2023), building capacities through training and producing gender data through a time use survey and the RGA. Key results in 2020 include:

### 1. Creating an enabling environment

- **A national coordination mechanism is established through the creation and operationalization of a Multipartite Gender Statistics Committee.** The Committee, chaired by the National Statistics and Demography Agency (ANSD), comprises 74 institutions across government, civil society and academia. Its role is to support the national statistical system (NSS) to address the limited production, analysis and use of gender statistics at national and sub-national levels. The Committee met twice in 2020 and guided the design and approval of the Gender Statistics Action Plan (2020–2023).
- **The new Gender Statistics Action Plan is a vital component of Senegal’s National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).** Considered pivotal for the improvement of gender statistics in Senegal, the new Gender Statistics Action Plan, prepared by the Multipartite Gender Statistics Committee with the support of UN Women, lays out priorities, gender indicators and required resources for the period 2020–2023. It guides the steps to be taken by the ANSD and the Senegalese Government to improve the production of sex-disaggregated data at national and sub-national levels and to increase accessibility for users. The first immediate action will be the inclusion of a gender chapter in the Economic and Social Situation report of Senegal, the most used of all ANSD reports. A donor

**FIGURE 2**  
**Measuring Progress in 2020**



Some progress has been achieved as a result of the RGA and successfully integrating gender in the NSDS. Preparations for the country’s first time use survey also took place.

roundtable is planned in 2021 to mobilize resources for the Gender Statistics Action Plan.

- **A new cooperation agreement with Agence Française de Développement (AFD) will further boost the production of gender statistics in Senegal.** Building on the joint priorities of UN Women and AFD in Senegal on the promotion of data for gender equality and women’s empowerment, an agreement was negotiated in 2020 (and formally signed in early 2021) to support the Women Count Senegal project until December 2022 with a budget of EUR 1.5 million (USD 1.8 million). The project will continue working towards the expected results set out by Women Count on improving the enabling environment for gender statistics, producing gender data and increasing gender data accessibility.
- 2. Increasing data production**
  - **One hundred data producers from across the NSS are now better equipped to collect data and close national gender data gaps.** UN Women, in collaboration with ANSD and the National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis, strengthened the capacities of 100 data producers across the NSS on the collection, processing and analysis of gender-sensitive data through five training sessions held at the national and subnational level. Learnings are being applied for the production of sex-disaggregated data as part of routine statistics produced annually by sectoral ministries.
  - **Preparation began for Senegal’s first-ever time use survey (TUS).** The NSDS 2019–2023 highlighted the need for detailed data on time use. In 2020, UN Women supported ANSD to implement a national

stand-alone TUS, with discussions about tools, sample sizes and timelines, while also building ANSD capacities on data-production methodologies. The TUS will provide information about time-use distribution between paid and unpaid work and its contribution to economic growth and well-being – essential data for policymaking to achieve the SDGs.

- **Senegal’s RGA yielded new data on the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 on women and men in Senegal.** In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women, in partnership with OHCHR and UNICEF, produced an RGA to provide the Senegalese Government with the necessary data for informed decision-making to mitigate the pandemic’s impact, particularly on women and girls. The findings informed the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection (MFFGPE)’s proposal for a Resilience-Building Programme for Households and Vulnerable Groups (PAREM), which has since received CFA 900 million (USD 1.7 million) in funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. Designed in early 2021, PAREM focuses on the economic resilience of women in the informal sector, through grants and economic support to women-led small and medium-sized enterprises and community capacity-building for vulnerable groups. The RGA has also increased the knowledge of social protection actors and data on access to health care and gender-based violence were shared with academics and policymakers during the Galien Forum Africa, which was hosted by the Government of Senegal in December.

### 3. Improving data accessibility and use

- **Policymakers were provided new knowledge about gendered disparities at work, informed of new policies in Senegal.** Using disaggregated data, UN Women drafted four studies on differential access to education for men and women, on determinants of violence against women, on gender disparities in access to formal employment, and on the role of

gender in measuring the contribution of entrepreneurship and leadership to added value. Two workshops were also organized to increase knowledge of data disaggregation techniques and disseminate the studies. By highlighting the disparities between men and women in these respective sectors and assessing the socio-economic and demographic factors contributing to such gaps, this research will inform future policy decisions and support the monitoring of SDGs 4, 5 and 8.

## PLANS FOR 2021\*

- Supporting the Multipartite Gender Statistics Committee’s mandate to coordinate the production of gender statistics;
- Continue supporting the NSS on data production and SDG monitoring, including completing the time use survey data production and report and reprocessing existing gender-related data;
- Supporting data analysis for the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators to produce Tier I/II gender-specific indicators;
- Helping establish and publish an open-access gender meta-database as well as developing and publishing guides, manuals, directories and notes on the use of gender data for data users;
- Organizing a round table with potential donors to finance the Gender Statistics Action Plan for 2020–2023;
- Supporting the updating of ANSD’s web platform to archive survey data;
- Contribute to compiling a list of Senegal’s key data users to determine the requirements for the collection of gender statistics.

\* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> As part of the 2020 comprehensive review of the SDG indicator framework, the IAEG-SDGs proposed 36 major changes to the framework, which were subsequently approved by the 51st Statistical Commission in March 2020. For the latest list, please see <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>.
- <sup>2</sup> Bangladesh, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania began implementation in 2018, while Senegal, Jordan, Cameroon and Colombia started in 2019. Albania is being supported through the Europe and Central Asia regional project. The project in Sierra Leone has been dropped as a result of UN reform.
- <sup>3</sup> Commitment made in 2020 and agreement signed in 2021.
- <sup>4</sup> Aside from the Women Count programme, UN Women has also worked with UNDP to track governments' COVID-19 policy responses to understand the extent to which they address women's concerns. See <https://data.unwomen.org/features/global-gender-response-tracker-assesses-covid-19-measures-women>
- <sup>5</sup> The COVID-19 MPTF is a United Nations inter-agency finance mechanism launched by the Secretary-General to support low- and middle-income programme countries in overcoming the health and development crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- <sup>6</sup> Tanzania conducted a study based on a desk-review in 2020 to assess the gendered impacts of COVID-19. However, because the study did not collect new survey data based on the standard UN Women RGA methodology, it is not counted as an RGA. In **Africa**, 13 RGAs have been conducted in partnership with NSOs in Cameroon, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Senegal and Uganda; with Ministries of Women in Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Guinea, Malawi, Rwanda and Senegal; and with UN agencies (ILO, OHCHR, UNDP and UNICEF). In **Asia and the Pacific**, 11 RGAs were rolled out, including in partnership with NSOs in Cambodia, Indonesia, Maldives and the Philippines and with Ministries of Women in Nepal, Pakistan, Samoa and Solomon Islands. In **Arab States**, UN Women engaged RIWI corp. to conduct a web survey in 9 countries nine countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen), focusing on gender roles, attitudes and practices related to gender equality and violence against women. Jordan also conducted its own vulnerability assessment, as well as a national RGA conducted in partnership with Jordan's Economic and Social Council. In **Europe and Central Asia**, UN Women, in coordination with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Resident Coordinators, conducted RGAs in 16 countries/territories across the region. In the **Americas and the Caribbean**, three RGAs have been conducted in Chile, Colombia and Mexico, all in collaboration with national women's machineries.
- <sup>7</sup> As of December 2020, nearly 50 had been completed. Resources can be accessed at <https://data.unwomen.org/COVID19> (Accessed 27 January 2021).
- <sup>8</sup> The three DEK Strategy objectives are: (1) Institutional policies, processes and mechanisms are put in place and capacities and resources are enhanced to promote a stronger DEK culture within UN Women; (2) Production of quality DEK is strengthened to support normative, programming and coordination work; and (3) Accessibility, capture, sharing and use of quality DEK in normative, programming and coordination work are enhanced to add value and enhance UN Women's delivery of results.
- <sup>9</sup> Includes both pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries.
- <sup>10</sup> Gender mainstreaming in NSDSs in: Lesotho, Senegal and the Maldives; stand-alone gender strategies in: Cambodia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Paraguay; gender strategic frameworks in Egypt and Kyrgyzstan.
- <sup>11</sup> The surveys include three surveys on violence against women, six time-use surveys and 62 specialized surveys on the gendered impact of COVID-19.
- <sup>12</sup> Bangladesh, Uganda, Tanzania, Colombia, Georgia, Armenia, Kenya and Senegal
- <sup>13</sup> Morocco, Kazakhstan and Uganda
- <sup>14</sup> Work under indicators 5.5.1b and 5.c.1 are not supported directly by the Women Count programme.
- <sup>15</sup> Impressions refers to the number of times the publication was accessed or downloaded.
- <sup>16</sup> The Action Coalitions are global multi-stakeholder partnerships with governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector that seek to catalyse collective action to fill critical data gaps, drive increased public and private investment, use gender data for advocacy and policy formulation, and develop measurable plans and accountability frameworks to deliver game-changing results for women and girls everywhere.
- <sup>17</sup> This scenario mainly affected projects in Nepal and Bangladesh.
- <sup>18</sup> Currently, there are only four regional Women Count projects, in East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Europe and Central Asia, and Asia and the Pacific. Regional projects do not exist in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab States; however, technical support on gender statistics has been provided to countries in these regions through the global project.
- <sup>19</sup> The maturity model classifies countries based on their level of preparedness on gender statistics development in general, across five key levels: Level 1 – Very low: Countries typically have very low technical capacity across the NSS. Processes are highly unpredictable, slow, poorly controlled and reactive; Level 2 – Low: Countries have some internal and external technical capacity to carry out gender statistics activities, but processes are still largely unpredictable and reactive. Level 3 – Average: The NSO is somewhat engaged and shows some interest in gender statistics; however, technical and financial support are still needed to implement activities; Level 4 – Good: Decent technical capacity exists and the NSO and other NSS actors are proactive. Some technical and financial support is needed but the NSO is largely autonomous and there are some financial investments from the Government; Level 5 – Advanced: Excellent technical capacity. The NSO is highly proactive and the production and use of gender statistics is compulsory. Technical and financial support is not needed. These countries can be considered “best practice/trend-setters” to share learnings.

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