MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

UN WOMEN

Photo: UN Women/Janarbek Amankulov

The issue

Reliable, accessible and appropriately disaggregated statistics are essential for monitoring commitments to gender equality, such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Why is gender-disaggregated data important?

- To address underlying gender discrimination
- To advance the SDGs by realizing the principle of *leave no one behind*
- To improve effectiveness of policy-making and ensure accountability

Making Every Woman and Girl Count (Women Count) in Europe and Central Asia will focus on gender statistical capacity development in this region and is part of the global Women Count programme.

Goals

UN Women's ECA Regional Office (ECA RO) will provide technical and financial support to countries to improve their statistics to monitor and report progress on gender equality and women's empowerment. The programme intends to achieve results in the following three areas of work:

1. **Enabling environment:** putting in place an enabling environment to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of national and international policy commitments
2. **Data production:** addressing gender data gaps by ensuring that quality and comparable data are produced
3. **Data use:** ensuring that gender statistics are accessible and used to inform policy and advocacy.

Results achieved in 2018

PARTNERSHIPS: As a result of the coordination activities led by UN Women, the four Common Chapter UN agencies (UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA) in the framework of the Issue-based Coalition on Data for SDGs (IBC-Data) identified gender equality as one of three priority areas for the region.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ASSESSING NEEDS: Two countries were supported to expand their capacity to develop national plans on gender statistics. The Gender Assessment of National Statistical System of Georgia was conducted and gaps and priorities to improve the production and use of gender data were identified. The findings will be integrated into the National Strategy for Development of Statistics for 2019-2023. ECA RO is also assisting Tajikistan on mainstreaming gender into its national statistics strategy.

SUPPORT FOR BETTER DATA PRODUCTION: Three countries improved knowledge and capacity to design and collect data on violence against women:

1. 100 officials from the National Statistical Committee and Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kyrgyzstan improved their knowledge on administrative data collection on gender-based violence and human trafficking through training sessions carried out in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC).
2. The National Statistical Offices of Albania and Georgia improved their capacity to collect data on violence against women and generate baselines to report on violence-related SDG indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.

USER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE: Two countries were supported to initiate knowledge-sharing and exchange dialogue to increase accountability at the national level. Training was provided to 97 data producers and users in Kyrgyzstan, and 40 data producers and 57 data users in Georgia. This resulted in increased awareness on the need to improve data production and use, including for evidence-based decision-making.

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IMPROVED DISSEMINATION OF GENDER STATISTICS:
Georgia was supported to develop the Women and Men statistical publication which has made linkages between its gender data and the relevant gender indicators of the SDGs. It also featured findings from the National Study on Violence against Women in Georgia conducted with UN Women's support. A first-ever Gender Data Portal, a single point of entry for users to access and analyze key gender statistics online in areas including healthcare, education, population dynamics, employment and unemployment, income and expenditures was launched in December 2018. For more information visit: https://www.geostat.ge/gender/doc/WM_en.pdf

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY: Data users in Kyrgyzstan gained greater understanding and sensitivity of gender statistics through initiatives led by the School of Data, a civil society organization of young data journalists, which built partnerships with UN Women. The group promoted data use and advocacy by turning statistical gender data into five human-interest stories related to political participation, violence against women and girls, access to healthcare, education and labour force participation.

COUNTRY EXAMPLE: HUMAN STORIES

Based on available official statistics, the School of Data in Kyrgyzstan developed five human stories combining narrative context with interactive elements, including infographics and short videos. One of the stories explained how proximity to home and flexible working schedules significantly affect women's career choices. It showed more men chose their jobs based on professional interest and professional growth.

This initiative will be extended for two years and will be expanded to include other civil society organizations and the media from the region, as part of sub-regional and regional review processes to mark the 25th anniversary of the BPfA.

For more information visit: https://kloop.kg/blog/2019/02/08/u-rabotayushhih-zhenshhin-v-kyrgyzstane-pochti-net-svobodnogo-vremeni-oni-tratyat-ego-na-uborku-doma/

COUNTRY EXAMPLE: DATA PORTAL IN GEORGIA
The data portal in Georgia improved data dissemination significantly, providing database, publications, infographics and metadata in a user-friendly format. Users can now easily access 120 indicators in areas including population, health care, education, social security, agriculture, crime and ICT.

For more information visit:
https://www.geostat.ge/gender/index.php?lang=en

Priorities for 2019

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT
- Support Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to mainstream gender into strategic statistical planning and establish national coordination mechanisms on data exchange.
- Produce gender-related SDG factsheets as advocacy materials to be used by countries for SDG nationalization and localization.
- Assist countries to establish effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks on gender equality and women's empowerment and develop a harmonized set of gender indicators.

DATA PRODUCTION
- Improve countries' capacity on data production of gender related SDGs indicators, by designing and conducting time-use survey in Georgia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

DATA USE
- Develop beta version of a gender data visualization platform and support at least two countries from the region to customize and operationalize it.
- Develop thematic reports, briefs and factsheets on gender and SDGs to promote greater data use.
- Improve dissemination and communication through demand-driven and user-friendly publications (Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan), human impact stories and hackathons.
- Contribute to the development of training modules on gender statistics for media.
- Support user-producer dialogues by organizing workshops and forums on data for SDGs.