



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME



BETTER GENDER STATISTICS FOR SDGs EVIDENCE-BASED LOCALIZATION

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The issue

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

At the international level there have been important advances related to gender statistics, including the adoption of the minimum set of gender indicators in 2013 by the UN Statistical Commission. Many of the selected indicators to monitor the gender-related SDGs build on these advances.

However, there remains important gaps in many areas of gender equality. Of the indicators to monitor SDG 5, only three have internationally accepted standards and data are regularly collected by countries. For the remaining 11 indicators, either standards exist but data collection is irregular, or in some cases standards are lacking altogether.

In the 2030 Agenda, localization and adequate monitoring of SDGs targets will be critical to ensure that policies are implemented. Targets that are not monitored due to lack of data are likely to receive less priority. Given these imperatives the need to produce relevant and quality gender-sensitive indicators to monitor the SDGs is now greater than ever. Without significant technical and financial investments to support National Statistical Systems (NSS) to tackle these challenges, there will be important gaps in our ability to adequately monitor the implementation of the SDGs.

Our strategy for change

Building on UN Women's unique normative, policy, programmatic and coordination mandates, this Flagship Programme Initiative (FPI) aims to address three inter-related challenges:

- Weak policy space and legal and financial environment to produce gender statistics at national level;
- Technical challenges within NSS that limit the production of gender statistics; and
- Lack of access and limited capacity on the part of users to analyse data to inform policies.

Actions needed to address these challenges will be country specific but fall under three broad categories:

UN WOMEN'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME INITIATIVES

Better Production and Use of Gender Statistics for Evidence-Based Localization of the SDGs is one of UN Women's Flagship Programming Initiatives designed to ensure that UN Women can deliver on the SDGs.

This Programme will support governments to improve the production of gender statistics to monitor SDGs, inform policy and ensure accountability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAMME, CONTACT:
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1. Enabling environment: Promoting a supportive policy environment to address institutional and financial constraints and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production of gender statistics.

2. Data production: Supporting efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics, including building the technical capacity of the NSS and providing financial support to collect data to monitor the SDGs and other national commitments.

3. Data accessibility: Promoting greater access and analysis of data by users, including open access, providing dissemination tools, supporting user-producer dialogues and strengthening the capacity of all relevant actors to use gender statistics in policy and advocacy.

How the Programme works

Key to the success of the programme 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 will not only prevent duplication of efforts but also ensure that support is provided where it is needed, when it is needed and in a cost-effective manner. Activities include:

PARTNERSHIPS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL: As a pilot initiative, between 2016 and 2020, the project will be implemented in 12 pathfinder countries through partnerships with national statistical offices and in coordination with other actors.

REGIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROJECTS: Projects will provide policy and programmatic support to countries to implement the FPI, to advocate for and dismantle barriers to the regular production of gender statistics; to support the



implementation of national plans to monitor the SDGs; and to promote South-South cooperation and sharing of best practices.

GLOBAL POLICY SUPPORT AND SDGs MONITORING: At global level, the project will coordinate all activities under the FPI and will link normative and technical work at the global level to the regional and national levels. Activities include: (1) Monitoring the SDGs through methodological work, data compilation and dissemination; and (2) Programmatic work to improve data on violence against women and unpaid care and domestic work.

Partnerships for change

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

COUNTRY LEVEL: Using our country presence, activities will promote greater access to data and foster a strong culture of user-producer dialogue and collaboration. Partnerships will be put in place to ensure that participatory plans for monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective are developed, financed and implemented on a regular basis.

REGIONAL LEVEL: Support inter-regional dialogue by establishing partnerships with UN Regional Commissions and other relevant regional and sub-regional institutions.

GLOBAL LEVEL: Work through existing mechanisms to improve coordination and strengthen relationships with important players to have gender perspectives reflected in national statistics strategies and other relevant policies.

FACTS AND FIGURES: GENDER DATA GAPS ARE PERVERSIVE

- 11 out of the 14 indicators in SDG5 do not have accepted international standards for measurement and/or data collection by most countries is irregular.
- 41 per cent of countries regularly produce violence against women data.
- 15 per cent of countries have legislation that mandates specialized gender-based surveys.
- 13 per cent of countries have a dedicated gender statistics budget.

Source: United Nations. 2013. Report of the UN Secretary-General on Gender Statistics.

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