Photo: UN Women Europe and Central Asia

IN BRIEF

GENDER AND DATA

April 2024

#WomenCount

UN WOMEN

📑 [Making Every Woman and Girl Count](#)

Where we work

Europe and Central Asia: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Key stakeholders/beneficiaires:

1. National statistical offices
2. Member states/line ministries
3. Civil society
4. Media
5. Academia and think tanks
6. Donors
7. Development partners and UN agencies
8. Youth
9. General public

Implementing organization/partners:

UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Donors:

Donors of the global Women Count programme: Governments of Australia, France, Ireland, Italy and Sweden, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Contribution to UN Women SP:

Contribution to UN Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025: Outcome 6 - Production, analysis and use of gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data

Contribution to UN SDGs:

SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11, and SDG 16.

THE ISSUE

Progress on national and international gender equality commitments will depend on the world's ability to implement effective evidence-based policies that respond to the needs of all women and girls. The latest available SDG 5 data show that the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030. Significant challenges to collecting and using timely and reliable gender data remain:

▪ Weak policy space, legal and financial environments posebarriers to progress. Gender statistics still suffer from chronic underfunding. The 2022 Partner Report on Support to Statistics found that funding for gender statistics has declined significantly despite the increase in funding for gender equality.

▪ Several critical data gaps remain that limit our understanding of key issues. These include women's economic empowerment, violence against women and the gender and environment nexus, along with disaggregated gender statistics for the most marginalized groups. Research from UN Women has found that it will take 11 years to close SDG gender data gaps. Without bold commitments to fill these gaps, our ability to measure progress towards achieving the gender equality commitments of the 2030 Agenda will remain impaired.

▪ Lack of access and limited use of gender data pose challenges. Data need to inform policymaking, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women's empowerment results. The limited use of gender data hampers their potential to inform progress towards gender equality. 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 implementation of the SDGs.

OUR SOLUTION

UN Women's "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" programme (Women Count) is a multi-stakeholder global strategy that aims to create a radical shift in how gender statistics are used, produced and promoted to inform policy and advocacy on gender equality to ensure that all women and girls are counted and visible in key thematic and cross-cutting areas such as:

▪ Women's economic empowerment
▪ Ending violence against women
▪ Governance and participation
▪ Gender and the environment
▪ Leaving no one behind

In Europe and Central Asia, Women Count will take action under three key areas:
1. Creating an enabling environment
2. Increasing data production
3. Improving data accessibility and use

UN WOMEN'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

Key to the success of Women Count programme is collaboration and coordination among government institutions, civil society organizations, think tanks, media, youth and development partners, including through joint programming and active knowledge-sharing.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The Europe and Central Asia region is very diverse in terms of its economic, political, social and cultural systems, as well the national capacity to produce reliable and relevant data and statistics for global and national SDG monitoring. The capacity of statistical systems in the ECA region is relatively high with the overall median score of 76,4 points in 2020, and with increased scoring on coverage and openness of official statistics from 46 to 54 points over the period of 2018 to 2020 according to Open Data Inventory. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought even more challenges, such as the disruptions faced by statistical systems in the region. The pandemic further highlighted the need for timely, quality and more disaggregated data, but also for additional investment in modernization of the national statistical systems to match data supply with increased demand on data and statistics. It would require a coordinated effort on integration and alignment of external and domestic support to gender statistics to maximize limited resources into development programmes. Most of the countries across the region are facing the technical and financial constrains in producing data and evidence on those who are left behind, including the most vulnerable groups of women and girls. Although administrative data is a cost-effective source of data that could address the needs for disaggregated data and capture intersecting

Civil society organizations and activists, including data journalists, researchers, think tanks, youth, and media serve both as Women Count allies and agents of change by raising awareness, advocating for evidence-based policies and targeted interventions to make every woman and girl count and visible.

inequalities, however, the use of these data sources in the region is hampered by lack of harmonization between various statistical concepts, classifications and systems used across ministries and agencies. The potential of other non-conventional data sources, such as citizen-generated data and big data remains underexplored in the region.

Significant challenges remain and are linked to the overall weak policy environments, lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, which coupled with limited production, analysis and use of gender data, it hampered the data driven policies, including monitoring and reporting on progress towards the SDGs implementation. Although gender data is gradually becoming in high demand across the region, a major challenge is to sustain demand and to increase data both in quality and quantity. There is a continuous and urgent need for support to produce and use gender data on specific topics, especially VAW, time use, and asset ownership data, to fulfill international commitments (SDGs, Beijing, CEDAW). However, financial resources are a main obstacle for continuing surveys, assessments, trainings at all levels, coupled with constraints in human resources and technical expertise on gender data of data producers and providers across national data ecosystem.

KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED

Where do we stand on gender data to track progress on SDG 5?

More gender data to track SDG 5 are available in the Europe and Central Asia region since 2015, up from 18 to 59%, with greater progress across Eastern Partnership countries, the Western Balkans and Türkiye. Of the 18 countries in the region, 15 have at least half of SDG 5 gender data available.

Since 2018, Women Count has been supporting national statistical offices in the Europe and Central Asia region to produce more and better gender data for monitoring progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.
Our achievements at a glance 2022-2023:

- 11 countries supported to improve gender statistics: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.
- 3 countries supported to assess gender data gaps and mainstream gender data priorities into national action plans and strategies: Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.
- 7 surveys supported to fill critical gender data gaps, including four on violence against women, two on time use, and one on humanitarian nexus.
- 1 database on case management is strengthened to generate analytical reports on key gender indicators related to domestic violence.
- 17 knowledge products created to build a strong knowledge base on using gender data to monitor progress on achieving SDGs.
- 3 inter-agency task forces created to foster and institutionalize dialogues among users and producers of gender statistics in Albania and Kyrgyzstan.
- More than 14,000 users increased their awareness on the importance of measuring gender gaps to inform policymaking as a result of data quizzes.
- Over 140,000 people reached through gender data communications.

INNOVATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

In the second phase of Women Count in ECA region, building gender-sensitive national statistical systems and supporting well-coordinated policy environment and institutional arrangements will remain one of the key priorities for the region. The programme will continue to invest in strengthening the national capacities to assess gender data needs and gaps, and to mainstream gender dimension in national strategies of official statistics. The project will expand the work on administrative data systems.

New priority for the region will be to expand the work on administrative data and to explore non-conventional data sources from the perspective of generating multilevel data disaggregation and producing intersectional analysis to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups of population to inform targeted programmes and actions. It will continue to advocate and invest in aligning statistical outputs with users' needs through promoting data openness, ensuring and improvement of gender data communication in order to increase understanding and use of data and statistics.

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