Assessment of opportunities for UN Women to support the development of gender statistics in Europe and Central Asia

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List of acronyms/abbreviation

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CIS-Stat	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States
CoE	Council of Europe
CO	Country Office
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EDGE	Evidence and Data for Gender Equality
EEA	European Economic Area
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPI	Flagship Programme Initiative
FRA	Fundamental Rights Agency
FYR	Former Yugoslav Republic (of Macedonia)
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
GTG	Gender Thematic Group
HLG- PCCB	High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for the 2030 Agenda
HQ	Headquarters
IAEG-GS	Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
ILO	International Labour Organization
INSTAT	Albania National Statistical Institute
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standard Measurement Survey
MCO	Multi-Country Office
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MDBWGG	Multilateral Development Bank Working Group on Gender
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PP	Project/Programme Presence
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
PRISM	Platform for Regional Information Sharing and Management
RBM	Results Based Management
RCM	Regional Coordination Mechanism
RHS	Reproductive Health Survey
RO	Regional Office
RSDS	Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics
R-UNDG	Regional United Nations Development Group

RWGG	Regional Working Group on Gender
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TUS	Time Use Survey
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNSSC	United Nations System Staff College
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAW	Violence against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

UN Women exists to support national efforts to achieve gender equality, undertake advocacy on issues critical to women's empowerment and gender equality, support the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), provide a knowledge hub, and to lead and coordinate the United Nations (UN) system on gender equality, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming. Gender statistics are relevant and essential to all of UN Women's work, situating the organization as a major stakeholder in gender statistics and providing a solid basis for engaging in strengthening statistical capacity in this area.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) increases the need to improve the production and use of gender statistics. As a newly adopted and transformative framework, there is a significantly increased demand for evidence, particularly to achieve the goal of 'leaving no one behind'. The challenges of effectively monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective cannot be overstated. Many of the proposed indicators on gender equality lack internationally accepted standards and are not regularly collected by most countries.

Responding to these challenges, while harnessing the current momentum and support for the SDGs and for gender statistics more broadly, the Flagship Programme Initiative (FPI): ***Better Production and Use of Gender Statistics for Evidence-Based Localization of the SDGs*** (**Gender Statistics FPI**), developed by UN Women Headquarters (HQ), aims to affect a radical shift in the production, availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. Working with partner governments, international agencies and other actors, including civil society organizations, and building on existing initiatives, the proposed programme will achieve results in three interlinked areas of work:

1. **Enabling environment**: Building a supportive policy and institutional environment for the localization (i.e., national and local adaptation) and effective monitoring of the SDGs;
2. **Data production**: Increasing the quality, comparability and regularity of gender statistics to address national data gaps and meet reporting commitments under the SDGs and other international treaties and agreements, including CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as national priorities; and
3. **Data accessibility and use**: Ensuring that gender statistics are accessible to users in governments, civil society, academia and the private sector and are analysed to inform policy-making and advocacy and to monitor progress on the SDGs.

In line with the global Gender Statistics FPI, UN Women Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Regional Office (RO) is developing a regional project that is specific to the context of the region. This project aims to provide technical support to UN Women offices at the country level on gender statistics and to strengthen regional-level collaboration with key partners in order to better contribute to SDG monitoring at the country and regional levels. To prepare for the development of this project, this assessment was conducted to summarize ongoing initiatives by other actors and identify key gaps, challenges, opportunities and entry points for UN Women ECA RO in the area of gender statistics at the regional level in ECA.

Current capacity, gaps and challenges

Statistical capacity involves a wide range of interconnected disciplines and capabilities. There is the expertise required to produce specific types of statistics, such as economic indicators, health, education, labour statistics, environmental accounting, etc. There are also cross-cutting issues, such leadership, managing resources, and the authority and independence of the statistical system. Furthermore the technological capacity to collect and process data in a timely manner, the ability to develop user-friendly statistical products and disseminate information effectively, are central issues.

The national statistical systems of the ECA region range from the more advanced and open statistical systems found in countries such as Serbia, Moldova and Albania, to the relatively closed, politicised and under-

resourced systems found in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kosovo.[1] Although statistical production is fairly strong in most of the countries, with regular data collection through surveys and censuses, the analysis, dissemination, communication and use of statistics is weak. Administrative records are also a source of gender statistics to be improved, hampered by a cultural history where information sharing, even between government agencies, is not the norm. When it comes to gender mainstreaming in statistics, almost all countries have some sort of focal point and coordination mechanism, but they are often marginalised and under-resourced, limiting their effectiveness.[2]

The majority of ECA countries conduct the household surveys and censuses that are key to producing gender statistics (see Table 2). Data production based on administrative records was identified as a gap where more should be done. Almost all countries are regularly producing 'women and men' publications and some have established gender statistics databases. Despite this, the perception, particularly of those representing the data user perspective, is that the capacity for the production and use of gender statistics is low in most countries of the region. Lack of data is seen as a "huge gap" that repeatedly emerges during the planning, monitoring and evaluation processes that UN Women are involved in. An underlying cause being the inaccessibility of data.

At the regional level, communication and coordination among development partners to align activities to strengthen gender statistics could be enhanced. There is also a need to increase the evidence base on the extent and consequences of violence against women. At national level, the main gaps in gender statistics capacity are:

- Poor access to data
- Limited analysis, interpretation and use of gender statistics
- Not enough data disaggregation
- Gender is a low priority for the statistical system
- Administrative data not maximised as a source of gender statistics

The lack of effective use of gender statistics is the most problematic issue for gender monitoring and reporting in the ECA region. Production is relatively strong and dissemination of data and microdata is improving, but gaps in the capacity to access and use that information persist. There is a clear demand in the ECA region to do more with existing data, such as in-depth analysis of data from population censuses, surveys, etc. Both the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have identified the need to make better use of existing data as a key priority for gender statistics in the future. Activities include improving dissemination and communication of statistics by data producers, increasing analysis of existing data (e.g. on time use), and supporting national statistical offices (NSOs) to develop the statistical literacy of data users. Controlling the quality of gender analysis and products is also needed to avoid misinterpretation and misuse of statistical information.

Although data production is relatively strong in the ECA region, ongoing issues related to data sensitivity and transparency result in necessary data either not being collected or not being released. A lack of data disaggregation is a primary concern in light of increasing demands for monitoring and reporting on progress towards the 2030 Agenda, with a scarcity of disaggregated data, especially by ethnicity and disability. Significantly more investment is needed in disaggregated data collection, evaluation and analysis.[3] Current data availability shows that all countries, except Turkmenistan, can produce more than two thirds of the

[1] All references to Kosovo shall be understood in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).
[2] Asian Development Bank. 2012. *Gender Statistics in the Southern Caucasus and Central and West Asia: A Situational Analysis.* Manila: Asian Development Bank.
[3] UNICEF. 2015. Making Social Monitor: Social protection for child rights and well-being in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

United Nations minimum set of gender statistics.[4] Data gaps are more evident in Uzbekistan, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Tajikistan, whereas Serbia and Turkey can produce almost all of the minimum set. Globally, just over half of the countries regularly produce gender statistics on power and decision-making, and that percentage drops to 42 per cent for unpaid work, 41 per cent for violence against women and a mere 7 per cent for satellite accounts of household production.[5]

The low priority afforded to gender within national statistical systems is evident in the organizational structures (e.g. single gender focal point), limited or no budget allocation, and absence of a strong commitment to gender monitoring and reporting in national statistical strategies and plans. Out of 40 UNECE countries that responded to a survey coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), only 13 per cent have specific legislation requiring the conduct of specialized gender-based surveys and only 8 per cent have a regular dedicated budget for gender statistics. Furthermore, the review also indicated that only 22 per cent of UNECE countries have a coordinating body for gender statistics.[6] Together, weak policy space, limited resources and lack of coordination, particularly at the national level, means that gender statistics are not adequately mainstreamed in statistical production, constituting a critical impediment to the monitoring of the SDGs.

SDG nationalization and localization will provide opportunities to work at the country level on streamlining monitoring and reporting on gender-related goals and developing ways to make these processes more cost-effective and sustainable. ECA countries are at varying stages of nationalizing/localizing SDGs and assessing data availability and capacity to produce the statistics needed to monitor and report on progress. A survey of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) on country-level needs for SDG implementation in ECA found that monitoring and data is considered the most challenging aspect of SDG implementation and where intense regional support will be required.[7] It also found that specific guidance on integration of a gender perspective is needed, and that a key barrier to data monitoring and reporting is the lack of clarity on SDG indicators and resulting ambiguity of requirements for data collection and analysis.

Actors and mechanisms for developing statistical capacity in the region

There are many actors working on strengthening gender statistics, and statistics more broadly, in the ECA region. UNECE is the secretariat to the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and is perceived as the lead organization on gender statistics. Working closely together with donors and development partners, they have been focused on this area for more than a decade and have helped NSOs to make significant progress. Organizations such as United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Education, Science, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), also play a significant role in statistical capacity development, including in gender statistics.

The developing countries of the region benefit from close proximity and interactions with European Union (EU) member states and the high statistical standards and culture of evidence-based policy making that they uphold. In particular, candidate and potential candidate countries are being supported by the European Commission (Eurostat) and EU Member States to raise the standard of their statistical production processes to comply with the European Statistics Code of Practice,[8] leading to increased statistical capacity. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) plays a key role in supporting the development of gender statistics in the region, particularly as they are focused on the collation, harmonization, analysis and use of

[4] Based on data availability in the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators website (https://genderstats.un.org/#/data-availability) on 3 December 2016

[5] United Nations Economic and Social Council. 2013. "Report of the Secretary-General on Gender Statistics." E/CN.3/2013/10.

[6] United Nations Economic and Social Council. 2013. "Report of the Secretary-General on Gender Statistics." E/CN.3/2013/10.

[7] United Nations Development Group. 2015. Country-level Needs for SDG Implementation in Europe and Central Asia.

[8] Eurostat. 2011. European Statistics Code of Practice.

gender statistics through the European Index of Gender Equality and the European Gender Statistics Database. They also support EU Member States to monitor the Beijing Platform for Action and prepare reports on progress in the critical areas of concern selected by the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.[9]

An overview of these and other key actors is provided below, with more information on their recent, ongoing and planned gender statistics activities provided in Annex E.

Opportunities and recommendations

Achieving an effective system of gender statistics requires political will and commitment from the highest levels of the national statistical system. It requires coordination between the national women's machinery, line ministries, statistical offices, and data users, to build a common understanding of gender priorities and work together to produce and use the information needed to effectively monitor progress. It needs donors and development partners to connect their work on building statistical capacity to their work on gender equality and sustainable development, so that interventions make a long-term and sustainable impact, rather than temporary or isolated gains.

UN Women can support the coordination of gender statistics at regional level, helping to bring a more holistic perspective of data production and use in policymaking at the national level to the table. As the leader of the United Nations' work on gender equality and women's empowerment, UN Women is ideally placed to partner with UNECE and ESCAP and work through their regional statistical coordination mechanisms for a more joined-up effort. EU integration provides the major impetus for improving statistics in many countries of the region and working with Eurostat, EIGE, EU delegations and the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) is also essential. This will help to 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, as is one aim of the global FPI on gender statistics. In addition to the DG NEAR, it would be useful to work with other DGs working in specific sectors. For example, the DG for Mobility and Transport (MOVE) has been active recently in supporting the women's employment in transport and are keen on collecting data to demonstrate business case for women's employment in this sector.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to guide UN Women in developing the regional project to address the issues and gaps in gender statistics capacity in the ECA region. They are activities that could be implemented by UN Women in partnership with other actors and are categorised using the structure of the global FPI: enabling environment, data production and data accessibility, as well as cross-cutting activities. Recommendations specific to developing the capacity of UN Women to implement the project are also provided.

Enabling environment

1. Participate in the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics and support UNECE in playing a leading role in regional coordination of gender statistics, particularly with stakeholders outside the national statistical systems, such as data users in national women's machineries, parliament and civil society organizations
2. Promote the use of tools and frameworks developed by PARIS21 to advocate for robust integration of gender statistics in the NSDS; gather and share information on lessons learned across the region
3. Conduct detailed national assessments of legal framework, policies and practices governing the production of gender statistics, including mapping of available data to needs for monitoring and reporting on localized SDGs, and/or contribute to assessments of national statistical systems

[9] EIGE. Monitoring the Beijing Platform for Action (http://eige.europa.eu/monitoring-the-bpfa)

conducted by other actors to ensure a gender focus, and use the findings to recommend how the enabling environment can be strengthened

4. Support regional adaptation of gender-related SDG targets and indicators based on common lessons learned from national localization processes

Data production

5. Connect the wide range of stakeholders with information on the gender-related aspects of SDG implementation, including localization processes, data production requirements, developments in methodologies, regional and global reporting processes, and changes to indicators such as transition between Tiers I, II and III
6. Seek opportunities to better engage the data user community (civil society, academia, and the media) in regional mechanisms that oversee and guide the production of statistics and SDG monitoring and reporting so that their data needs can be better reflected and the relationship between users and producers is strengthened
7. Support the production of gender-related data through surveys, censuses and administrative records (e.g. MICS, DHS, VAW surveys, time-use surveys, civil registration and vital statistics) and seek opportunities to direct funding and technical support to these activities
8. Engage in regional fora and activities that are considering new sources of data and applications of technology and ensure developments in this area are shared at the national level
9. Contribute regional expertise to any methodological work that UN Women is involved in, such as the development of the sex-disaggregated indicator on representation in local government

Data accessibility and use

10. Develop materials and advocate for improving the quality of statistics through better accessibility and use of existing data, such as increased dissemination of microdata
11. Mobilize funding to increase the statistical literacy of data users, support development of gender analysis skills and more in-depth analysis of existing data, and provide training and development opportunities on the interpretation and use of gender statistics drawing on existing resources, such as the UNECE training toolkit on using gender statistics
12. Assist UN Women country and programme offices to facilitate the flow of gender-related statistics between national and regional data collation mechanisms (e.g. the UNECE and EIGE gender statistics databases; SDG data flows)
13. Support regular publication of data on the status of women, men, girls and boys and provide guidance and inputs to increase the quality of gender statistics products, such as the 'Women and Men in…' booklets produced by national statistical offices
14. Conduct a regional assessment of uses of gender data and statistics to inform policies and prepare a compendium of best practices
15. Contribute to and promote expansion of the regional community of practice established by UNECE, incorporating a stronger user perspective and facilitating sharing of best practices and national experiences in using methods to improve the accessibility, communication and use of gender statistics

16. Partner with organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which support the conduct of national gender assessments, to explore methods to make the data and statistics collated through those processes more accessible

Cross-cutting

17. Seek opportunities to better link the regional statistical community with the Regional Working Group on Gender (RWGG) (now known as the Issues-based Coalition on Gender) so activities related to the production and use of gender statistics are more closely aligned with inter-agency work on gender at the regional level and supports gender thematic groups at national level
18. In addition to working with United Nations actors through the regional United Nations Development Group (R-UNDG) and regional coordination mechanism (RCM), engage with non-UN actors and mechanisms working on gender and development and/or statistics such as the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Working Group on Gender (MDBWGG), EIGE, Eurostat and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
19. Develop advocacy materials on mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems for country/programme offices to use in encouraging decision makers to increase gender-related data production, adopt relevant standards, raise awareness of gender issues among data producers, and to highlight the demands for data by illustrating how gender statistics are produced and used
20. Contribute technical and regional expertise to the development of guidance and tools at the global level that will be used for strengthening gender statistics
21. Support regional participation in the Gender and SDGs online course being developed by UNSSC and UN Women at the global level

Technical capacity within UN Women

22. Develop advocacy tools and communicate UN Women's strategy for strengthening gender statistics to support UN Women staff in showing leadership in national-level activities related to gender statistics and the SDGs
23. Align UN Women's regional gender statistics program closely with its Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) program and regional work on violence against women, so the initiatives support and reinforce each other
24. Provide coaching, training and technical assistance to build the statistical skills and knowledge of UN Women staff so they are able to engage with data producers and users and ensure activities at national level are linked to regional and global efforts
25. Establish a knowledge base of practical and concrete suggestions for capacity development activities, terms of reference, etc. that UN Women country and programme offices can direct resources towards
26. Establish a roster of gender statistics experts that can be engaged to work at national level

1. Introduction

UN Women works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the center of all its efforts, it leads and coordinates United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality are translated into action throughout the world. It provides strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States' priorities and efforts while building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors.

From a gender perspective, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a significant step forward from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), covering for the first time core areas of the feminist agenda. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), created under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), has identified a robust set of 230 unique indicators to monitor progress in achieving the SDGs.[10] Overall, a quarter of these indicators explicitly or implicitly address gender equality. The challenges of effectively monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective cannot be overstated. Of the 14 proposed indicators to monitor SDG 5, the goal on gender equality, there are only four for which internationally accepted standards for measurement exist and for which data are regularly collected by most countries (referred to as Tier I indicators). Of the remaining 11 indicators, four have internationally accepted standards but data collection by most countries is largely irregular (referred to as Tier II indicators), and for six, international standards do not yet exist and most countries do not regularly collect the data (referred to as Tier III indicators). Similarly, many of the gender-related indicators in the other goals currently lack comparable methodologies for comprehensive and periodic monitoring.

Lack of statistics in these areas arises both from a failure to prioritize gender equality in data collection and from a lack of resources. Filling the gaps in gender statistics is not solely a matter of collecting more statistics but requires a gender perspective to be incorporated at the beginning and throughout the statistical data production process, so that measurement is gender-sensitive and the resulting data meets the needs for tracking commitments to gender equality. Gender is rarely prioritized in data collection and the resources devoted to them, both at the national and international level, remain grossly inadequate. And, the demand for greater support for gender statistics will only increase as countries begin to implement the SDGs. It is an early priority is to strengthen capacity to effectively monitor the goals, with Target 17.8 calling for capacity-building support to be enhanced by 2020 to "increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data" (United Nations Statistical Commission 2016). This requires well-coordinated, well-funded and complementary action at national, regional and global levels.

At the global and regional levels, technical work to develop internationally agreed standards and methodologies is being undertaken to support to countries to improve the production of gender statistics. In turn, authoritative national monitoring frameworks will support the follow-up and review of SDGs at global and regional levels. How data flows between these various levels of reporting is currently under consideration. In the ECA region, this will be developed through the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), which is drafting a road map for the regionalization of the 2030 Agenda, including SDG monitoring and reporting (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2016). At the country level, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the associated Common Country Assessment (CCA) processes will be key to supporting the statistical system for the SDGs.

Responding to these challenges, while harnessing the current momentum and support for the SDGs and for gender statistics more broadly, the Flagship Programme Initiative (FPI): ***Better Production and Use of Gender Statistics for Evidence-Based Localization of the SDGs*** (**Gender Statistics FPI**), developed by UN Women Headquarters (HQ), aims to affect a radical shift in the production, availability, accessibility and use of quality

[10] At the time of writing (December 2016), the IAEG-SDGs has decided at its 4th meeting to start a consultation process which might result in the addition of 36 new indicators (http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-04/9.%20Additional%20Indicators%20plenary%20final.pdf).

data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. Working with partner governments, international agencies and other actors, including civil society organizations, and building on existing initiatives, the proposed programme will achieve results in three interlinked areas of work:

1. **Enabling environment**: Building a supportive policy and institutional environment for the localization (i.e., national and local adaptation) and effective monitoring of the SDGs;
2. **Data production**: Increasing the quality, comparability and regularity of gender statistics to address national data gaps and meet reporting commitments under the SDGs and other international treaties and agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as national priorities; and
3. **Data accessibility and use**: Ensuring that gender statistics are accessible to users in governments, civil society, academia and the private sector and are analysed to inform policy-making and advocacy and to monitor progress on the SDGs.

In line with the global Gender Statistics FPI, UN Women Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Regional Office (RO) is developing a regional project that is specific to the context of the region. This project aims to provide technical support to UN Women offices at the country level on gender statistics and to strengthen regional-level collaboration with key partners in order to better contribute to SDGs monitoring at the country and regional levels. To prepare for the development of this project, an international expert on gender statistics was engaged to conduct an assessment that summarizes ongoing initiatives by other actors and identifies key gaps, challenges, opportunities and entry points for UN Women ECA RO in the areas of gender statistics at the regional level in ECA. The findings of that assessment are summarized in this report.

Methods used and limitations

The assessment focuses on the countries in the region where UN Women has a presence, as well as in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Montenegro. This group of countries is referred to as the ECA countries throughout this document.[11] The regional project will cover the 56 UNECE member states, supporting them by strengthening regional-level coordination and providing guidance on mainstreaming gender concerns into SDG monitoring and reporting processes, and this group is referred to in this report as UNECE countries.

The assessment was conducted by a gender statistics consultant during the period of October – November 2016. It involved a desk review of relevant reports and information on gender statistics capacity, issues and priorities at regional and national level. Consideration was also given to global frameworks and mechanisms for strengthening gender statistics in so far as how they will shape regional approaches. The resources included in the review are cited throughout the report and listed under the References section (page 43).

Key to this assessment were interviews with stakeholders within UN Women (15 interviews), UN partner agencies (10), and some non-UN actors, including Eurostat and producers and users of gender statistics (10). The list of key stakeholders interviewed/consulted is provided in Annex A.

The assessment is limited to the content of documents included in the desk review and the views of the people consulted. Efforts were made to capture as much information as possible on the breadth of activities being conducted to support gender statistics in the region. However, it is possible that some initiatives did not come to the attention of the reviewer and are therefore not reflected in the findings and recommendations.

[11] The ECA countries are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

2. Gender statistics in Europe and Central Asia in the context of the SDGs and 2030 Development Agenda

Sources of demand for gender statistics

The demand for gender statistics is on the rise. Reliable, accessible and appropriately disaggregated statistics are needed to monitor achievement of commitments to gender equality, such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the SDGs. Providing a basis for comparing the realities of life for women, men, girls and boys, gender statistics are simply about having good statistics. They are not an additional area of work, but rather involve ensuring that all statistics about individuals are produced in a way that allow them to shed light on the similarities and differences between the sexes, and the impact that gender norms, social institutions and policies have on shaping the opportunities, experiences, and outcomes for individuals. Gender statistics require measuring the right things in the right way. This involves the effective combination of the following four characteristics:

a) "Data are collected and presented by sex as a primary and overall classification;
b) Data reflect gender issues;
c) Data are based on concepts and definitions that adequately reflect the diversity of women and men and capture all aspects of their lives;
d) Data collection methods take into account stereotypes and social and cultural factors that may induce gender bias in the data" (United Nations Statistics Division 2015).

National policy frameworks

National policy frameworks, including legislation, national and sectoral strategic plans, policies and programmes, are the main driver for the production and use of gender statistics. These shape the needs for data based on the priority issues, goals and targets that countries establish for their economic, social and environmental development. Needs for gender statistics may be explicit or implicit in these frameworks. For example, countries such as Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo[12], Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine have introduced legislation on gender statistics through their national gender equality law (Asian Development Bank 2012) / (UN Women Kosovo Office). Provisions typically include the need for sex-disaggregated data to be included in relevant official statistics reports (Legislative Herald of Georgia 2010), or particular indicators to be produced (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2009). In the case of Kosovo provisions on sex-disaggregated data in the law on gender equality require all public institutions to collect sex-disaggregated data on their beneficiaries and employees and submit them to the Agency for Statistics (Assembly of Kosovo 2015).

Where the needs for gender statistics are not explicit in national policy frameworks, or not sufficiently detailed, additional work is needed to clarify the demand for data. UN Women has supported the development of gender statistics frameworks based on national laws and policies, and valuable lessons have been learned in the process. In Albania and Moldova, a harmonized set of gender indicators was developed based analysing all national and international commitments and extracting those relevant to gender. Then, determining the type of data needed to monitor those commitments led to a set of around 220 indicators, the source for most being administrative data collected by line ministries.

[12] All references to Kosovo shall be understood in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

In Albania, it was agreed that the NSO, known as INSTAT, would collect all the data and then return it to line ministries once harmonized. Unfortunately, changes in staffing and a lack of resource allocation to the project meant that the goal of producing and monitoring the harmonized set of indicators was never achieved. However, an advantage was that it made line ministries aware of their data production responsibilities and identified where adjustments to collection methods were needed to enable the production of gender statistics. Moldova has followed a similar process to Albania but has achieved a more sustainable result. Their harmonized set of indicators has been adjusted for monitoring the National Programme on Gender Equality and is now being used as basis to develop the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the SDGs.

Most countries in the region have a statistical work plan, which usually covers an annual period, or a national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS), also known as a statistical master plan. The NSDS tends to be more visionary and provides a basis for making changes to improve the NSO and system. Based on a review of available plans, it is clear that all statistical offices are a focused on improving the quality of their statistical systems as well as the professionalism of their staff. This applies to all stages of the production process, from data collection through to data processing and dissemination. There is a desire to improve the quality, range and accessibility of statistics. Countries claim to have made significant improvements over recent years with the expectation that this will continue into the future. There is also a desire to have statistics comply with international standards, which should improve their quality. It is encouraging to observe that most countries explicitly mention gender as part of their strategies and action plans. See Annex B for a summary of gender-related priorities identified in each of the available national plans.

The statistical plan can provide a mandate for ensuring gender statistics are produced in accordance with national requirements. For example, Albania is currently developing their next national statistical plan and UN Women has supported gender mainstreaming in that strategy through the employment of a local expert to work with the NSO to ensure gender-related priorities are reflected. At the global level, UN Women is collaborating with Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) to support the coordination and planning of gender statistics at national and regional level. Beginning in 2016, this will involve developing a NSDS/Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) gender module and a gender disaggregation gap analysis using the PARIS21 ADAPT data planning tool. It is recommended that UN Women use its regional gender statistics project to promote the use of these tools and frameworks, use them to conduct national assessments of gender statistics and/or support assessments being conducted by other actors (see recommendations 2 and 3). The findings from these assessments will be used to guide advocacy and support for mainstreaming gender statistics in national policy frameworks and statistical plans.

2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs increases the need to improve the production and use of gender statistics. Its implementation will see more resources directed towards the overall development of statistics. As a newly adopted and transformative framework, there is a significantly increased demand for evidence, particularly to achieve the goal of 'leaving no one behind'. The interconnected nature of the SDGs will

establish new demands for disaggregated, coherent gender statistics. As mentioned above, in addition to SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls and the 14 associated indicators, it is estimated that one quarter of the final proposed indicators explicitly or implicitly relate to gender equality (UN Women 2016).

The United Nations system will play an important role in supporting countries to monitor and report on their commitments to the SDGs. Key bodies overseeing implementation of the agenda are the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB) and the IAEG-SDGs. In the ECA region, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is coordinating regionalization of the SDG indicators and required statistical production, as well as its integration into statistical domains, including gender statistics, through its various working groups and task forces (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2016). A regional forum on sustainable development will be held on 25 April 2017, which will be an important event for UN Women to contribute to in order to clarify and begin shaping their role in developing capacity to produce and use gender statistics (see recommendations 4, 5 and 12).

An SDG retreat of UN actors at the regional level in ECA, held in November 2016,[13] concluded that data and adequate financing were the two highest priority issues to be addressed in SDG implementation. Data should be strengthened by integration with policy issues. Recommended action included new approaches for producing qualitative information and investment in ICT solutions to collect and monitor data (see recommendation 8). The retreat participants developed proposals for regional support to various components of SDG implementation, including data, monitoring and reporting. They will recommend to the Regional Directors that the UN system jointly develop a Platform for Regional Information Sharing and Management (PRISM), which would provide a common place to share information on data-related issues, a database of initiatives related to supporting the production and use of SDG-related data, and a roster of experts. Another recommendation is to advocate for civil society organizations (CSOs) to be involved in data collection, generation and monitoring (United Nations System 2016). The regional project provides an opportunity for UN Women to establish a niche in this area, for which it is ideally placed given its role and experience working closely with CSOs (see recommendations 1, 6 and 15).

United Nations Development Group Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One

First introduced in 2014, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Delivering as One exist to guide UN agencies in their efforts to effectively work together through: overarching/government ownership; one programme; a common budgetary framework; one leader; common business operations; and a joint communication strategy. In the ECA region, five countries have adopted the 'Delivering as One' approach: Albania (2006); Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013); Kyrgyzstan (2009); Moldova (2011); and Montenegro (2009) (United Nations Development Group 2016).

The aim of the SOPs is to support United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to remove institutional bottlenecks, improve standards and operating systems, and to encourage the use of shared data, policy analytics and solutions (United

[13] The retreat was organized by ECA Regional UNDG and held in Istanbul, Turkey on 16-18 November 2016.

Nations Development Group 2014). Mechanisms, such as Results Groups, are established to share resources and capacities across the UN system. Effective implementation of UN Women's regional project on gender statistics will rely on working through these mechanisms, including the national gender thematic groups and the Regional Working Group on Gender (RWGG) (see recommendations 17 and 18).

United Nations Development Assistance Framework

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) provides the basis for the UNCTs to develop an integrated approach to programming in support of national development goals. Interim guidance was released in 2016 to align UNDAF processes with the 2030 Agenda and reflecting the SOPs of Delivering as One, with a final revised version expected in late 2016. It introduced four core programming principles: 1) human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment; 2) sustainable development and resilience; 3) leave no one behind; and 4) accountability (United Nations Development Group 2016).

Data and statistics play a fundamental role in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the UNDAF. The formulation process involves a completing a common country analysis (CCA), providing the evidence base from which the theory of change underpinning the UNDAF is developed. The CCA includes an assessment of what is happening in the country and an analysis of why it is happening. The analysis should be rights-based and focus on different vulnerable groups, including women, drawing on disaggregated data to establish an evidence base.

The CCAs should present the United Nations' assessment of the availability of data, gaps and capacity for data production needed to monitor progress towards the SDGs. Although it is intended as an independent process, the UNDAF guidelines highlight the need to collect and assess data in a manner that supports the long-term capacity development of national data systems. Aligning the CCA with SDG localization processes will be key to avoiding duplication. It is recommended UNCTs tap into the tools and resources prepared to support implementation of the SDGs, in particular the MAPS: Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support Reference Guide (United Nations Development Group 2016). This includes guidance on indicator development and data collection, disaggregating data, monitoring and reporting system, and review processes and mechanisms. UN Women can contribute guidance on gender-related aspects of SDG implementation and support the establishment of sustainable practices to improve gender statistics needed to develop and monitor UNDAFs (see recommendations 5 and 17).

Gender Responsive Budgeting

Data and statistics are an essential component of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), providing the basis for identifying gaps and priorities and directing resources accordingly. As transformative financing, including GRB, is one of UN Women's flagship programmes, this provides a natural entry point for UN Women to contribute to strengthening gender statistics.

An evaluation of UN Women's regional GRB programme is currently being conducted and has revealed insights that can be used to inform the development of this project on gender statistics. It found that usable gender statistics has been a barrier to GRB implementation in the region and there is a suggestion to work with statistical offices and information packagers to address data gaps (Barnes 2016). There are also lessons on the effectiveness

of a regional approach that apply to the design of the gender statistics project. One is the benefit to country and programme offices in being able to call in an expert (the GRB programme manager) who can demonstrate how to conduct GRB effectively. Similarly, the regional project on gender statistics will provide UN Women offices with access to technical expertise in statistics, which can be applied to strengthen the evidence base underpinning national budgeting and planning processes (see recommendation 23).

European Union accession process

Seven countries of the ECA region are currently undergoing the accession process, which sees them regularly assessed on their capacity to adhere to European Union (EU) legislative requirements, including the production of statistics. Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic (FYR) of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey are **candidate countries**, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Kosovo are **potential candidates** that have been offered the prospect of joining when they are ready.[14] These are collectively known as the IPA countries, referring to the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) as the means by which the EU provides financial and technical support to achieve the reforms needed to join the EU (European Commission 2016).

EU regulations require member states to produce and disseminate statistics in accordance with the principles of professional independence, impartiality, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality, and cost effectiveness. Statistical information should be based on international recommendations and best practice (European Union 2009). The European Statistics Code of Practice sets out 15 principles and the indicators by which the performance of national statistical systems are measured. None relate explicitly to gender statistics, but rather provide the basis for production of quality statistics on any topic (Eurostat 2011). The European statistical programme 2013-2017 provides that European statistics should be disaggregated by gender where appropriate, for groups that are of special interest to social policy makers. The development, production and dissemination of European statistics is achieved through close and coordinated cooperation within the European Statistical System between the European Commission (Eurostat), and the NSOs and other national authorities of EU Member States (European Union 2013).

The European Union's Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019 sets out the current gender-related priorities for the EU region and is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. There are six areas of focus: labour-market participation, gender pay gaps, equality in decision-making, gender-based violence and the promotion of gender equality and women's rights. Gender statistics is one of the mechanisms to achieve the objectives with the need for "ongoing improved data collection with the support of Eurostat, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Eurofound, the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)…" (European Commission 2016). Rather than having specific legislation on gender statistics, beyond the need for data production on individuals to be sex-disaggregated, gender is mainstreamed in the various regulations the guide the production of statistics by EU member states.

[14] Once a candidate country, the accession process involves screening to identify the issues that need to be addressed for it to comply with the binding obligations of being a member country (known as the aquis). Once a country has reformed its national laws and demonstrated compliance with all 35 chapters of the acquis, an accession treaty can be signed and ratified by the country and existing EU Member States and with the support of various EU entities, the country can become and EU Member State (European Commission n.d.).

Under the EU Enlargement Strategy, the progress of IPA countries are assessed annually against specific criteria, including some related to statistics. This involves assessing capacity in statistical infrastructure (e.g. laws, resources and coordination), macro-economic statistics, business statistics, social statistics, agriculture statistics and environment statistics.

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe's work in the fields of human rights and gender equality has resulted in comprehensive legal standards and policy guidance aimed at achieving the advancement and empowerment of women and the effective realisation of gender equality in the 47 Council of Europe (CoE) member states and beyond.[15] The CoE has identified five priority areas for action: combating gender stereotypes and sexism; preventing and combating violence against women; Guaranteeing the equal access of women to justice; achieving the balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making; and promoting gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures in the Council of Europe. In this framework, the CoE undertakes specific activities related to gender statistics and indicators, in particular, regarding combating violence against women, promoting gender equality in decision-making and promoting women's access to justice.

Current capacity, gaps and challenges

Statistical capacity involves a wide range of interconnected disciplines and capabilities. There is the expertise required to produce specific types of statistics, such as economic indicators, health, education and labour statistics, measuring household income and expenditure, environmental accounting, etc. There are also cross-cutting issues, such as strategic planning, managing resources, the authority and independence of the statistical system, technological capacity to collect and process data in a timely manner, and the ability to develop user-friendly statistical products and disseminate information effectively. Furthermore, the degree of professionalism and credibility of the statistical system are key to the production of reliable official statistics. Finally, and most importantly, a culture of working in an evidence-based way provides the motivation and ability to access, understand and apply statistical information in policies and decisions.

Overall statistical capacity of the ECA region

The national statistical systems of the ECA region range from the more advanced and open statistical systems found in countries, such as Serbia, Moldova and Albania, to the relatively closed, politicised and under-resourced systems found in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan (Asian Development Bank 2012), and Kosovo. Although statistical production is fairly strong in most of the countries, with regular data collection through surveys and censuses, the analysis, dissemination, communication and use of statistics are weak. Administrative records are also a source of gender statistics to be improved, hampered by a cultural history where information sharing, even between government agencies, is not the norm. When it comes to gender mainstreaming in statistics, almost all countries have some sort of focal point and coordination mechanism, but they are often marginalised and under-resourced, limiting their effectiveness (Asian Development Bank 2012).

Overall capacity for the production and use of statistics

The World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator provides a general indication of the strength of the national statistical system in developing countries (World Bank 2016). The indicator is based on an assessment of three factors that contribute to the quality of official statistics: methodology, source data and periodicity. Generally, the ECA countries score well, with Kazakhstan, Armenia and Moldova scoring over 90 out of 100 (Table 1). The countries that rate poorly are Turkmenistan (34.4), Kosovo (43.3) and Uzbekistan (43.9). The

[15] More information is available from the CoE website at http://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/home.

World Bank has been assessing statistical capacity since 2004 and during that period the regional average has remained steady at around 77.8.[16]

The statistical capacity indicator is produced annually and used by the World Bank and partners as one form of evidence to guide statistical capacity development efforts. The main focus is on statistical activities and outputs, and so it may be considered to be a measure of performance than capacity.[17] Given it is internationally comparable and produced regularly by a reputable organization, the indicator provides useful basic information, but gives little insight into gender statistics capacity.

[16] The World Bank Europe and Central Asia region covers Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kyrgyz Republic, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia FYR of, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan (http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca).
[17] See"The World Bank's Framework for Statistical Capacity Measurement: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Options for Improvement Floribert Ngaruko" http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/8-worldbankframe.pdf

Table 1: World Bank Overall Statistical Capacity Indicator, Europe and Central Asia, 2016
Score of 100 is highest capacity

	Overall Statistical Capacity Indicator	Methodology	Source Data	Periodicity
		(rating out of a maximum score of 100)		
Europe and Central Asia	**77.8**	77.5	76.0	79.8
Moldova	**95.6**	100.0	90.0	96.7
Kazakhstan	**92.2**	90.0	90.0	96.7
Armenia	**92.2**	100.0	100.0	76.7
Serbia	**90.0**	80.0	100.0	90.0
Georgia	**88.9**	90.0	90.0	86.7
Belarus	**87.8**	90.0	80.0	93.3
Kyrgyz Republic	**85.6**	80.0	80.0	96.7
Ukraine	**83.3**	100.0	60.0	90.0
Albania	**82.2**	60.0	100.0	86.7
Tajikistan	**81.1**	70.0	80.0	93.3
Macedonia, FYR	**81.1**	80.0	90.0	73.3
Turkey	**77.8**	80.0	70.0	83.3
Azerbaijan	**75.6**	70.0	60.0	96.7
Montenegro	**72.2**	50.0	90.0	76.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	**72.2**	70.0	70.0	76.7
Uzbekistan	**48.9**	50.0	30.0	66.7
Kosovo	**43.3**	50.0	60.0	20.0
Turkmenistan	**34.4**	30.0	30.0	43.3

Note: the World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator is a score out of a 100 based on an assessment of three dimensions:

1. Methodology is based on adherence to internationally recommended standards and methods for the production of economic and social statistics.
2. Source data is based on whether data are collected regularly through population and agriculture censuses, poverty and health surveys, and the coverage of civil registration and vital statistics systems.
3. Periodicity is based on the regularity and timeliness of the release of statistics.

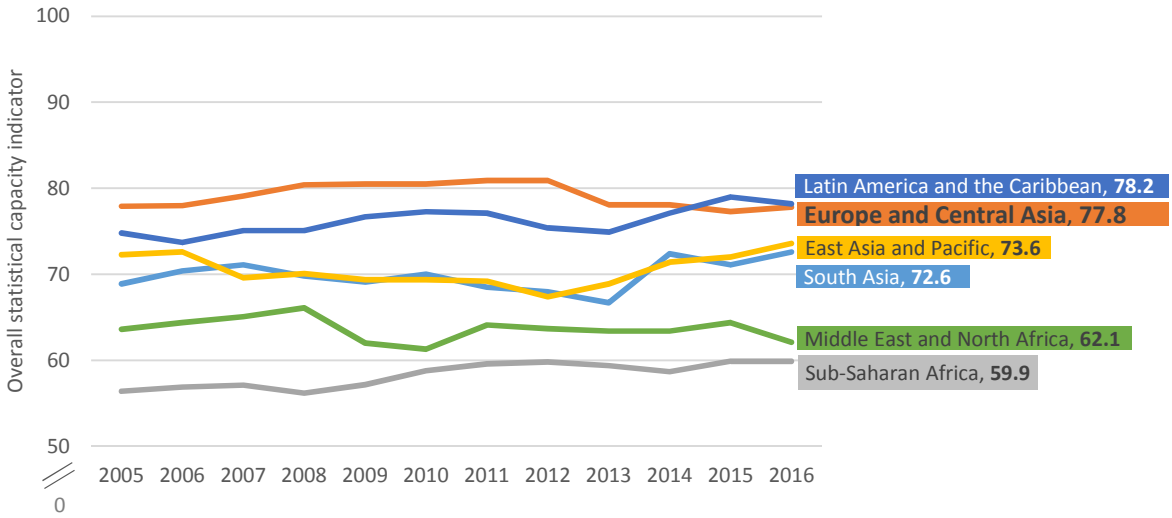
Each of the three areas are given a score out of a maximum of 100, and then an average of the three scores is used as the measure of overall statistical capacity.

Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicators
http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=Statistical-capacity-indicators

Regional statistical capacity

As a region, Europe and Central Asia performs relatively well and has been a leader in the production of official statistics. Drawing again on the World Bank assessment of statistical capacity, the developing countries of the ECA region have an average score of 77.8 for overall statistical capacity, falling closely behind Latin America and the Caribbean at 78.2 and ahead of other regions (Figure 1). The level of capacity has declined slightly in recent years, mainly due to reductions in collection of standard source data and the timeliness of data publication.

Figure 1: Overall statistical capacity indicator, regional averages based on World Bank geographical divisions (excluding high income countries), 2016
Score of 100 is highest capacity



Note: see Table 1 footnote on the methodology used to produce this indicator.
Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicators
http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=Statistical-capacity-indicators

Capacity for the production and use of gender statistics for SDG monitoring and reporting

As with any area of official statistics, a well-functioning system of gender statistics relies on statistical leadership, a clear demand for data, the production of statistics to meet those needs, and methods for releasing data and statistics in a way that they reach those that need it in a timely and useable form. This assessment examined available evidence, but, as there have been few comprehensive assessments of gender statistics capacity in the region, the findings are primarily drawn from the interviews conducted with stakeholders.

Discussions with UN Women staff revealed a perception that capacity for the production and use of gender statistics is low in most countries. Many highlighted the lack of data as a "huge gap" that repeatedly emerges during the planning, monitoring and evaluation processes that UN Women are involved in. They contend an underlying cause of these gaps is not necessarily the production, but the inaccessibility of data. As this assessment also found, in most countries a wide range of data are being collected, but gender indicators and analysis are not being produced and/or released for use. Related to this is inadequate resourcing and a culture of limited information sharing, which is a major barrier to overcome in order to improve the quality of gender statistics. Some gains have been made, such as in Albania, where the NSO (INSTAT) was previously resistant to releasing microdata, but under new leadership, such data is now more readily available.

Enabling environment at national level

The low priority afforded to gender within national statistical systems is evident in the organizational structures (e.g. single gender focal point), limited or no budget allocation, and absence of a strong commitment to gender monitoring and reporting in national statistical strategies and plans. Out of 40 UNECE countries that responded to a survey coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), only 13 per cent have specific legislation requiring them to conduct specialized gender-based surveys and only 8 per cent have a regular dedicated budget for gender statistics. Furthermore, only 22 per cent of UNECE countries have a coordinating body for gender statistics.[18] Together,

[18] United Nations Economic and Social Council. 2013. "Report of the Secretary-General on Gender Statistics." E/CN.3/2013/10.

weak policy space, limited resources and lack of coordination, particularly at the national level, means that gender statistics are not adequately mainstreamed in statistical production, constituting a critical impediment to the monitoring of the SDGs.

In 2012, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) conducted a situational analysis of gender statistics that covered eight of UN Women's ECA region: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (Asian Development Bank 2012). It found that gender statistics is a familiar concept in those countries and there have been a range of successful activities to develop capacity. Some have adopted legislation relating to gender statistics (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan). All have a focal point for gender statistics within the NSO, but these are often marginalized and under-resourced. Only Kazakhstan has established a dedicated unit for gender statistics.

The ADB assessment found that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan have made progress in gender statistics, but require further capacity development, and that Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were in need of more comprehensive support. It notes the main challenges at the national level as:

- Low priority given to gender statistics
- Lack of clear mandate or degree of influence among gender focal points and units
- Gender focal points burdened with other priorities and not able to dedicate time to working on gender statistics
- Limited consultation and interaction between data producers and users
- Lack of sex-disaggregation
- Poor communication of statistics limiting the ability of users to access and apply the information.

Recent reviews of gender statistics capacity, conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as part of their country gender assessment series, supports these findings (Food and Agriculture Organization 2016).

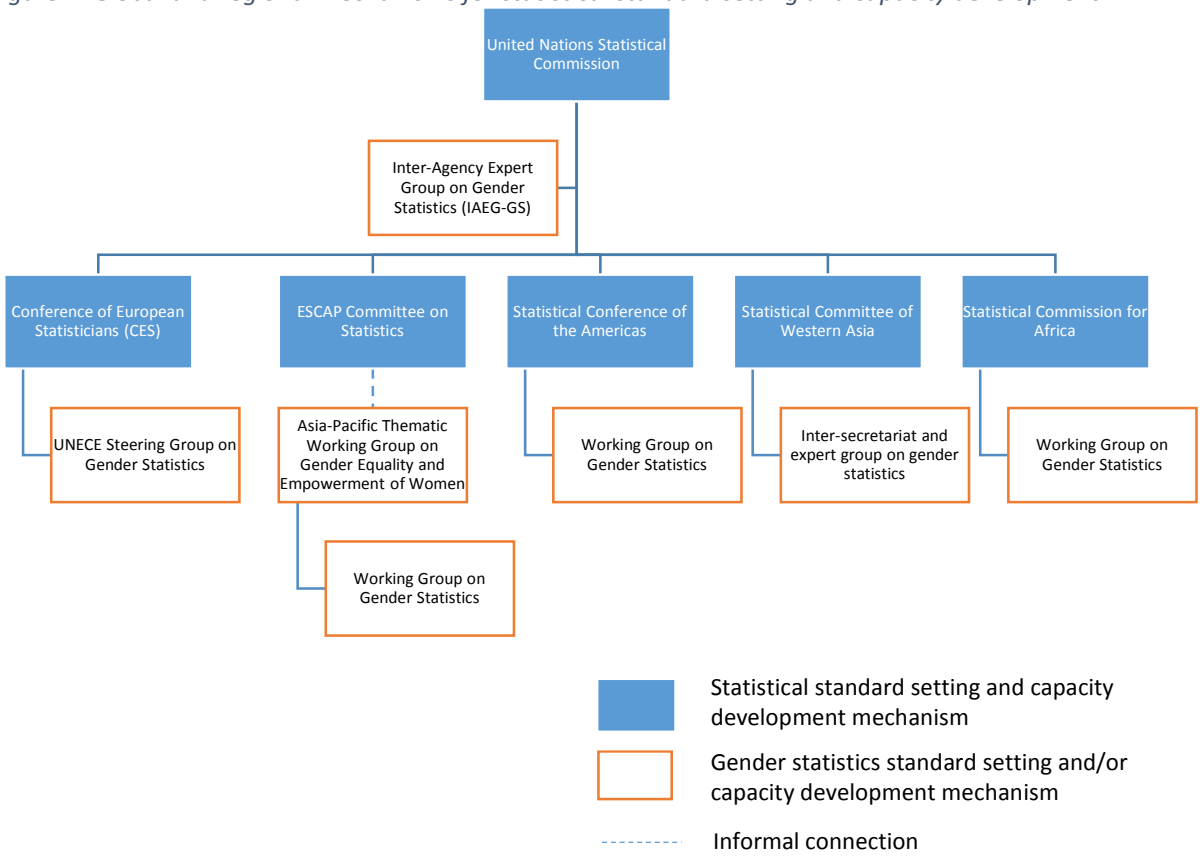
As explained in the section above on national policy frameworks, most countries in the region have a statistical work plan, or a national strategy for statistics. Some include gender statistics, although there is little detail of the priorities and what is being done to develop capacity (see Annex B). One exception is Tajikistan, which has a specific plan for the development of national gender statistics capacity. The plan includes the improvement of legislation on gender statistics, the production of data, particularly in the areas of time use and household budgets, and improvements to the accessibility and use of gender statistics through databases, publications and increased user-producer dialogue (Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan 2013). The plan covered the period 2014-15 and at this stage, no information is available online about the success of the program and how it will be continued into the future.

Enabling environment at regional level

At the global level, work on gender statistics is coordinated by the Inter-agency Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), which falls under the UNSC. Under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Regional Commissions provide statistical standard setting and

capacity development mechanisms (Figure 2). In ECA, it is the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), comprising heads of national statistical offices from the 56 UNECE countries, together with development partners, that oversees the development of statistics in the region. The CES has a well-established system of support for gender statistics through the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics. This is the main coordination mechanism for gender statistics in the region. It organizes regular intergovernmental meetings (every 1-2 years) to promote the adoption of international standards relevant to gender statistics, share country experiences and agree on priorities for regional work on methods, standards and guidance.

Figure 2: Global and regional mechanisms for statistical standard setting and capacity development



The main entry point for UNECE's regional work are the national statistical offices. This is done under the auspices of the CES and linked to the United Nations Statistical Division and UNSC, including the IAEG-GS, lending the work on gender statistics a mandate that is supported at the highest levels of the global statistical system (see Annex C for a diagram depicting the global statistical system). Data users participate in some of the capacity development activities organized through UNECE, usually through the contacts maintained by the NSOs or the UNCT. More information on UNECE's work on gender statistics is provided in section 3 below on partnerships for change.

Data production

The majority of ECA countries conduct the household surveys and censuses that are key to producing gender statistics (Table 2). All countries except for FYR Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, conducted a population and

housing census during the 2010 round of censuses.[19] All countries conduct a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) or Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)[20], although it is more than 10 years since one has been conducted Uzbekistan. Georgia conducted a Reproductive Health Survey (RHS) in 2010-11, and Turkey conducts a household survey on health every two years, based on Eurostat methodology. Most countries have conducted a time use survey (TUS) in the last 10 years, the most recent being in Turkey (2014-15), Kazakhstan (2012), Moldova (2011-12) and Albania and Serbia in 2010-11. Seven of the 18 countries assessed – less than half – have conducted some kind of survey on the prevalence of violence against women. Household budget surveys, or living standard surveys, are conducted in all countries of the region, in many cases on a quarterly basis. All countries conduct regular labour force surveys and publish the results, except for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Globally, just over half of countries regularly produce gender statistics on power and decision-making, and that percentage drops to 42 per cent for unpaid work, 41 per cent for violence against women and a mere 7 per cent for satellite accounts of household production (United Nations Statistical Commission 2013).

[19] Most countries conduct a population census every ten years. The United Nations supports the development of international and regional standards and technical assistance through census rounds in 2000, 2010, 2020, etc. However, countries determine in which year around that time is most suitable to conduct their national census.

[20] The DHS and MICS are similar surveys, both collecting information on fertility, reproductive and maternal health, child health, HIV/AIDS and mortality, amongst other topics.

Table 2: Data collection through censuses and surveys, by country and type of collection

	Population census[21]	DHS[22]	MICS[23]	Other health survey	TUS[24]	VAW[25]	LSMS[26]	LFS[27]
Albania	2011	2008-09, 2016	2005		1996, 2010-11	2013	2012	2016 (Quarterly)
Armenia	2011	2010, 2015-16			2004, 2008	2008	2014	2016
Azerbaijan	2009	2011	2000		2008	2006	2015	2015
Belarus	2009		2012		2014-15		2015 (annual)	2016
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2013		2011-12		2010	2013	2011	2016
Georgia	2014		2005	2010-11 (RHS[28])	2005		2010	2016 (Quarterly)
Kazakhstan	2009	1999	2015		2006, 2012		2015 (annual)	2016 (Quarterly)
Kosovo	2011		2013-14				2015 (annual)	2016 (Quarterly)
Kyrgyzstan	2009	1997, 2012	2014		2005, 2010	2012	2015 (annual)	2015
FYR of Macedonia	2002		2011		2004, 2009		2015	2015
Moldova	2014	2005	2012		2011-12	2005, 2010	2015	2016 (Quarterly)
Montenegro	2011		2013				2015	2016 (Quarterly)
Serbia	2011	-	2014		2009, 2010-11		2015	2016 (Quarterly)
Tajikistan	2010	2012	2005		2007	2005, 2012	2015	2011
Turkey	2011	2003	1995	2014[29]	2006, 2014-15	2009, 2014	2015	2016 (Quarterly)
Turkmenistan	2012	2000	2015-16				2003	2016 (Quarterly)
Ukraine	2001	2007	2012				2009	2015
Uzbekistan	1989	2002	2006		1997		2003	

[21] Population and Housing Censuses as listed on the United Nations Statistics Division website (unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm)
[22] Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) as listed on the DHS Program website (dhsprogram.com/where-we-work/)
[23] Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) as listed on the UNICEF MICS website (mics.unicef.org/surveys)
[24] Time Use Surveys (TUS) as listed on the United Nations Statistics Division, Gender Statistics: Time Use Surveys website (unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/timeuse/) and Belarus National Statistical Committee website (www.belstat.gov.by/en/gosudarstvennye-statisticheskie-nablyudeniya/vyborochnye-obsledovaniya/time-use-survey/)
[25] Violence against Women (VAW) surveys as listed on the Strengthening Health System Responses to Gender-based Violence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia website (www.health-genderviolence.org/training-programme-for-health-care-providers/facts-on-gbv/gbv-in-numbers/23); in UNSD, The World's Women 2015 (unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/worldswomen.html), and on the Gender Equality Agency in BiH website (http://arsbih.gov.ba/project/study-of-prevalence-of-violence-against-women-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina/).
[26] Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) as listed on the World Bank website (iresearch.worldbank.org/lsms/lsmssurveyFinder.htm); Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS) conducted in Armenia (www.armstat.am/en/?nid=378); Household Budget Survey in Azerbaijan (www.stat.gov.az/source/budget_households/indexen.php), BiH (www.bhas.ba/?option=com_content&view=article&id=113&lang=en), Kosovo (ask.rks-gov.net/en/kosovo-agency-of-statistics/social/living-conditions), FYR Macedonia (www.stat.gov.mk/PrikaziPoslednaPublikacija_en.aspx?id=2), Moldova (www.statistica.md/category.php?l=en&idc=445&), Montenegro (www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=255&pageid=72), Serbia (webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/Public/PageView.aspx?pKey=23), Tajikistan (stat.tj/en/img/76e146f281fbc81cd3d36107f46410d8_1453454052.pdf) and Uzbekistan (catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/catalog/4321); Household Income and Expenditure Survey in Georgia (geostat.ge/index.php?action=wnews_archive1&qy=1&qy1=19&lang=eng); Household Living Standard Survey in Belarus (tinyurl.com/jc5vjyg), Kazakhstan (tinyurl.com/z9lmq34), Kyrgyzstan (www.stat.kg/en/statistics/uroven-zhizni-naseleniya/) and Turkmenistan (catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/catalog/2171), Income and Living Conditions Survey in Turkey (www.turkstat.gov.tr/UstMenu.do?metod=temelist), and the Household Living Conditions Survey (catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/catalog/3690).
[27] Labour Force Surveys (LFS) as listed on the International Labour Organization (ILO) website (www.ilo.org/dyn/lfsurvey/)
[28] Reproductive Health Survey (RHS) as listed on the Global Health Data Exchange (GHDx) website (ghdx.healthdata.org/)
[29] Turkish Statistical Institute, Turkey Health Survey 2014 (www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=18854)

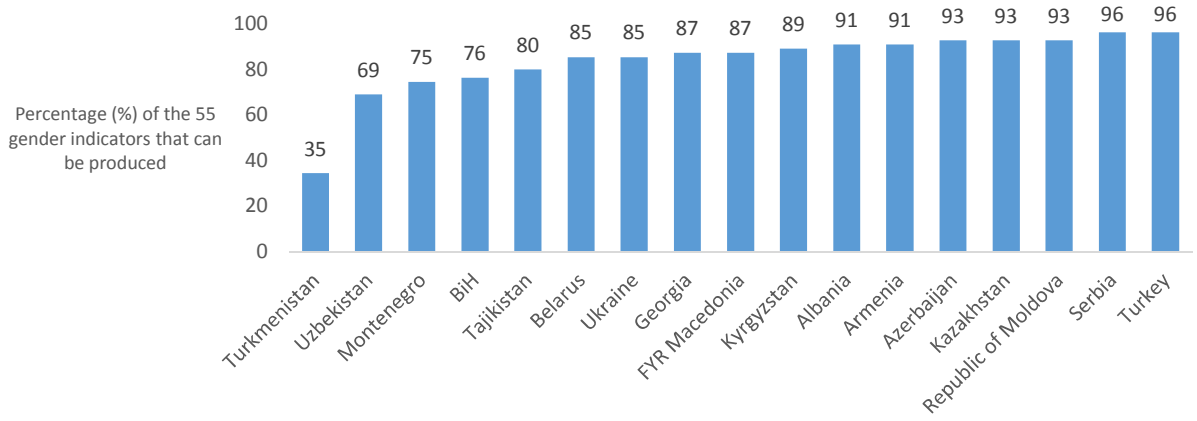
Data production (continued)

The availability of data for the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators can be used as a proxy to indicate each country's capacity to produce key gender statistics. Current data availability shows that all countries, except Turkmenistan, can produce more than two thirds of the minimum set of statistics (Figure 3). Data production is more of an issue for Uzbekistan, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Tajikistan. On the other hand, Serbia and Turkey can produce almost all of the minimum set.

Indicators that are least complete in the United Nations database for ECA countries are:

- Indicator 49 – Proportion of women (aged 15-49) subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15 (12% of the ECA countries can produce this)
- Indicator 48 – Proportion of ever-partnered women (aged 15-49) subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months (29%)
- Indicator 45 – Women's share of managerial positions (35%)
- Indicator 9 – Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex (41%)
- Indicator 18 – Proportion of individual using mobile/cellular telephones, by sex (41%)
- Indicator 1 – Average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic work, by sex (53%)
- Indicator 2 – Average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid domestic work combined (total work burden), by sex (53%)
- Indicator 46 – Share of female police officers (53%)
- Indicator 40 – Access to anti-retroviral drug, by sex (65%)
- Indicator 17 – Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by sex (65%).

Figure 3: Availability of the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, by country
(as a % of the 55 indicators included in the database)



Note: BiH is Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Source: Based on data availability in the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators website (https://genderstats.un.org/#/data-availability) on 3 December 2016.

Data production based on administrative records was identified as a gap by many of the stakeholders interviewed. This assessment did not go beyond existing reviews to determine the extent of the gaps in this area. The ADB assessment in 2012 found that sex-disaggregated statistics on health and education were produced and made available online for all countries of the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, although in some cases they were out of date or only a few

Data production (continued)

indicators were being produced (Asian Development Bank 2012). The FAO's review of statistics in Tajikistan highlighted that the NSO and statistical units in line ministries should do more to work together to maximize the production of gender statistics from administrative records. FAO emphasized difficulty in accessing data that is disaggregated by multiple characteristics (e.g. sex, age, location), such as is needed when analysing the situation of rural women and men.

Data accessibility

Dissemination of data and microdata is improving, but gaps in the capacity to access and use that information persist. Almost all countries are regularly producing 'Women and Men in…' publications[30] and some have established gender statistics databases. A link to the latest version of these products in each country is provided in Annex D. These publications provide a compendium of gender statistics and are indicative of some level of commitment to improving the accessibility and use of these data.

Online databases, using dissemination platforms such as PC-Axis, are available in a number of countries, such as Albania (www.instat.gov.al/al/figures/statistical-databases.aspx), Georgia (pc-axis.geostat.ge/), Kosovo (askdata.rks-gov.net), FYR Macedonia (makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/en/MakStat/), Moldova (statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Database/EN/databasetree.asp) . These offer pre-formulated cubes of data that, in some cases, allow the user to disaggregate by sex, age and sub-national areas and other characteristics of their choice. The data can then manipulated online (e.g. sorted, table structure changed) and downloaded in a variety of formats.

Microdata from MICS and DHS surveys are available through the respective websites for researchers to request access to for further analysis. Some NSOs publish microdata, in particular Albania[31] (TUS, LFS, population census, Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS)), Armenia[32] (Integrated Living Conditions Survey, population census, migration survey, LFS, child labour survey), Kosovo[33] (living conditions, labour market participation, migration, education, health and welfare), Kyrgyzstan[34] (individual poverty data, migration data), and Serbia (provided to scientific and research institutions on request).

Capacity to monitor and report on SDGs

ECA countries are at varying stages of nationalizing/localizing SDGs and assessing data availability and capacity to produce the statistics needed to monitor and report on progress. A survey of UNCTs on country-level needs for SDG implementation in ECA found that monitoring and data is considered the most challenging aspect of SDG implementation and where intense regional support will be required (United Nations Development Group 2015). It also found that specific guidance on integration of a gender perspective is required, and that a key barrier to data monitoring and reporting is the lack of clarity on SDG

[30] Based on the original *Women and Men in Sweden* booklet that is released annually by Statistics Sweden, these national publications are typically compendiums of available gender-related statistics. They are usually produced regularly (e.g. annually) in print and/or PDF format, and provide a useful starting point for looking up key gender indicators across the range of socio-economic topics. The publications vary in content and style, but tend to contain limited analysis or guidance to assist with interpretation of the data.

[31] Albania Institute of Statistics Microdata website (http://www.instat.gov.al/en/figures/micro-data.aspx)

[32] National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia Databases website (http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=246)

[33] Kosovo Agency for Statistics website (http://ask.rks-gov.net/en/kosovo-agency-of-statistics)

[34] National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic Databases website (http://stat.kg/en/bazy-dannyh/)

indicators and resulting ambiguity of requirements for data collection and analysis.

Interviews with actors outside the UN system, revealed that even being able to locate the authoritative list of SDG indicators online is a challenge. UN Women should be able to play a leadership role at the regional level to help connect the wide range of stakeholders with information on the gender-related aspects of SDG implementation, including localization processes, data production requirements, developments in methodologies, regional and global reporting processes. Also changes to indicators such as their transition between Tiers I, II and III, and the introduction of new indicators (see recommendation 5).

A regional survey on planning, implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs was sent to all 56 UNECE member states and Kosovo in December 2015. It found that the vast majority of the 39 countries that responded see the United Nations playing a key role in supporting SDG data and monitoring, including statistical guidance, developing standards and methodologies, assistance with data disaggregation, establishing baselines, and sharing experiences between countries. Member states requested the United Nations system to avoid fragmentation of data and monitoring into different institutions and to capitalize on existing cooperation with organizations such as Eurostat, European Economic Area (EEA), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and PARIS21 (UNECE and United Nations Development Group 2016). In Kosovo, there is ongoing dialogue with government on localization of the SDGs, including statistical capacity requirements and mapping data needs to the SDG framework.

Countries that have progressed with mapping data availability and statistical capacity to the SDG framework include Serbia and Turkey, both representing relatively advanced statistical systems in comparison to the rest of the ECA countries. Serbia states that the standard suite of official statistics required for EU member countries would allow production of around 40 per cent of the SDG indicators. Reviews of national priorities and data needs show the issue of capacity is critical and the enormous scale of the task ahead. SDG implementation is likely to be hampered by lack of realistic funding, poor interagency communications and a lack of alternative methods for capacity building (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia 2016).

In Turkey, an assessment of SDG implementation needs found that the national statistical system can currently produce 45 per cent of the SDG indicators. About half of these are produced by the NSO and the rest by other institutions, emphasising the importance of administrative data as a source for SDG monitoring and reporting. Turkey's initial assessment did not include whether the indicators could be adequately disaggregated, only that they could be produced at all. The next steps for Turkey include more detailed inventory of data and metadata, identifying priorities, developing capacity, exploring the need for national indicators, strengthening statistical infrastructure and data sharing mechanisms. The report highlights the importance of following best practices from other countries and being involved in global efforts to enhance the SDG monitoring and reporting framework, things that regional level programs should be able to support (Government of Turkey 2016). Gathering and sharing best practices across the region, and facilitating regional input to global standard setting, should be an important feature of the regional project (see recommendations 2, 5, 9, 15 and 20).

At the national level, UNCTs plan to support statistical capacity development through current and future UNDAFs, help governments to establish data and monitoring systems, collect, analyse, disseminate and use data. United Nations agencies, including UN Women, will need to provide specialized statistical expertise to facilitate this. Regional support to UNCTs should include detailed technical guidance on all key elements of SDG implementation, sharing good practices, a OneUN voice from the regional UN system, and specialized expertise, capacity building and financial support (United Nations Development Group 2015) (see recommendations 2, 22, 25 and 26).

Current gaps, challenges and underlying causes

Countries of the region face many challenges in collecting and managing data to guide policy planning and measure success (UN Women 2014). Mechanisms for the production of and access to data are weak, leading to a paucity of available data on gender issues. In particular, data on violence against women, women's representation in the media, women's business ownership, access to land and other resources, and disaggregated data about women from various disadvantaged groups are rare. The increasing availability and use of the internet is providing citizens for better access to information and is an important opportunity for statistics. It is providing potential new data sources as well as improving the sharing, dissemination and communication of national and regional statistics, with the potential to increase the accountability of government to achieve the goals set out in various normative frameworks.

Information gathered during this assessment highlighted the following key gaps in the region:

Poor access to data, and limited analysis, interpretation and use of gender statistics

The effective use of gender statistics was highlighted as the most problematic area by a number of stakeholders. There is a clear demand to do more with existing data, such as in-depth analysis of data from population censuses, surveys, etc. Controlling the quality of gender analysis is also needed to avoid misinterpretation and misuse of statistical information (see recommendations 11 and 13).

Both UNECE and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have identified the need to make better use of existing data as a key priority for gender statistics in the future. Activities include improving dissemination and communication of statistics by data producers, increasing analysis of existing data (e.g. on time use), and supporting NSOs to develop the statistical literacy of data users.

This assessment has found that the capacity to produce data is relatively high and much data already exists. There is also a reasonable amount of data being disseminated through online databases, websites, data files and publications, including microdata in some countries. There is little information available to explain why the data being produced are not meeting user needs and the perception of huge data gaps continues to persist. Interviews with data users highlighted that data dissemination is not timely enough and/or what is published lacks the disaggregation they need. A lack of trust and reliability of survey data produced by the national statistical office was raised by one data user from academia. A user of data at the regional level highlighted that databases maintained by international organizations often have inconsistent figures for the same indicator and that better coordination between agencies is needed.

It is recommended to conduct some research into the uses of gender statistics to better understand the gaps between data production and use (see recommendation 14). Focusing efforts on addressing poor access to and use of data should be a priority for UN Women, particularly given their role in facilitating monitoring and reporting on gender-related goals and commitments (see recommendations 1, 10-16 and 22).

Not enough data disaggregation

Anyone involved in national development needs to be able to produce data disaggregated by sex, age, location, and other characteristics, and/or be able to analyse and use that data to inform policies and decisions. Data disaggregation is a primary concern in light of increasing demands from the 2030 Agenda framework for rapid progress in this area. Scarcity of disaggregated data, especially by ethnicity and disability was raised by many of the stakeholders. Ongoing issues related to data sensitivity and transparency result in necessary data either not being collected or not being released. Significantly more investment needed in disaggregated data collection, evaluation and analysis (UNICEF 2015).

The 2030 Agenda and development commitments adopted by countries could lead to a demand for statistics that will be difficult to satisfy. For example, an assessment of data issues found the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) framework suffered a "mismatch between ambition in monitoring and ambition in measurement" and estimates that the costs of fully reporting on the post-2015 agenda would be in excess of US$250 billion globally (Jerven 2014). Careful consideration is needed to determine which indicators are most valuable for making informed decisions and can be produced cost-effectively (see recommendations 1, 3 and 4).

Data collection is typically designed in a way that enables disaggregation by a range of variables. In the case of household surveys, the size and design of the sample constrains the possibility to produce data on smaller vulnerable groups and areas. Also, when data are collected at the household level, such as is often the case for income and expenditure (the basis for poverty statistics), data can only be disaggregated by the sex of the household head, providing little insight into the distribution of resources within households. The needs for such data must be balanced against the costs of collection. Developing statistical literacy is essential to ensure stakeholders understand such constraints (see recommendation 11).

Even when data can be disaggregated by multiple variables (e.g. by sex, age and urban/rural area), it is rare for standard releases of official statistics to do so, as FAO found in the preparation of recent publications on rural women (Food and Agriculture Organization 2016). Obtaining the level of disaggregation needed typically requires a request to the national statistical office, or direct access to the microdata so the required cross-tabulations can be generated by the user themselves. It is encouraging that many NSOs are already disseminating microdata (as outlined above). This should be strengthened, together with the capacity for researchers and other data users to access and analyze those data (see recommendations 10 and 11). Easy-to-use databases and tools that allow users to cross-tabulate data by the variables of interest to them are also worth investing in. Existing examples include Bosnia and Herzegovina's Household Budget Survey data warehouse.[35]

[35] http://www.bhas.ba:8080/istarMDSE/index1.html

Gender is a low priority for the statistical system

The low priority afforded to gender within national statistical systems is evident in the organizational structures (e.g. single gender focal point), limited or no budget allocation, and absence of a strong commitment to gender monitoring and reporting in national statistical strategies and plans. More appropriate entry points are needed to increase investment in gender statistics and to see this field valued as an integral to statistical quality, such as national development plans, and identifying high-level champions that can advocate for use of evidence and increased accountability (see recommendation 2).

Gender statistics is not a distinct field that can be developed in isolation. It depends on all statistical domains – economic, social and environmental – to review and adjust their methods and processes to take gender concerns into consideration and ensure they collect, produce and disseminate the statistics needed to monitor gender equality commitments. This a whole system approach that examines the delineation of responsibilities between administrative data produced by line ministries and the survey and census data generated by NSOs. Initiatives by donors and development partners to build statistical capacity in any area must be gender-sensitive so as not to waste the opportunity to strengthen data disaggregation and to avoid sending inconsistent messages to countries. Consistently adopting international recommendations and common statistical standards across these systems are vital. The 2030 Agenda is an opportunity to provide a more integrated and strategic approach to statistical capacity development (see recommendation 1, 5, 6, 17 and 18).

Establishing a stronger connection between the demand and supply of gender statistics should lead to better quality statistics (see recommendations 1, 6, 17 and 18). SDG nationalization and localization will provide opportunities to work at the country level on streamlining monitoring and reporting on gender-related goals and developing ways to make these processes more cost-effective and sustainable. Understanding that resources are limited and that securing them can be a competitive process, gender statistics initiatives should take advantage of their cross-cutting nature by highlighting how building capacity in this area provides long-term advantages across a multitude of sectors and capabilities (e.g. analysis, dissemination).

Lack of data on violence against women

Although data gaps exist in a number of domains relevant to gender, the scarcity of violence against women (VAW) prevalence data and qualitative information was mentioned by many stakeholders as a particular concern for the region. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has recently initiated a major program to conduct prevalence surveys in 10 countries of the region that will help to address this gap.[36] The survey will provide data for key global indicators, including the SDGs and the EU Gender Equality Index. They and are keen to partner with UN Women during

[36] Proposed coverage: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo**, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

**All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.

implementation and would like assistance engaging and coordinating with NSOs and with UNCTs in each country (see recommendation 7).

There is also a demand to coordinate the production and use of prevalence data with related crime statistics that are produced based on administrative records, and to help policy and decision makers to understand how to interpret and use these different sources. This could build on the work being done by EIGE to catalogue administrative data sources maintained at national level and combine this information with prevalence data and qualitative research to produce studies on particular issues, such as the costs of gender-based violence in the EU, and victim support services.[37]

Methodological work on VAW statistics at the regional level, through Eurostat and FRA would benefit from a more joined up approach with other global and regional efforts to develop and test methodologies. Tools are needed to help stakeholders understand the similarities, strengths and weaknesses of different methodologies and guide them in choices about the types of data collection and analysis activities to support. A joint programme on VAW data, being implemented by UN Women, UNFPA, UNSD, UNDP, UNICEF and UNDP as part of the global gender statistics FPI, will address these needs, facilitating connections between work on VAW measurement.

Other data gaps

Based on capacity to produce the minimum set of gender indicators (outlined above), the demand for gender-related data to monitor and report on the SDGs, and the priorities for gender statistics in the EU, other data gaps to be addressed are:

a) Unpaid care work
b) Gender pay gap
c) Share of decision-making positions
d) Informal employment
e) Access to and use of information and communication technologies.

As countries progress with SDG localization and implementation they will undertake detailed assessments of data needs and availability that will provide more information on the gaps to be addressed. The regional project can gather lessons learned from national localization processes and use this to support regional adaptation of gender-related SDG targets and indicators (see recommendation 4).

Administrative data not maximised as a source of gender statistics

Administrative data is a major weakness in many countries of the region and a significant opportunity for strengthening gender statistics. Many SDG indicators will need to be derived from administrative data, including some related to gender concerns. Indicators produced from these sources are often not sex-disaggregated, even when the sex variable is collected (e.g. bank account holders). It makes sense to invest in bringing existing administrative sources in line with international standards so that statistics can be derived at significantly lower cost than through surveys and censuses where possible.

Improving administrative sources for gender statistics is challenged by the wide range of data producers involved and their varying understanding and commitment to gender-related goals. The culture of poor communication

[37] EIGE. A Europe free from gender-based violence (http://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence).

between government agencies and not sharing information will also be a significant barrier to overcome.

Future priorities for gender statistics

The annual UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics include development of recommendations for future work. The 2016 meeting identified the following topics to be considered for the agenda of the 2017 meeting:

a) Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the gender perspective
b) Implementation of SDG 5 'Gender equality'
c) Gender issues in vulnerable population groups
d) Use of gender statistics in policymaking
e) Gendered power and decision-making within the household
f) Asset ownership and entrepreneurship
g) Work-life balance and time use
h) Gender pay and pension gap
i) Social protection from the gender perspective
j) Plans for examining gender issues using the census of the 2020 round
k) Valuing unpaid work
l) Violence against women
m) Emerging issues in gender statistics

The work session participants also requested that in future, meeting papers highlight results that provide evidence for policymaking, the way these results can be communicated to policymakers, and the potential policy impact of the results. This highlights an increasing emphasis on connecting data production to data use and evidence-based policy making.

UN Women's global FPI on gender statistics sets out the strategic priorities for the organization has for strengthening gender statistics in the coming years:

Outcome 1: Enabling environment
Supportive and well-coordinated policy environment, including enabling legal frameworks and institutional arrangements, are in place to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs

Output 1.1: Capacity of NSS to conduct an **assessment of gender statistics and identify gaps** is strengthened

Output 1.2: Capacity of NSS to **mainstream gender in national strategies** for producing statistics is strengthened

Output 1.3: Capacity of NSS to develop national **plans to localize gender-related SDGs** targets and indicators is strengthened

Outcome 2: Data production
Quality, comparable and regular gender statistics are available to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the SDGs, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.

Output 2.1: Capacity of the NSS strengthened to **compile Tier I indicators** in the minimum set and the SDGs.

Output 2.2: Capacity of the NSS strengthened to **collect Tier II indicators** in the minimum set and the SDGs.

Output 2.3: Capacity of the NSS strengthened to **produce Tier III indicators** in the minimum set and the SDGs.

Outcome 3: Data availability

Gender statistics are accessible to all users (including governments, civil society, academia and the private sector) and can be analysed to inform research, advocacy, policies and programmes and promote accountability.

Output 3.1. **Increased dissemination** of data at national, regional and global levels is promoted and supported.

Output 3.2: The **institutionalization of user-producer dialogues** to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics is promoted.

Output 3.3: Capacity of civil society, government and other actors to **analyse and use** gender statistics to inform decision-making is strengthened.

3. Partnerships for change

Role and structure of UN Women

UN Women exists to support national efforts to achieve gender equality, undertake advocacy on issues critical to women's empowerment and gender equality, support the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW, provide a knowledge hub, and to lead and coordinate the UN system on gender equality, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming. Gender statistics are relevant and essential to all of UN Women's work, situating the organization as a major stakeholder in gender statistics and providing a solid basis for engaging in strengthening statistical capacity in this area.

In the ECA region, the UN Women regional office provides support and oversight to five Country Offices (COs) in Albania, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, as well as a Multi-Country Office (MCO) in Kazakhstan, which covers programme presence in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, programme/project presence (PPs) is directly supported by the RO, in Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. The office is based in Istanbul and has been operational since 2014.

UN Women ECA Regional Office

ECA RO provides a range of functions and services to M/COs and PPs. They include:

- Strategic programme development and policy/technical advice
- Oversight, programme, and operational support and quality assurance
- United Nations interagency coordination through the Regional UNDG (R-UNDG), Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), Regional Working Group on Gender (ECA-RWGG), which it chairs, and Gender Thematic Groups (GTGs) in the ECA region (via the inter-agency Yammer group)
- Intergovernmental support through coordination of regional reports and inputs to corporate reports
- Representation, communication and advocacy
- Strategic partnerships and resource mobilization
- Knowledge management

Many of these services and activities depend on the production and use of gender statistics. For example, ECA RO's role in providing guidance and technical assistance to M/COs and PPs in engendering the CCAs and UNDAFs should include advice on how gender statistics do and could play a role in those processes. And, ECA RO should rely on gender statistics in their efforts to provide an analytical evidence base for developing regional norms and standards.

UN Women Multi/Country Offices and Programme Presence Offices

UN Women implements its programmes through its network of multi/country and programme presence offices, supported by ECA RO. This provides a direct link to national and sub-national governments and a strong understanding of the issues and opportunities that exist on the ground. Through a country presence, UN Women is well placed to support gender mainstreaming in national legislation, plans, policies, monitoring and evaluation processes. UN Women can also play a key role to support civil society organizations to increase their capacity to deliver services, advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment and encourage accountability of governments to achieve gender-related commitments.

UN Women's experiences strengthening gender statistics in the ECA region

Discussions with UN Women staff revealed some experiences and lessons learned to date in strengthening gender statistics at the national level. Gender statistics are needed as a source of data and information to inform UN Women's work, to aggregate for a picture at regional level and provide inputs to regional and global corporate reports, and finally, as a source for developing local knowledge and supporting the national statistical system to improve. UN Women has been playing a role in developing national capacity in gender statistics. Some examples include (by no means an exhaustive list):

- In Albania and Moldova, UN Women supported the development of a harmonized set of gender indicators based on gender-related goals in national and sector plans.
- In Moldova, UN Women has supported the NSO to develop an innovative tool to increase data accessibility – GenderPulse – that aims to provide the latest gender statistics to high-level decision makers in a user-friendly format.[38]
- In Georgia, UN Women provided technical assistance to the NSO to improve national statistics on gender pay gap.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the office was involved in supporting the national violence against women prevalence survey.
- In Kyrgyzstan, UN Women led a joint Gender in Society Perception study, together with UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), implemented in partnership with the NSO.

Several UN Women staff consulted mentioned the limited technical capacity in gender statistics as a barrier to the organization being able to operate effectively in this area (see recommendation 24). United Nations and non-UN partners also observed that UN Women is not known for their statistical capacity at the regional level and, as demand is growing, the involvement and strengthening of UN Women's role in statistical capacity development would be welcomed.

Actors and mechanisms for developing statistical capacity in the region

There are many actors working on strengthening gender statistics, and statistics more broadly, in the ECA region. An overview of the main actors is provided below, with more information on their recent, ongoing and planned gender statistics activities provided in Annex E. Further consultation and validation processes conducted as part of developing the regional project document should reveal any major stakeholders or activities that may not have been captured.

United Nations Regional Commissions (UNECE and ESCAP)

The United Nations Statistical Commission – an intergovernmental mechanism that is the highest standard setting body for official statistics – and the equivalent regional mechanisms, such as the CES in the ECA region, are key entities in the global statistical system (see Annex C). Together with the United Nations agencies and partners, such as OECD and Eurostat, the statistical community works closely across all domains, including gender statistics, to develop and implement standards and best practice. As gender statistics cuts across all statistical domains and issues, any work in this area should tap into these existing mechanisms for statistical coordination at regional and global levels in order to have any lasting impact (see recommendation 1).

The CES endorsed a zero draft of a road map on statistics for the SDGs in April 2016 (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2016). It sets out a process for assessing readiness to report on SDG indicators at the regional level, selecting regional indicators, reporting, developing capacity for SDG indicators, and communicating and disseminating SDG statistics. This work at regional level should support and align with efforts to localize the SDGs at national level, as well as link closely with the global processes being developed through groups such as IAEG-SDGs.

UNECE is the secretariat to the CES and is perceived as the lead organization on gender statistics in the region. Together with donors and development partners such as the World Bank Institute, International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Eurostat, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat),

[38] A beta version of GenderPulse is available at https://projects.invisionapp.com/share/WY5LD2W5J#/screens.

and EIGE, they have been working in this area more than a decade and have helped NSOs to make significant progress. ESCAP, as the regional commission for Asia and the Pacific, also plays some role in the ECA region, although, in the main, it tends to leave gender statistics capacity development in the overlapping countries of Central Asia, Turkey and Georgia to colleagues in the UNECE.

United Nations Agencies

Organizations such as UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, World Bank and WHO, play a significant role in statistical capacity development including in gender statistics. Much of the focus is on data production, such as supporting population and agriculture censuses, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), MICS, Labour Force Surveys (LFS). United Nations partners are also active in supporting in-depth analysis of the data that is collected, although most commented that much more can be done in this area.

European Union

The developing countries of the region benefit from close proximity and interactions with the European Statistical System - the European Commission (Eurostat) and the national statistical institutes of EU Member States - EU member states and the high statistical standards and culture of evidence-based policy making that the EU uphold. In particular, candidate and potential candidate countries are being supported to raise the standard of their statistical production processes to comply with the European Statistics Code of Practice (Eurostat 2011), leading to increased statistical capacity.

EIGE plays a key role in supporting the development of gender statistics in the region, particularly as they are focused on the collation, harmonization, analysis and use of gender statistics through the European Index of Gender Equality and the European Gender Statistics Database. They also support EU Member States to monitor the Beijing Platform for Action and prepare reports on progress in the critical areas of concern selected by the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.[39]

Council of Europe

The CoE is a key actor to partner with. Its Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 sets five strategic objectives: combating gender stereotypes and sexism; preventing and combating violence against women; guaranteeing equal access of women to justice; achieving balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making; and achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures (Council of Europe 2014).

The CoE's recent work on gender statistics includes collecting data related to policy measures to combat violence against women in the 47 CoE Member States, producing guidance on data collection on violence against women and producing guidance for measuring women's access to justice (in cooperation with UN Women). Furthermore, the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) by the Parties, will draw up and publish reports evaluating legislative and other measures taken by the Parties to give effects to the provisions of the Convention. CoE and UN Women have developed a methodology on mapping violence against women and girls support services as required by the Istanbul Convention. Finally, the CoE

[39] EIGE. Monitoring the Beijing Platform for Action (http://eige.europa.eu/monitoring-the-bpfa)

	regularly collects data regarding women and men's participation in political and public decision-making in the 47 CoE member states (next report will be published in the spring of 2017).
PARIS21	The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) promotes the better use and production of statistics throughout the developing world. It is most active in supporting the development and implementation of NSDSs. As the NSDS is the main strategic document on statistics at the national level, partnering with PARIS21 to ensure gender statistics are mainstreamed in national plans is fundamental to building capacity (see recommendations 2 and 3).

Comparative advantage of UN Women ECARO

According to the ECA RO Strategic Note 2015-2017, UN Women's comparative advantage and key role is to develop and support strategic partnerships between the main actors. UN Women occupies a special niche and it has demonstrated the capacity to use its position to convene key stakeholders including governments, civil society organizations and NGOs and other United Nations entities. Although the ECA region has benefited significantly from the coordination of gender statistics activities through the UNECE Statistical Division, this work is primarily targeted at national statistical offices. UN Women could bring their coordination capacity to enhance the connections between the statistical systems (both national and regional) and the data user community who are involved in monitoring and reporting on gender-related goals, such as the national women's machinery, the media, parliamentarians, civil society organizations and academia. Discussion with United Nations partners during this assessment suggests UN Women's network of country and programme offices, combined with its mandate as leader of the UN's work on gender equality and women's empowerment, could be of valuable support to UNECE in their regional coordination of gender statistics (see recommendations 1, 5 and 6).

According to the global Gender Statistics FPI, a comparative advantage of UN Women is to leverage its universal mandate to create linkages between the normative and technical advances in gender statistics at the global, regional and national levels. The ECA RO will be key to assisting UN Women HQ in facilitating that link through its system of regional, multi-country and country and programme offices. It can take advantage of its presence in 14 countries of the region and its participation in regional and national UN coordination mechanisms to make those connections (see recommendations 5, 12, 17 and 18).

ECA ROs coordination mandate places UN Women in a strong position to play the role of advocate and watchdog for mainstreaming gender into SDG implementation processes, as well as gender mainstreaming into national and regional statistical systems in a broader context (see recommendations 5, 10, 19 and 22).

In developing UN Women's Global Strategy (2018-2021), the organization is encouraged to combine and use its triple mandate of coordination, normative support and operational activities together more effectively to deliver results. The Gender Statistics FPI provides an excellent opportunity to do so. Being able to use these mandates to further strengthen gender statistics will come with some challenges. One will be determining how best to address the limited technical understanding of gender statistics among UN Women staff and offices, where that exists. Training, resources and tools can be developed through the regional FPI to develop those skills (see recommendation 24). Also, where engagement with the national statistical system and data user community has been minimal, there will need to be investment in establishing relationships and developing a common understanding of gender statistics priorities and opportunities (see recommendations 19 and 22).

The fact that the initiative of UN Women in conducting this assessment has been positively received by all United Nations and non-UN partners consulted during the process suggests the readiness for existing stakeholders to see UN Women play a role in this space.

4. Opportunities and recommendations

Achieving an effective system of gender statistics requires political will and commitment from the highest levels of the national statistical system. It requires coordination between the national women's machinery, line ministries, statistical offices, and data users, to build a common understanding of gender priorities and work together to produce and use the information needed to effectively monitor progress. It needs donors and development partners to connect their work on building statistical capacity to their work on gender equality and sustainable development, so that interventions make a long-term and sustainable impact, rather than temporary or isolated gains.

Strengthening statistical capacity to effectively monitor the SDGs requires well-coordinated, well-funded and complementary action at national, regional and global levels. At the global and regional levels, technical work to develop internationally agreed standards and methodologies is needed to provide the necessary support to countries to improve the production of gender statistics and ensure that quality standards are met. At national level, UN Women can play a role in raising the profile of gender in SDG localization processes, identifying national priorities and supporting the production of gender statistics in those areas. As statistics and research are an essential part of UN Women's ability to program, mobilize resources and leverage partnerships for the up-scaled, FPI-based, promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, their involvement in this area is vital.

UN Women can support the coordination of gender statistics at regional level, helping to bring a more holistic perspective of data production and use in policymaking at the national to the table. As the leader of the United Nations' work on gender equality and women's empowerment, UN Women is ideally placed to partner with UNECE and ESCAP and work through their regional statistical coordination mechanisms for a more joined-up effort. EU integration provides the major impetus for improving statistics in many countries of the region and working with Eurostat, EIGE, EU delegations and the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) is also essential. This will help to 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, as is one aim of the global Gender Statistics FPI.

Increasing the use of existing data is a major gap and a strategic opportunity for UN Women, which has experience in producing quality statistical presentations and analysis in its global flagship reports. The demand for support to improve dissemination, communication and use of data seems to significantly outweigh the supply of donor funding and technical assistance in this area. For example, data on financing for statistics analysed by UN Women Headquarters (HQ) show that in 2013, Eastern Europe received the lowest proportion, only 7%, of the US$448 million allocated globally to improve statistical capacity.[40] There is not much information on the allocation of official development assistance (ODA) funds to gender statistics, but the analysis by HQ suggests it is "very little" (UN Women 2015).

Key stakeholders need help to understand and use basic gender indicators, such as parliamentarians, the media and advocates for gender equality in civil society organizations. UN Women's strong relationships, networks and coordination mandate sees the organization well placed to work with data producers to develop statistical literacy and increase the understanding and use of gender statistics. Data visualization techniques, dissemination and communication methods are becoming more widely affordable and accessible, and, with good access to technology, the ECA region is well situated to invest in this area.

[40] The regions included in the analysis of funding detailed in the PARIS21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) 2015 included Asia-Pacific (received 41% of funding in 2013), Africa (36%), Eastern Europe (7%), Latin America and Caribbean (2%), with a further 14% being allocated to global initiatives that were not country-specific.

Development of a regional programme

This assessment has been conducted primarily to inform the development to the ECA RO project document for a regional Gender Statistics FPI programme in line with the global FPI. The effective design of that programme should be guided by UN Women HQ so that it implements the global FPI as well as the demands from UN Women staff in the ECA M/COs and PPs. Their suggestions included:

- UN Women needs a concrete, unified approach to strengthening gender statistics at the national and regional levels. Activities have been scattered and would benefit from more systematic thinking and planning. UN Women should institutionalize gender statistics and develop a strong offering and presence in this area, e.g. as UNFPA has done with population and housing censuses.
- It is essential to have tailored interventions at the country level. The capacity of the NSOs varies a lot and in-country assistance is key to UN Women being able to successfully develop programmes based on the national needs and context.
- Placing the gender statistics project manager in a country office, rather than the regional office, was raised. The success of the GRB project was cited as support for this approach as it allows the project leader to operate at the country office level, giving them the insights needed to understand national demands and provide appropriate support to other country offices and programme offices. However, the need to provide national support needs to be balanced against the need to be engaged in regional-level activities. The project manager will work with regional partners and should be closely involved in gender statistics activities and SDG monitoring and reporting that occur at regional level. Working outside of the regional office would limit their capacity to be engaged in regional level processes.
- The programme should be developed in a way that summarises the risks and includes risk mitigation. Things will always get in the way of initial plans and priorities can shift, but issues to should be anticipated and strategies developed to work around them so that work can continue.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to guide UN Women in developing the regional project to address the issues and gaps in gender statistics capacity in the ECA region. They are activities that could be implemented by UN Women in partnership with other actors and are categorised using the structure of the global FPI: enabling environment, data production and data accessibility and use, as well as cross-cutting activities. Recommendations specific to developing the capacity of UN Women to implement the project are also provided.

Enabling environment

1. Participate in the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics and support UNECE in playing a leading role in regional coordination of gender statistics, particularly with stakeholders outside the national statistical systems, such as data users in national women's machineries, parliament and civil society organizations
2. Promote the use of tools and frameworks developed by PARIS21 to advocate for robust integration of gender statistics in the NSDS; gather and share information on lessons learned across the region
3. Conduct detailed national assessments of legal framework, policies and practices governing the production of gender statistics, including mapping of available data to needs for monitoring and reporting on localized SDGs, and/or contribute to assessments of national statistical systems conducted by other actors to ensure a gender focus, and use the findings to recommend how the enabling environment can be strengthened
4. Support regional adaptation of gender-related SDG targets and indicators based on common lessons learned from national localization processes

Data production

5. Connect the wide range of stakeholders with information on the gender-related aspects of SDG implementation, including localization processes, data production requirements, developments in methodologies, regional and global reporting processes, and changes to indicators such as transition between Tiers I, II and III
6. Seek opportunities to better engage the data user community (civil society, academia, and the media) in regional mechanisms that oversee and guide the production of statistics and SDG monitoring and reporting so that their data needs can be better reflected and the relationship between users and producers is strengthened
7. Support the production of gender-related data through surveys, censuses and administrative records (e.g. MICS, DHS, VAW surveys, time-use surveys, civil registration and vital statistics) and seek opportunities to direct funding and technical support to these activities
8. Engage in regional fora and activities that are considering new sources of data and applications of technology and ensure developments in this area are shared at the national level
9. Contribute regional expertise to any methodological work that UN Women is involved in, such as the development of the sex-disaggregated indicator on representation in local government

Data accessibility and use

10. Develop materials and advocate for improving the quality of statistics through better accessibility and use of existing data, such as increased dissemination of microdata
11. Mobilize funding to increase the statistical literacy of data users, support development of gender analysis skills and more in-depth analysis of existing data and provide training and development opportunities on the interpretation and use of gender statistics drawing on existing resources, such as the UNECE training toolkit on using gender statistics
12. Assist UN Women country and programme offices to facilitate the flow of gender-related statistics between national and regional data collation mechanisms (e.g. the UNECE and EIGE gender statistics databases; SDG data flows)
13. Support regular publication of data on the status of women, men, girls and boys and provide guidance and inputs to increase the quality of gender statistics products, such as the 'Women and Men in…' booklets produced by national statistical offices
14. Conduct a regional assessment of uses of gender data and statistics to inform policies and prepare a compendium of best practices
15. Contribute to and promote expansion of the regional community of practice established by UNECE, incorporating a stronger user perspective and facilitating sharing of best practices and national experiences in using methods to improve the accessibility, communication and use of gender statistics
16. Partner with organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which support the conduct of national gender assessments, to explore methods to make the data and statistics collated through those processes more accessible

Cross-cutting

17. Seek opportunities to better link the regional statistical community with the Regional Working Group on Gender (RWGG) (now known as the Issues-based Coalition on Gender) so activities related to the production and use of gender statistics are more closely aligned with inter-agency work on gender at the regional level and supports gender thematic groups at national level
18. In addition to working with United Nations actors through the R-UNDG and RCM, engage with non-UN actors and mechanisms working on gender and development and/or statistics such as the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Working Group on Gender (MDBWGG), EIGE, Eurostat and OSCE
19. Develop advocacy materials on mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems for country/programme offices to use in encouraging decision makers to increase gender-related data production, adopt relevant standards, raise awareness of gender issues among data producers, and to highlight the demands for data by illustrating how gender statistics are produced and used
20. Contribute technical and regional expertise to the development of guidance and tools at the global level that will be used for strengthening gender statistics
21. Support regional participation in the Gender and SDGs online course being developed by UNSSC and UN Women at the global level

Technical capacity within UN Women

22. Develop advocacy tools and communicate UN Women's strategy for strengthening gender statistics to support UN Women staff in showing leadership in national-level activities related to gender statistics and the SDGs
23. Align UN Women's regional gender statistics program closely with its Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) program and regional work on violence against women, so the initiatives support and reinforce each other
24. Provide coaching, training and technical assistance to build the statistical skills and knowledge of UN Women staff so they are able to engage with data producers and users and ensure activities at national level are linked to regional and global efforts
25. Establish a knowledge base of practical and concrete suggestions for capacity development activities, terms of reference, etc. that UN Women country and programme offices can direct resources towards
26. Establish a roster of gender statistics experts that can be engaged to work at national level

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Annex A: List of stakeholders interviewed

More than 30 interviews and consultation meetings were conducted with UN Women staff, development partners from within and outside the United Nations system, and with producers and users of gender statistics at national and regional level. The names, job titles, organization and email address of those interviewed are provided in the table below.

UN Women			
Name	**Job Title**	**Organization**	**Email**
Ingibjorg Gisladottir	Regional Director	UN Women ECA RO	ingibjorg.gisladottir@unwomen.org
Alia Elyassir	Deputy Regional Director	UN Women ECA RO	alia.elyassir@unwomen.org
Papa Seck	Chief Statistician	UN Women HQ	papa.seck@unwomen.org
Fumie Nakamura	Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist	UN Women ECA RO	fumie.nakamura@unwomen.org
Isabel Suarez Garcia	Regional Evaluation Specialist	UN Women ECA RO	isabel.suarez@unwomen.org
Ermira Lubani	Regional Project Manager, GRP	UN Women Macedonia PP	ermira.lubani@unwomen.org
Elaine Conkievich	Representative/Head of Office	UN Women Kazakhstan MCO	elaine.conkievich@unwomen.org
David Saunders	Representative/Head of Office	UN Women Albania CO	david.saunders@unwomen.org
Gerald Gunther	Representative/Head of Office	UN Women Kyrgyzstan CO	gerald.gunther@unwomen.org
Erika Kvapilova	Representative/Head of Office	UN Women Georgia CO	erika.kvapilova@unwomen.org
Anastasia Divinskaya	Gender Advisor/Head of Office	UN Women Ukraine PP	anastasia.divinskaya@unwomen.org
Dominika Stojanoska	Gender Specialist/Head of Office	UN Women Macedonia PP	dominika.stojanoska@unwomen.org
Corneliu Eftodi	Programme Specialist	UN Women Moldova CO	corneliu.eftodi@unwomen.org
Amna Muharemovic	Programme Specialist (OIC)	UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina CO	amna.muharemovic@unwomen.org
Dagmar Schumacher	Director	UN Women Brussels Office	dagmar.schumacher@unwomen.org

UN Partners			
Name	**Job Title**	**Organization**	**Email**
Andres Vikat and Fiona Willis-Nunez	Social and Demographic Statistics Section	UNECE Statistical Division	Andres.Vikat@unece.org; Fiona.Willis-Nunez@unece.org
Maha Muna	Regional Gender Advisor	UNICEF CEE/CIS	mmuna@unicef.org
Siraj Mahmudlu	Regional MICS Coordinator	UNICEF CEE/CIS	smahmudlu@unicef.org
Giorgi Kvinikadze	FAO REU Statistician	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	Giorgi.Kvinikadze@fao.org
Isabel Yordi and Aasa Nihlen	Regional Advisor on Gender Equality	WHO Europe	yordiaguirrei@who.int; nihlena@who.int
Yanhong Zhang	Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section	ESCAP Statistics Division	zhangy@un.org
Mihail Peleah	Programme Specialist in Green Economy and Employment	UNDP Europe and Central Asia	mihail.peleah@undp.org
Aida Ghazaryan	Course Coordinator	UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development	a.ghazaryan@unssc.org
Eduard Jongstra and Gulnara Kadrykulova	Population and Development Section	UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia	jongstra@unfpa.org; kadyrkulova@unfpa.org

Igor Kitaev	Programme Specialist, EU	UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe	i.kitaev@unesco.org

Non-UN Partners, gender statistics producers and users

Name	Job Title	Organization	Email
Piotr Ronkowski	Statistical Officer	Eurostat	piotr.ronkowski@ec.europa.eu)
Irina Zbarskaya	Chief, Department of Social and Demographic Statistics	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS Stat)	zbarskaya@cisstat.org
Ligia Nobrega	Gender Statistics Database	European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)	ligia.nobrega@eige.europa.eu
Kaushal Joshi	Principal Statistician	Asian Development Bank	kjoshi@adb.org
Blerina Subashi	Head of gender statistics	Albania Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)	BSubashi@instat.gov.al
Nato Kurshitashvili	Principal Gender Adviser	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	KurshitN@ebrd.com
Ani Plaku		Advanced Studies Center (NGO)	aniplaku@gmail.com
Maaike van Adrichem **Serani Siegel**	Adviser on gender issues Project Manager	OSCE	maaike.vanadrichem@osce.org serani.siegel@osce.org
Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele **Carolina Lasén Diaz**	Head, Equality Division Head of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Unit	Council of Europe	liri.kopaci-dimichele@coe.int Carolina.LASEN-DIAZ@coe.int
Fredrik Bood and Jasmina Protic	Balkan Project Office	Statistics Sweden	fredrik.bood@scb.se; jasmina.scb@beotel.net

Annex B: Gender-related priorities in existing national statistical plans

Most countries in the region have a statistical work plan, which usually covers an annual period, or a national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS), also known as a statistical master plan. The NSDS tends to be more visionary and provides a basis for making changes to improve the national statistical office and system.

An examination of plans that could be readily found online for countries in the ECA region revealed that all statistical offices are a focussed on improving the quality of their statistical systems as well as the professionalism of their staff.[41] This applies to all stages of the production process, from data collection through to data processing and dissemination. There is a desire to improve the quality, range and accessibility of statistics. Countries claim to have made significant improvements over recent years with the expectation that this will continue into the future. There is also a desire to have statistics comply with international standards which should improve comparability in the future. It is encouraging to observe that most countries explicitly mention gender as part of their strategies and action plans.

Albania[42]

Albania has a Five Year Programme of Official Statistics that is the basis for the production of statistical data by the national statistical system. The programme for the period 2012-2016 is the second document of its kind and there is another currently under development.

The plan has a module on gender statistics (Module 1.12.02). Albania considers the description of the current situation of gender to be a key dimension for all areas of statistics at the individual level. This module includes the work to be done to measure gender as well as the promotion of gender statistics. To monitor gender issues, indicators for education, employment, health and poverty will be produced on a regular basis. Data sources include population censuses, surveys (including Labour Force Survey) and administrative data (e.g. vital statistics, education and health data). In the future the possibility of using data from economic surveys will be considered.

Strategic objectives are to produce and analyse disaggregated indicators (male and female), build sustainable indicators, harmonize with international definitions, and use all current sources for the production of these indicators.

Armenia[43]

Armenia adopted a three-year statistical work program for 2016-2018 on 15 December 2015. As part of the general strategy, and to ensure the main tasks and fundamental principles of state statistics, Armenia foresaw a number of activities, one of which is to expand the set of gender indicators they maintain.

Armenia expects to work towards the improvement of software to collect output data on sex and age composition of the population. In terms of international statistics cooperation, gender statistics is one of the priorities of the national statistical service.

[41] This summary focuses on those countries where statistical master plans could be readily found online in English. While not covering all countries of the region, it provides an indication of the types of priorities and activities that have been identified by countries.

[42] OFFICIAL STATISTICS NATIONAL PROGRAM for the period 2012-2016, ND, Republic of Albania

[43] REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA, LAW adopted on 15 December 2015 "ON ADOPTION OF THE THREE –YEAR STATE STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOR 2016-2018"

Azerbaijan[44]

Azerbaijan has an annual statistical work program. The 2016 work program was agreed with Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Azerbaijan in September 2015 and confirmed by Decree of the State Statistical Committee in October 2015.

Gender is not explicitly recognised in the work program, but there are a number of activities which produce statistics on both men and women (e.g. labour force). Also, "Women and men in Azerbaijan" is published annually in August.

Belarus[45]

A strategy for the development of state statistics of the Republic of Belarus was approved by the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus in February 2012 and subsequently amended in April 2014.

The goal of the strategy is to improve the quality of statistical products and services, to ensure efficient processes of statistical production, and to increase the professional level of the personnel. One of the expected outcomes of the implementation of the strategies is that the quality of social statistics will be improved to ensure comprehensive information on the level and quality of living of the population in line with the United Nations MGDs. One of the actions is to develop a system of gender indicators.

Bosnia and Herzegovina[46]

The three statistical institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated the development of the Strategy for Development of Statistics 2020. This activity was implemented as a part of the EU IPA Twinning Project.

The strategy is at a high level and aims to improve statistics in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice. As such, it does not specifically focus on gender statistics.

Of particular interest is the implementation of a population census which will provide a high quality basis for regular annual population estimates by age and sex.

Georgia[47]

The Statistical Work Program for 2016 was approved by Decree by the Government of Georgia on 11 February 2016. Part of the work program provides for the calculation of the structure of population by age and sex as of 1 January 2016. There is no explicit mention of gender statistics in the work program.

Kazakhstan[48]

The Committee in cooperation with UN-Women and UNFPA conducted the first survey on prevalence of violence against women in 2015. In 2015, the Committee also conducted a Gender-Specific Sample Survey "Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities". A final report was published in 2016.

[44] STATE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN STATISTICAL WORKS PROGRAM FOR 2016, Baku – 2015

[45] STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE STATISTICS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS UNTIL 2017, NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, Minsk, 2014

[46] STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 2020, Sarajevo, December, 2013

[47] Statistical work program for 2016, February 2016. Government of Georgia, Georgia

[48] Report on the activities of the committee of Statistics Ministry of the national economy of the republic of Kazakhstan in 2015, Astana 2016

Kosovo[49]

The program outlines the overall objective of the national statistical system, being to achieve a sustainable and reliable system that can cater to both national and international demands. It includes the role of the major data producing agencies and a list of products. A publication on gender statistics is to be produced every two years, with assistance from Statistics Sweden. The programme does not explicitly refer to the law on gender equality and how its provision for mandatory collection of sex-disaggregated data by government institutions is being implemented.

Kyrgyzstan[50]

The most recent national program available online (2010-2014) includes the "systematic monitoring of gender-disaggregated indicators" in order to provide data on the situation of women and men, such as their access to resources and standard of living. The NSO publishes an annual compendium of gender statistics in 'Women and Men in Kyrgyzstan' and has included a gender statistics database on their website (see Annex D for links). In November 2016 Kyrgyzstan NSO initiated a regional conference on national M&E system on SDGs and now is developing an action plan on SDGs data collection.

Tajikistan[51]

The program of Developing Gender Statistics in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2014-2015 builds on priorities of the National Strategy for Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2011-2020. The program aims to build capacity of the statistical system for the preparation and dissemination of gender statistics in a cost-effective manner and compliance with international standards that will meet user needs.

Key priorities of the gender statistics program:

1. Capacity building on enhancement and sustainable production of gender statistics and improving its use in the Republic of Tajikistan
2. Improvement of legislative and legal acts to reflect the issues of gender statistics
3. Improving the production of gender data by conducting a time use survey
4. Improving the quality of data on household income and expenditure (integrated questionnaire) with due consideration to gender-sensitive indicators
5. Increased use of existing sources of statistical data by collecting gender-relevant information
6. Solving organizational issues on the improvement of the quality of gender statistics in the Agency for Statistics
7. Create a gender statistics indicator database at the district level
8. Improvement and regular update of the gender database and webpage
9. Increased use of existing sources of statistical databases by collecting gender-relevant information
10. Regular market research of user demand and meeting their needs for gender statistics by organizing and conducting a dialogue with gender information users
11. Establish and strengthen interaction with various stakeholders on the production, analysis and dissemination of gender-specific data
12. Development and publication of books on gender data across sectors and regions

[49] Programme of Official Statistics 2013-2017, Pristina, December 2012

[50] Program of Improvement and Development of State Statistics of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2010-2014 (available in Russian only)

[51] PROGRAM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER STATISTICS IN TAJIKISTAN FOR THE PERIOD OF 2014-2015, Dushanbe 2013

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[52]

The Strategic Plan 2016-2018 of the State Statistical Office contains the objectives, programmes, sub-programmes and activities which the office plans to accomplish in accordance with the defined priorities in the process of harmonisation with European and international statistical standards and with the adopted quality management framework.

The statistics office has published a number of multi-domain publications including one on Women and Men in the Republic of Macedonia.

Turkey[53]

The strategic plan 2010 has an overall vision to establish a user focused and sustainable statistical system based on international standards. It intends to produce and disseminate statistics which are qualified, timely, reliable, objective and consistent with the international standards, respond to the requirements and priorities of national and international users, and to provide coordination between the public institutions involved in the production process of official statistics.

It has three strategic goals:

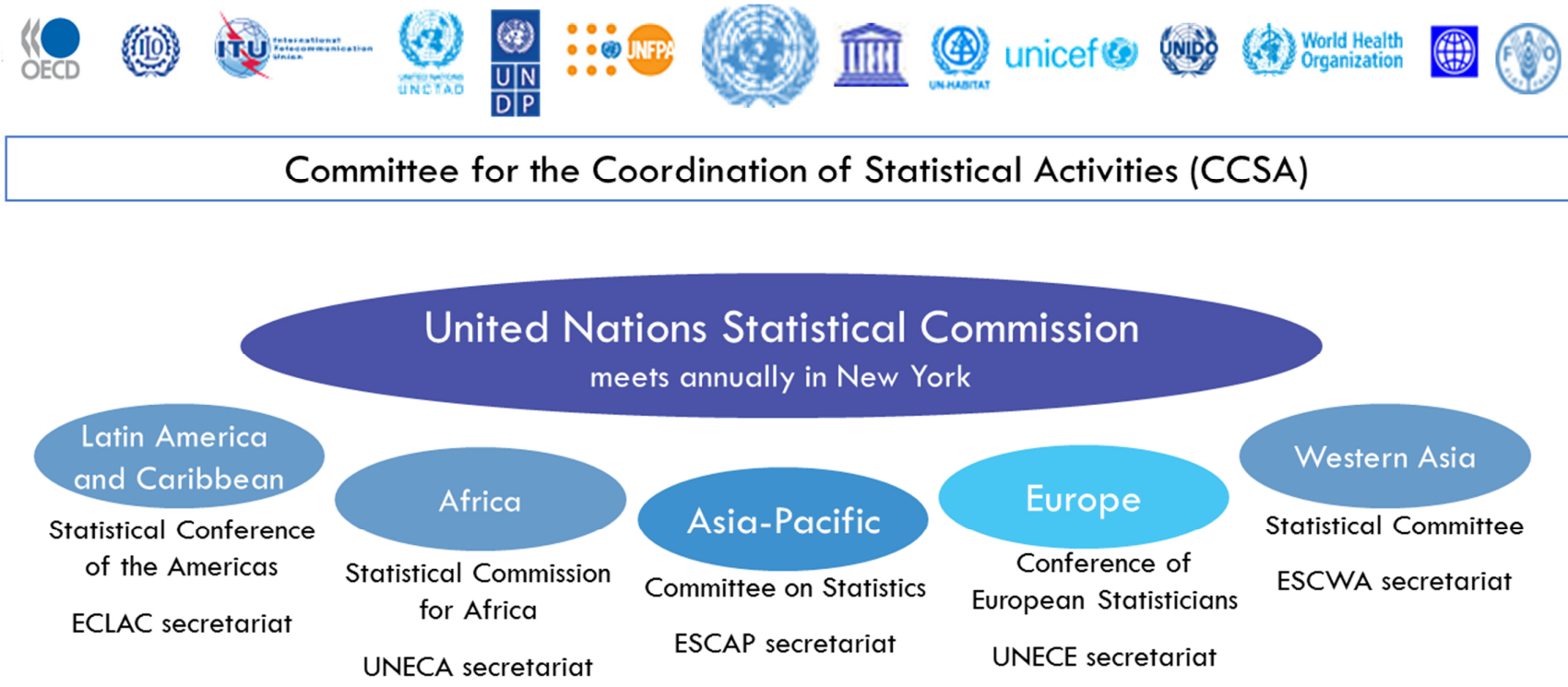
> Goal 1: Production of statistics based on international standards
>
> Goal 2: Improvement of institutional capacity and increasing productivity
>
> Goal 3: Improvement of organizational effectiveness by strengthening the role of cooperation and coordination capacity of the institution

Within the plan, the Population and Demographic Statistics Department compiles and evaluates statistical information needed in the field of population and demography, vital statistics and gender statistics. Studies in the field of population and housing census and the population based on administrative records includes information on age, sex and other characteristics and produces related indicators including gender indicators.

[52] Republic of Macedonia, Statistics Office, STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2018, Skopje, October 2015

[53] STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2016, TurkStat, Turkish Statistical Institute ,Ankara, August 2012

Annex C: Diagram of the main actors comprising the global statistical system



Annex D: Links to latest gender statistics publications and databases

Country	Latest gender statistics publication / database
Albania	Women and Men in Albania 2016 (www.instat.gov.al/media/330940/femra_e_meshkuj_2016.pdf)
Armenia	Women and Men in Armenia 2014 (www.armstat.am/file/article/gender__09.10.2014.pdf)
Azerbaijan	Women and Men in Azerbaijan 2016 (www.stat.gov.az/menu/6/statistical_yearbooks/source/women-men_2016.zip)
Belarus	Women and Men of the Republic of Belarus (www.belstat.gov.by/en/ofitsialnaya-statistika/publications/catalogues-of-statistical-publications/women-and-men-of-the-republic-of-belarus/)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Women and Men in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015 (www.bhas.ba/index.php?option=com_publikacija&view=publikacija_pregled&ids=1&id=13&n=Gender)
Georgia	Gender Statistics Database http://pc-axis.geostat.ge/ Women and Men in Georgia 2015 (www.geostat.ge/cms/site_images/_files/english/health/Women%20and%20Men_2015.pdf)
Kazakhstan	Gender Statistics (www.stat.gov.kz/faces/wcnav_externalId/homeGender?_afrLoop=10088359209405965#%40%3F_afrLoop%3D10088359209405965%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D10e2wysma1_59)
Kosovo	Kosovo in Figures (http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/2362/kosova_shifra-2015-ang.pdf)
Kyrgyzstan	Gender Statistics Database (www.stat.kg/en/statistics/gendernaya-statistika/) Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic 2010-2014 (stat.kg/en/publications/sbornik-zhenshiny-i-muzhchiny-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki)
FYR of Macedonia	Women and Men in Macedonia 2016 (www.stat.gov.mk/Publikacii/Gender2016.pdf)
Moldova	Gender Statistics Database http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Database/EN/databasetree.asp Women and Men in Moldova 2012 www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/femei_si_barbati/Women&men_2012.zip
Montenegro	Women and Men in Montenegro 2016 www.monstat.org/userfiles/file/publikacije/ZENE%20I%20MUSKARCI%20U%20CRNOJ%20GORI%20-%202016%20za%20STAMPU.pdf
Serbia	Women and Men in the Republic of Serbia 2014 (http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/repository/documents/00/01/61/14/ZiM_engleski_web.pdf)
Tajikistan	Gender Statistics website www.stat.tj/en/Gender6/gender10/ Women and Men in Tajikistan 2014 (Tajik and Russian) www.stat.tj/en/img/d976061967cd7672af7e083fead26bda_1420540002.pdf
Turkey	Gender Statistics Indicators www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreTablo.do?alt_id=1068 Women in Statistics 2015 www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=21519
Turkmenistan	Base GenStat Region Information www.stat.gov.tm/ru/main/cooperation/gender-millenium/genstat-region/ Women and Men in Turkmenistan (not available for download) www.stat.gov.tm/ru/main/info/publications/digests/
Ukraine	None found.
Uzbekistan	Women and Men of Uzbekistan 2007-2010 (2012) www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/79985/44067-012-tacr-04.pdf

Annex E: Overview of main actors and activities to strengthen gender statistics in the ECA region

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	**Data production**	**Data accessibility and use**
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	Recent (completed)	• Developing Gender Statistics: a practical tool (2010) • Training videos on gender statistics • Capacity development workshops (most recent in May 2016)	• Guidance on Indicators of Gender Equality (2015) • National experiences in conducting time-use surveys (2015) • Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys (2013)	• Using gender statistics: A toolkit for training data users (2016)
	Ongoing and planned	• Steering Group on Gender Statistics[54] • Annual Work Session on Gender Statistics (most recent in June 2016) • Guidance to make better use of existing data through further disaggregation and better mainstreaming of gender into statistics	• Custodian of a survey module on violence against women (VAW) • Generations and Gender Surveys • Technical assistance to ensure SDG Tier I indicators are produced • Research and piloting methods for Tier II and III indicators (5.2, 5.4 and 16.1) ○ UNECE are coordinating methodological work on household power and decision-making • Guidance document for better measurement of nexus between gender and the environment in context of SDGs • Support surveys on VAW, entrepreneurship and time use	• Technical assistance to ensure SDG Tier I indicators are disseminated and communicated to the broad use community • Regional workshop on dissemination and use of gender statistics (Kazakhstan 2016-17) • UNECE Gender Statistics Database • Generations and Gender database and analysis tools
ESCAP	Recent (completed)	• Workshops on Gender Responsive Budgeting • Assessment of gender statistics capacity in the Asia-Pacific region	• Regional core set of gender indicators	• Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) • Supported four countries (China, Mongolia, Thailand and Kyrgyzstan) to write up country

[54] The UNECE Gender Statistics Steering Group currently includes representatives from Australia, Canada, Georgia, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat, CIS-Stat, and OECD, and the European Institute for Gender Equality. UN Women has been invited to join the group.

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	**Data production**	**Data accessibility and use**
		• Policy brief on strengthening gender statistics and indicators as a foundation for SDGs (August 2015) • Compilation of good practices in gender statistics in ESCAP, ECE and ESCWA, with a focus on the institutional environment (2014-15) • Assisted NSOs and NWMs in South-east Asia and South and South-West Asia in 2015 to develop national action plans to adopt/ implement/ monitor the core set of gender indicators for Asia and the Pacific as well as the indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration for the Beijing+20	• Assessment of data availability for the Core Set of Gender Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	papers with an analysis of existing time-use data from a gender perspective (2014-15) • Training manual on time-use data analysis (2016-17)
	Ongoing and planned	• Implementation of the Regional Strategy to Improve Population and Social Statistics ○ Supporting the leadership and senior management of NSSs to engage with their policy counterparts to identify population groups and their issues for target interventions in overall national economic and social development strategies as well as sectoral policy frameworks to achieve social equity including gender equality	• Supporting the collection and analysis of time use data • Manual on analysing time use data being drafted • Supporting countries in applying internationally agreed measurement frameworks and guidelines regarding gender-responsive statistics through advocacy, training and technical advisory services. This will be done mainly through enhanced integration of gender perspectives in existing domain-specific regional statistical capacity initiatives (economic statistics, CRVS, population and social statistics,	• ESCAP's main areas of work on gender statistics in the future will be on making use of existing data, e.g. supporting policy analysis at regional and national level • Plan to develop guidelines on the use of statistics in SDG monitoring, building on work they have been doing around needs for disaggregated data

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	**Data production**	**Data accessibility and use**
		○ Incorporate such population groups and issues in the monitoring frameworks of corresponding development strategies and plans, in particular about gender equality and the empowerment of women ○ Revise/update NSDS as well as work programmes of NSSs to address the data and statistical needs arising from the monitoring frameworks especially about gender-responsive data and statistics	disaster-related statistics, environmental statistics) that emphasize the strengthening of various data sources, including the integration of data sources. Participation from North and Central Asia (name for subregion used at ESCAP) has been active in these initiatives through serving on steering/advisory groups and implementing country actions as part of regional implementation plans.	
European Union (Eurostat, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE))	Ongoing and planned	• EU Enlargement Strategy and IPA programme • EuroGender information sharing platform (EIGE)	• European Statistics Code of Practice • Data quality guidelines for the production of gender statistics (EIGE)	• European Gender Equality Index (EIGE) • Gender Statistics Database (EIGE) • Statistics Explained (Eurostat)
Council of Europe	Ongoing and planned	• Council of Europe Convention on Combating violence against women and domestic violence • Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence • Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making • Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017	• Analytical study of the results of the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence, 2014 (data on legislation and policies including victims' support services); • Study: Ensuring data collection and research: Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention, 2016; • Methodology on mapping violence against women and girls support	• CoE Gender Equality website: http://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/home

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	Data production	Data accessibility and use
			services as required by the Istanbul Convention[55] • Guidance Note - Framework for measuring access to justice including specific challenges facing women (UN Women - Council of Europe), 2016; • Monitoring report on the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making, 2008 (new report to be published in spring 2017).	
CIS-Stat	Ongoing and planned		• Increased attention to the analysis of gender equality indicators in the countries of the region	• Produced a booklet compilation of gender statistics: "Women and men in CIS countries" (2015) • Produced a guidebook for users: "Gender statistics and policies for equality between women and men"
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)	Ongoing and planned	• The OSCE has several Ministerial Council Decisions which include reference to gender statistics in the area of gender equality and violence against women, most notably the 2004 Gender Action Plan and the 2005 and 2014 decisions on preventing and combating violence against women'	• Major project initiated in 2016 to conduct VAW prevalence surveys in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and Kosovo.	• Reports will be made available in 2018 and will be accompanied by a virtual data explorer online. Website information will be shared in due time.
UNFPA	Recent (completed)			• Helped CIS-Stat to publish is Men and Women in Turkey and CIS countries based on national data

[55] To be made available on line in the near future

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	**Data production**	**Data accessibility and use**
	Ongoing and planned	• Support UNECE initiatives, such as sending participants to the annual work sessions, contributing to the development of guidelines, and the Generations and Gender survey		• Supporting analysis of population issues in Azerbaijan, Serbia and Georgia
UNICEF	Recent (completed)			• A capstone study from London School of Economics using data from 10 MICS to conduct regional analysis on gender and Roma (available on Yammer)
	Ongoing and planned		• Support the conduct of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). Currently preparing for the next round with a regional workshop to be held in January 2017	• TransMonee database and associated analysis and advocacy materials • Making MICS datasets accessible to researchers
UNESCO	Ongoing and planned		• UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) collects education statistics from countries via their Formal Education Survey • Regional workshop on education statistics for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Southern Caucasus was held in April 2016 in Turkey. • Supporting mapping of SDG4 data availability in Uzbekistan	•
ADB	Recent (completed)	• Assessment of gender statistics capacity in Southern Caucasus and Central and Western Asia (2012)		• Policy brief on gender statistics in development planning for Central and West Asia
	Ongoing and planned	• Benchmark Study Report on Gender Equality and the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific (joint project with UN Women). The publication aims to (1) take stock of data availability and comparability	• Currently working in collaboration with UN Women and UNSD on Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) work on development of a methodology to collect sex-disaggregated data on	

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	**Data production**	**Data accessibility and use**
		across the region for tracking progress across all the gender related SDGs and targets and establish base line for the identified targets and indicators subject to data availability, and 2) provide policy directions for achieving gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights within the post-2015 SDG framework in Asia and the Pacific. • Conceptual framework establishing the connections between SDG 5 and other gender related goals and targets in the SDGs (as part of benchmark study)	ownership of assets and entrepreneurship and conducting pilot surveys in Georgia, Mongolia and the Philippines. • Mapping of existing data and identification of data gaps and issues for all gender related targets/indicators in the SDGs (includes Southern Caucasus and Central Asia)	
FAO	Recent (completed)	• Phase 1 of regional implementation the Gender and Agriculture Statistics Framework (GASF) in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey • Paper on core gender indicators for assessing the socio-economic status of the agricultural and rural population • Videos on gender and agriculture, including on gender statistics	• Core Set of Gender Indicators in Agriculture (2016)	• Gender-sensitive analysis of social protection programmes for rural residents in the CIS and Georgia (2015) • National Gender Profiles of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods for Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey (including assessment of gender statistics capacity) (2016) • Gender, agriculture and rural development in Albania (2016) • Rural Women in Europe and Central Asia (statistical analysis) (2014) • Gender and Rural Development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Key Issues booklet using gender statistics (2016)
	Ongoing and planned	• Phase 2 of regional implementation the GASF, regional and national work in Azerbaijan and Georgia (2017-2020)	• Support development of methodology to produce SDG indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 • Support agriculture census in Tajikistan and Georgia	• TA support to Kazakhstan on analysis of time use surveys

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	**Data production**	**Data accessibility and use**
		• Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit: step by step guide on how to mainstream gender in agriculture statistics, including the GASF (2016)	• TA support Kyrgyzstan to develop an electronic version of household booklet	
WHO	Recent (completed)		• Support to household Survey on VAW in Kazakhstan (draft circulating for comments)	• Report on Women's Health and Well-being provided the evidence for the European Strategy on Women's Health and Well-being adopted by the Regional Committee
	Ongoing and planned	• Facilitating health reporting in the WHO European Region (comparative analysis of indicators across SDgs-Health2020 and NCDs global indicators) • Following the above analysis, developing a monitoring framework for the European Strategy on Women's Health and Well-being under the following frameworks: SDG's, Health 2020 and the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health • Developing a key set of indicators to monitor the European action plan on sexual and reproductive health in the region	• Support the development of a global set of key gender indicators on health	• Report on men's health and well-being in the European Region
OECD	Ongoing and planned		• Currently preparing to produce Social Institutions and Gender Index 2018 • Currently working with UN Women and World Bank to explore collaboration to monitor SDG Target 5.1.1 (elimination of all forms of discrimination)	• Social Institutions and Gender Index cross-country measure of discrimination against women in social institutions (formal and informal laws, social norms, and practices) across 160 countries • Conducting research to harmonize violence against women data for OECD countries

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	**Data production**	**Data accessibility and use**
World Bank	Recent (completed)	• The World Bank Institute was the main partner with UNECE for developing gender statistics capacity in the ECA region between 2007-2009. The project developed training modules and guidance to build capacity of the National Statistical Offices in 13 ECA countries to improve production, analysis, and dissemination of sex-disaggregated statistics for the purpose of social and economic analysis.		• Released the 2016 report (3rd one) on Women, Business and the Law: product that collects data on laws and regulations constraining women's entrepreneurship and employment
	Ongoing and planned		• World Bank is a major producer and disseminator of data • Project to support Armenia in conducting the 2017 Integrated Living Conditions Survey • Project to support first EU-SILC survey in Kosovo • Working in collaboration with UN Women and UNSD on EDGE work around data approaches to track gender asset gaps and applying EDGE methodology in new surveys • Currently working with UN Women to explore the possibility of jointly monitoring indicator 5.1.1 of the SDGs (Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex).	• A project to promote evidence based policymaking in Kosovo in key areas including informality, poverty, social inclusion, health, social protection and user-producer dialogues in these areas. • Global Findex Database, the world's most comprehensive database on financial inclusion, provides in-depth data on how individuals save, borrow, make payments, and manage risks • Collaborating with the Global Banking Alliance and UN Women to develop mechanisms for central banks to report sex disaggregated data on financial assets; and women business and the law publication

Actor		Activities and priorities relating to gender statistics		
		Enabling environment	**Data production**	**Data accessibility and use**
PARIS 21	Ongoing and planned	• Working with UN Women to develop and implement a gender module for National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) based on incorporation of gender data gap analysis (ADAPT) • Developing National and Regional guidelines on gender in statistical strategies • Reporting of financial resources allocated to gender statistics	• Collect and publish information on statistical innovations via their Platform for Innovations in Statistics (PISTA), which currently includes around 40 innovations related to gender statistics. • Promote statistical innovation • Disseminate best practices	• Working with UN Women to conduct gender data visualization training and produce a data visualization toolkit • Support user-producer dialogues related to gender statistics • Reporting on use of gender data and its value through the analysis of newspaper archives
Statistics Sweden Balkan Project Office	Ongoing and planned		• Support to the production of gender pay gap, gender-based violence statistics, and Time Use Surveys • Capacity development work they do deals mostly with training. They do not fund the production of statistics, but do provide technical assistance from Statistics Sweden • Regional seminar on time use surveys • Workshop on improving the use of administrative data • Assist Serbia, Montenegro and Albania to produce the Gender Equality Index	• Support to improve 'Women and Men in…' booklets of gender statistics • Awareness raising and user-producer workshops