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Gender Statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: statutory issues

Report on progress made on the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics

I. Introduction

1. Since the seventh meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, in 2020, gender statistics activities in member States have faced the challenge posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and associated restrictions, including the halting of activities, disruptions to planned activities and budgetary pressures caused by COVID-19. To address these challenges, institutional members of the African programme on gender statistics have undertaken various initiatives to help national statistical offices and other producers of gender data to innovate and adapt quickly to the situation in terms of capacity development and the strategies needed to innovate data production and dissemination. Examples include the first joint online training calendar by institutional members; a series of webinars on various gender-related thematic topics; advocacy and training materials, including guidelines to support African countries in improving how they mainstream gender issues in their statistical activities related to COVID-19; and other technical and financial support.

2. The present report provides a summary of activities undertaken by the member institutions of the African group on gender statistics of the Statistical Commission for Africa between October 2020 and October 2022.

II. Implementation of the African programme on gender statistics

A. Regional partnerships and coordination

1. Evaluation of the second phase of the African programme on gender statistics (2017–2021)

3. Over the reporting period, the African programme on gender statistics institutions led the evaluation of the second phase of the African programme on

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[*] E/ECA/STATCOM/8/1

gender statistics (2017–2021). The focus was on the activities undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the African Development Bank and strategic partners to strengthen the capacities of national statistical offices and their institutions to develop and harmonize gender statistics so that they can be used effectively to develop policies and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

4.   The evaluation report of the second phase of the African programme on gender Statistics gives an overview of the achievements and challenges experienced during the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics with recommendations on the way forward for the next phase of the programme. This includes the functioning of coordination mechanisms governing the implementation of the programme, including inter-agency cooperation and partnerships, the Africa Group on Gender Statistics and its core groups. The findings were also used to inform the development of the third phase of the programme, among other applications.

2.   Third phase of the strategy for the African programme on gender statistics (2022–2026)

5.   The strategy for the third phase of the African programme on gender statistics, 2022–2026, was jointly developed by UN-Women, the African Development Bank and ECA. The third phase builds on the agenda for the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics over the previous 10 years, that is, phases I (2012–2016) and II (2017–2021), and also existing and planned activities of the institutional members of the programme.

6.   The initiative also provides strategic direction and scope to those involved in the gender data system, enabling them to strengthen institutions, improve coordination mechanisms, update laws, ensure adequate budgetary allocations, advance research, improve methodologies, boost staff competencies and improve data sources. The programme will continue to support member States in developing and integrating gender statistics programming in their respective countries. It is intended to be a common regional programme in which pan-African institutions and development partners provide technical and financial support to avoid duplication of efforts, create synergies among stakeholders, make better use of the available resources and, consequently, make significant and sustainable improvements in the production, use and integration of gender statistics in Africa.

7.   While challenges arose in the process of creating strong partnerships during the second phase, the lessons learned will be used to create stronger partnerships during the third phase. The development and implementation of the African programme on gender statistics will continue to be implemented in line with the continental Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. The programme also responds to continued demand for the use of gender statistics to promote gender equality and development.

8.   The document for the third phase of the African programme on gender statistics identifies a set of outcomes and outputs for achieving the objectives of the programme, which include regional partnership and coordination, capacity-building and research, reporting and dissemination of gender statistics and advocacy, at the country and regional levels. It also includes a plan of action and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

3. Making Every Woman and Girl CountWomen Count programme

9. The UN-Women gender data and statistics activities are based on the Women Count programme. Over the 2020 reporting period, the regional project for Africa of Women Count provided technical and financial support on gender statistics to five pathfinder countries[1] in the region: Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Gender statistics support was also provided to 14 other countries in the region: Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan and Zimbabwe. The UN-Women Ethiopian country office obtained an independent grant for a gender statistics project. The Women Count project entered its second phase in January 2022 and will build on the initiatives that began during the first phase, while extending support to more countries. The work planned for the second phase will be tailored around the following three outcomes:

(a) Outcome 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for the production and use of gender statistics;

(b) Outcome 2: Increasing the production of gender statistics;

(c) Outcome 3: Increasing data accessibility and use.

4. Assessing gender statistics at the country level

10. Under the first phase of Women Count, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (also known as "PARIS21") and UN-Women introduced a new set of framework and implementation guidelines for assessing data and statistical capacity gaps for better gender statistics.[2] The framework and guidelines outline a set of methods, activities and tools to support countries in assessing gaps in statistical capacity for gender statistics and current gender statistics production across a national statistical system.

11. Between 2020 and 2022, following successful completion of an initial pilot assessment in Senegal in 2019/20, the Partnership piloted the assessment framework and guidelines with the national statistical offices in Egypt and Lesotho (alongside six other country-level pilot assessments in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia) to produce assessment reports on gender statistics.

12. Lessons from the "Women Count" pilot assessments were explored in an online cross-regional meeting in September 2021 and during the Partnership's Fall Meetings in November 2021, providing a platform for country stakeholders from all pilot countries to share their experiences. Cross-cutting insights from the country-level assessments have been consolidated for release in a global synthesis report in 2022.

13. In addition, UN-Women supported assessments of the gender statistics systems using the framework of the Partnership and UN-Women in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, the Niger, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan and the Sudan. These studies were performed in close collaboration with the corresponding national statistical offices and have

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[1] The Women Count programme was initially rolled out in so-called "pathfinder" countries. Through the implementation process, methodologies were developed that could be replicated, through South-South learning, in countries interested in strengthening their work on gender data and statistics.

[2] Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, *Assessing Data and Statistical Capacity Gaps for Better Gender Statistics: Framework and Implementation Guidelines* (2020).

contributed towards increased evidence-based planning and the expansion of gender data and statistics work in the region.

5. Strengthening statistical coordination and the integration of gender in national statistical systems

14. Over the reporting period, UN-Women supported country-level coordination activities, strengthened the normative frameworks for gender statistics and, to a large extent, institutionalized its measurement and use in several countries. In Zimbabwe, support was provided for the evaluation from a gender perspective of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics II, 2016–2020, and the development of national gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation guidelines and a monitoring and evaluation framework for gender equality and women's empowerment. These measures strengthened overall strategic direction and accountability across government entities for the production, monitoring and evaluation of gender-responsive data.

15. The development of a gender statistics sector plan in Kenya, the mainstreaming of gender in the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan and the Zanzibar Strategy for Statistical Development in the United Republic of Tanzania, and the gender-responsive third Plan for National Statistical Development in Uganda were also supported. These plans will be used to inform the strategic direction for the sector for periods of five years. In Uganda, progress has been made in integrating statistics in plans to address local priorities and to meet Sustainable Development Goals data requirements by supporting the development of gender-responsive strategic plans for statistics under the country's third Plan for National Statistical Development in 166 entities, including ministries, departments and agencies, higher local governments and civil society organizations.

6. Mainstreaming gender in national statistical planning

16. The findings from the Partnership's assessment process are intended to inform gender mainstreaming in the design of national strategies for the development of statistics. The Women Count assessments in Egypt, Lesotho and Senegal provided a platform to explore how to bring gender into the lifecycle of a national strategy for the development of statistics in African countries.

17. In Egypt, the pilot assessment led to a draft strategic framework to guide efforts to integrate gender in the forthcoming design process for national strategies for the development of statistics. In Lesotho, the assessment report was a key input for a new national strategy for the development of statistics, which was formally launched in 2022. The Partnership continues to support the implementation of the new gender statistics initiatives of Lesotho under the country's national strategy for the development of statistics, including through efforts to mobilize resources, strengthen the enabling environment and enhance gender data literacy across the national statistical system. In 2022, the Partnership also undertook a midterm review of the national strategy of Senegal, offering important insight on progress in the implementation of gender-related strategic objectives and activities.

18. Building on insights from the Women Count pilot assessment, in 2021 the Partnership developed and released a new version of its guidelines for national strategies for the development of statistics,[3] which mainstream gender throughout and include a special module on gender statistics to provide practical insight on how to apply a gender lens throughout the lifecycle of a national strategy for the development of statistics.

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[3] https://new.nsdsguidelines.paris21.org/.

19.   Following the conclusion of the first phase of the Women Count programme at the end of 2021, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century continues to offer support for countries in Africa, including the Gambia, Madagascar and the Niger, to assess and mainstream gender statistics in the national strategies for the development of statistics lifecycle in collaboration with UN-Women and with support from Global Affairs Canada. In 2021, the Partnership featured insights and tools on gender mainstreaming in the life cycle of the national strategy for the development of statistics as part of the regional training on the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and Advanced Data Planning Tool.[4]

7.   Community of practice on data and statistics

20.   The UN-Women community of practice on gender data and statistics in East and Southern Africa continued to meet during the reporting period. Meetings were held quarterly online. The community of practice is intended to create an enabling environment for learning and coordination around gender data and statistics in the region, and it provides a formal forum for South-South learning. Plans to establish a similar community of practice in West and Central Africa are well advanced.

8.   Minimum set of gender indicators for Africa

21.   The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa initiative provides guidance on the prioritization of indicators to be collected in Africa, acts as an important resource when member countries develop their own minimum sets of gender indicators as part of their gender statistics frameworks and plans, and facilitates the harmonization of current regional and subregional indicator initiatives. After ratification of the initiative by the Statistical Commission for Africa in October 2020, an assessment was completed on the extent and nature of member State production of the indicators under the initiative. Feedback was provided at an online workshop held in November 2021 and attended by 142 participants, 117 of whom represented their respective national statistical offices. Discussions were held to chart a way forward. Training on the production of these indicators and the metadata for the initiative will be provided at a regional gender statistics workshop in Nairobi from 22 to 26 September 2022, ahead of the proposed ratification of the metadata by the Statistical Commission for Africa in October 2022.

9.   Gender Data Network

22.   In 2021, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century became the global secretariat for the Gender Data Network, in partnership with ECA, Open Data Watch and Data2x. Founded in 2019, the Gender Data Network is designed to raise the standard of gender data production, to link it more closely to demand, improve the effectiveness of communication about gender data, and encourage the use of gender data across participating countries. It seeks to do this by connecting its members to the wider global community focused on gender data, strengthening members' capacities, focusing on common gender data gaps and accelerating the uptake of new methodologies to close those gaps. Working in partnership with Data2x and Open Data Watch, ECA organized an introductory meeting with partners in 2021. The main objective of the meeting was to clarify activities planned in the second phase of the Global Data Network; to introduce new partners and staff working on this phase of the project and to identify the training needs of the Network's members.

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[4] https://paris21.org/news-center/events/african-union-paris21-regional-nsds-adapt-training.

23.   In 2022, the Partnership worked in collaboration with partners of the Network to expand the Network into new countries, with seven new, mainly French-speaking, African members. The six French-speaking members are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger and Tunisia; the other new member is English-speaking Sierra Leone. Since taking up its role as the secretariat of the Global Data Network, the Partnership has supported the Network through several key events and activities, including a closed-door meeting with experts on the Social Institutions and Gender Index, member participation in the World Data Forum and the Eighth Global Forum on Gender Statistics.

B.   Capacity-building and research

1.   Training and capacity-building workshops

(a)   Regional training and workshops

24.   A regional workshop on gender statistics imperatives in Africa was held from 26 to 30 September 2022 in Nairobi, under the auspices of ECA as the custodian of the African Programme on Gender Statistics and hosted by a coalition of agencies, including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the African Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, ECA and UN-Women. The primary aim of the workshop, which was the first such continental gathering held face-to-face since 2019 and the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, was to bring users, producers and experts in policy analysis and gender statistics across Africa together to share the latest innovations and best practices related to gender statistics and to engage in policy dialogues.

25.   Specific components of the workshop included updates on the continental developments and the third phase of the African programme on gender statistics, updates on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, gender statistics updates from the regional economic communities, the latest statistical resources standards and definitions related to violence against women, assessments of gender statistics systems, gender and environment statistics and new initiatives on the continent related to citizen-generated data. Technical training in indicator calculations for the next round of reporting for the Africa Gender Index, and also in the metadata and calculation of the minimum set of gender indicators for Africa, also formed part of the workshop programme. In addition, two short training sessions were arranged in soft skills, which included interactive training on project management and techniques in the use of evidence for advocacy and policy change.

26.   A webinar on the theme: "Power of partnership: advancing gender data in the context of COVID-19" was held in October 2020 and brought together development partners and donors in the gender data field to discuss activities already under way relating to gender data, the power of networking, partnership and advocacy and to discuss raising the profile of gender data during the COVID-19 pandemic.

27.   A webinar on the theme: "Lessons from the pandemic: building better gender data in the world of work" focused on the recent work developed by the International Labour Organization to fill gender data gaps brought to light by the pandemic in work statistics and showcased some of the key measurement challenges identified by the Organization through recent pilot testing work, thereby

raising awareness of the need for good measurement practices alongside application of the latest standard.

28.   An online annual Gender Data Network meeting was held in October 2020 at which ECA showcased the results of the short survey conducted with member countries of the Network to determine the impact of the pandemic on their gender statistical activities. Open Data Watch provided an overview of its latest research conducted with Data2x in the state of gender data on COVID-19 cases and deaths.

29.   The expert group meeting on understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender statistics was a follow-up to the rapid assessment conducted by ECA and was held in January 2021 to assess what support member States needed to undertake their statistical operations efficiently and effectively. The meeting brought together gender statisticians from African national statistical offices, including members of the African group on gender statistics and the Gender Data Network, and resulted in the review and endorsement of the assessment by ECA and its guidelines in support of better mainstreaming of gender issues in statistical activities.

30.   Under the initiative for a minimum set of gender statistics in Africa, ECA, the African Development Bank and UN-Women sent an assessment questionnaire to member States to establish the implementation status of the initiative in their respective countries. In November 2021, at the aforementioned online workshop on the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa initiative, the preliminary findings of the assessment were reported on three of the key gender indicators under the initiative and under the Sustainable Development Goals (indicators 5a.1, 5b.1 and 4.2.1).

31.   UN-Women organized an online regional time-use training session for African national statistical offices from 7 to 11 June 2021. The training session focused on building technical capacity and using international best practices when conducting time use surveys. The five days of training were conducted by Women Count experts and covered all steps of the survey. Averaging 75 participants per day, the event was well attended and 82 certificates were awarded to participants from 17 African countries, including 26 women.

32.   The so-called "Counted and visible toolkit" developed by UN-Women[5] is a compilation of tools and mechanisms used by several countries to produce evidence to inform gender-responsive policies and catalyse actions to leave no one behind. Some 77 participants from Africa benefited from the training on the counted and visible toolkit, of which 62 were producers and 15 were users of statistics.

33.   At its aforementioned workshop on the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa initiative in November 2021, UN-Women trained attendees on indicator 5.a.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and on the intersectionality reflected in indicator 4.5.1 of the Goals.

34.   In 2022, 17 programme trainers from the Accelerating Women Owned Micro-Enterprises programme from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa received online training on gender data literacy and on communicating gender data statistics.

35.   In collaboration with the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) and the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT), the Partnership and ECA hosted a two-day online event on the theme: "Building better gender data in Africa: challenges and

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[5] UN-Women, *Counted and Visible: Toolkit to Better Utilize Existing Data from Household Surveys to Generate Disaggregated Gender Statistics* (New York, 2021).

prospects" as part of an ongoing event series that aims to encourage constructive exchanges of experience on common topics among national statistical offices in French-speaking countries. The online sessions provided an overview of the gender statistics work and strategies carried out by the different partner agencies in Africa, namely ECA, UN-Women and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, the International Labour Organization and the Strengthening Gender Statistics project of the World Bank.

36. The Partnership organized two online training sessions with the Gender Data Network and journalists on communicating and visualizing gender statistics. The first was a training-of-trainers session on communicating gender statistics, which was held over three 2-hour sessions from 7 to 9 September 2021, bringing together media workers and statisticians to build their skills, foster collaboration and learn strategies to support and coach colleagues to better communicate gender statistics to a broad audience. The second training session was on gender data visualisation and was held from 15 to 18 November 2021. The session engaged the same participants to further promote collaboration and improve their capacities to transmit data visually and to strengthen their skills in selecting the best tables and graphs to present data.

37. The first expert group meeting workshop to review the gender-sensitive trade statistics framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and adapt it to the African context was held online on 27 October 2021. During the meeting, the framework was reviewed and validated. Some 75 participants attended (of which some three fourths were women), representing more than 10 countries and 17 regional and international organizations, with the role of spearheading dialogue among statisticians and trade experts.

(b)   National training and workshops conducted by UN-Women

38. The training support provided by UN-Women at the national level enabled participants to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills on gender and gender statistics concepts and definitions, gender analysis and presentation of gender statistics. The data-processing skills thus acquired were translated into results: an issues paper was prepared; gender and equity budgeting was undertaken in Uganda; and institutional coordination mechanisms set in place for gender statistics. The use of existing data was maximized, which increased the availability of and access to user-friendly gender-responsive data. During the reporting period, a large number of participants from various countries received gender data and statistics training, as follows: Cameroon (110), Kenya (850), Mozambique (33), Senegal (179), Uganda (102), and the United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar) (78).

2.   Training material

(a)   Regional virtual training materials on the conduct of time-use surveys

39. Regional online training materials on the conduct of time-use surveys, prepared by UN-Women during the reporting period, raised the skill level of data producers, thereby improving the quality and harmonization of gender data in time-use surveys. The materials were used as the basis for the regional training provided in 2021, with 82 participants from 17 countries. The materials have since been used in time-use surveys in Kenya and Senegal.

(b)   Gender statistics training curriculum

40. The UN-Women training curriculum originally developed for the Asia and the Pacific region was adapted for use in Africa in 2021. It is primarily aimed at the producers of statistics and consists of 12 modules, available in French and

English. The adapted curriculum has already been used for training in Kenya and Uganda.

(c)   **E-learning courses on communicating and visualizing gender statistics**

41.   Between 2020 and 2021, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century launched e-learning courses on communicating gender statistics and communicating statistics about women's economic empowerment[6] on the Partnership's online learning platform – the Academy.[7] The free e-learning courses were designed for journalists – from bloggers to newsroom editors – and for statisticians, combining a conceptual study with practical training and guidance. The overall aim of the courses is to encourage peer learning and collaboration among journalists and statisticians. The courses provide essential knowledge on the use of gender statistics to understand and communicate about gender inequality in society.

42.   In addition to the e-learning courses, the Academy also provides access to a data visualization toolkit, which includes a new module that specifically addresses visualizing gender data and statistics. Under the first phase of Women Count, the Partnership leveraged material from the e-learning courses and the toolkit to offer online, blended and in-person training at the country and regional levels on effective communication and visualization of gender statistics for statisticians and journalists. In 2021, the Partnership, ECA and Data2X worked in collaboration with the Namibia Statistics Agency to deliver the new data visualization training course to statistical staff, journalists and development partners to pilot a new training-of-trainers programme on communicating gender statistics.

3.   **Technical, advisory and financial support**

43.   During the reporting period, Women Count furnished technical and financial support to countries in the region on a variety of topics, some of which have already been mentioned in the paragraphs above on coordination activities, and also provided follow-up to country-level training (as indicated in section 2 above). Other areas of technical support included advice on time use (in Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania); surveys on gender-based violence (in Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda); and the production of gender statistics and the development of policy briefs through the analysis of existing data (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania).

44.   The Partnership monitors and reports on financial support for statistics in its annual *Partner Report on Support to Statistics*. The 2021 edition included insights on trends in bilateral and multilateral support for statistics in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report stated that support for gender statistics had stagnated in recent years. The results of the next survey for the report will be published in late 2022.

45.   As the secretariat for the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, the Partnership launched a prototype for a new clearing house for financing development data during a special session at the United Nations World Data Forum in 2021. The clearing house is a platform to help countries, donors and development

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[6] Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, "Communicating statistics on women's economic empowerment". Available at https://academy.paris21.org/en/course/communicating-statistics-on-womens-economic-empowerment.

[7] Academy of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century. Available at https://academy.paris21.org/.

agencies to identify funding opportunities, bring projects to scale, advocate support for data and statistics-related work and connect with new partners. It also has a dedicated gender channel, providing global insights on financing trends for gender data and statistics in member countries of the International Development Association. A new version of the clearing house, including an updated gender channel, is planned for release late in 2022.

4. Methodological research

46.   ECA developed guidelines which seek to address the challenges faced by national statistical offices as they grapple with the increased data demands and managing strategies for being responsive to the various constituents during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a response to the issues raised by the national statistical offices through the survey conducted by ECA.

5. Thematic research

47.   The regional offices of UN-Women for East and Southern Africa and for West and Central Africa contributed directly towards the increased availability and use of gender data and statistics during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing financial and technical support for the collection and analysis of survey data from computer-assisted telephone interviewing. They produced two subregional reports on the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality and women's empowerment. Both reports were based on secondary data and on the findings of the rapid gender assessments using the computer-assisted telephone interviewing platform that were conducted with the United Nations Population Fund and various other partners in Eswatini, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda. In West and Central Africa, similar assessments were conducted in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Benin, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

48.   During the reporting period, gender-equality profiles were completed for 19 countries in Africa. Most of these studies were carried out in the framework of a partnership between UN-Women and the African Development Bank, while the study for the Democratic Republic of the Congo also involved the European Union; the studies are being used to inform gender-related planning and programming. The countries covered are Benin, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Similar studies are currently in progress in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Sudan.

49.   A toolkit and guidance notes for the Sustainable Development Goals prepared by UN-Women provide guidance on gender mainstreaming across all Goals and on identifying and leveraging inter-goal gender linkages and dependencies.

50.   The UN-Women regional guidelines on the use of citizen-generated data for reporting was used to inform the preparation of a toolkit which was published jointly by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics and UN-Women in 2022.

51.   With support from the Partners for Review programme of the German Agency for International Cooperation and the government of Flanders in Belgium, the Partnership is working with Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to develop and pilot quality criteria to leverage citizen-generated data for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. The multi-year project builds on the Partnerhip's

guidance on citizen-generated data, providing a platform for engagement and peer learning between Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, civil society organizations and other ministries, departments and agencies in the Government of Kenya. The Partnership published a case study in 2022 highlighting key learnings from the project with the Partners for Review programme, setting the stage for the next phase of the collaboration, which will focus on leveraging the newly launched quality criteria to close gender data gaps.

52.   In support of initiatives by UN-Women relating to generation equality and in support of advocacy of women's economic empowerment and the care economy, the regional office for East and Southern Africa produced a subregional report on youth not in employment, education or training. The findings of the report are supported by individual country reports on the situation in Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda. The country reports provide important statistics that can be used for generation equality campaigns and also for advocacy relating to the role of women in the care economy.

53.   In 2021, the UN-Women regional office for East and Southern Africa also increased the availability of gender data and statistics by designing and implementing a multi-country study on gender and public transport in Kampala and Nairobi. Both studies were conducted in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute; the Nairobi study also involved partnership with the Women's Economic Empowerment Hub at Kenyatta University.

54.   ECA published a report in May 2022 on the activities and impact of the Gender Data Network since its inception in 2019. In drafting the report, ECA drew on a range of evidentiary sources, including project documents, publications by the Network and partners, key informant interviews with members of the Network and operating partners, and transcripts of discussions.

55.   In May 2021, the Partnership released a new working paper on measuring references to statistics in national policy documents.[8] The working paper reports results on a new methodology, developed under Women Count I, to measure references to and critical engagement with statistical concepts in national policy documents and poverty reduction strategies.

C.   **Reporting, storage and dissemination**

56.   The Partnership worked in consultation with Gender Data Network partners to set up a new Gender Data Network platform to better respond to members' needs, to consolidate all relevant information in one place, and to promote and improve exchange and knowledge-sharing on gender statistics issues. The platform has a user-friendly interface and includes sections on news and events organized by the Network, resources (e-courses, webinars, toolkits and others), an e-library that links to publications in gender statistics, and statistical development and modernization materials produced by development partners and other stakeholders. The platform also features a discussion forum[9] moderated by the Partnership for members to share news and resources, to discuss topics and to exchange ideas. The platform was launched on 12 May 2022 in a closed online meeting with members. Members have reacted very positively to the platform and have already begun to engage actively with the discussion forum and to provide feedback to the secretariat

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[8] Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, "Measuring references to statistics in national policy documents", Paris, 2021.

[9] http://forum.gdn.paris21.org/.

of the Network. The plan is to hold quarterly moderated discussions to further encourage active participation among members and to develop a strong sense of community.

57. In addition to the Global Data Hub, which contains global and also regional data, UN-Women also launched a gender-statistics resources portal to enhance the visibility of and access to key gender data and statistics resources and normative frameworks in the subregion. The portal provides links to data, publications, guidelines and other resources that provide gender data and statistics and will enhance the uptake and use of gender data and statistics. A number of short videos were produced showcasing the work undertaken during Women Count as part of the regional programme, and country programmes were developed in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. UN-Women supported the development of web-based platforms in Uganda to increase access to data in general and gender statistics in particular.

58. The table below summarizes the kind of reports and statistical publications supported by UN-Women during the reference period.

Reports and statistical publications supported by UN-Women, 2020–2022

Publication type	Year	Countries (one publication per country unless stated otherwise)	Number of publications
National system or gender statistics system, including assessments	Fourth quarter 2020	Kenya, Zimbabwe	2
	2021	Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania	9
National development plans, monitoring and evaluation and government ministries, departments and agencies	2021	Kenya, Uganda (44), United Republic of Tanzania (1), Zimbabwe (2)	48
Publications related to the Sustainable Development Goals	2021	Kenya (7)	7
	2022	Regional report by the office for East and Southern Africa	1
Technical guidelines	2022	Uganda, plus two regional reports by the office for East and Southern Africa	3
Support for data collection and publication of statistics from time-use surveys, Violence against women and the Social Institutions and Gender Index	Fourth quarter 2020	United Republic of Tanzania	2
	2021	Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania (1 for the mainland, 1 for Zanzibar)	7
Rapid gender assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on women and men	Fourth quarter 2020 and 2021	Benin, Central Africa Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania, and also a regional report by the office for East and Southern Africa	19
Other publications on women and men	2021	Kenya (2), plus a regional report by the Office for East and Southern Africa	3
	2022	Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda	9
Total executed or supported during the reference period		**Africa region**	**282**

III. Conclusion

59.   The African programme on gender statistics is the main regional consultation framework that enhances partnerships and creates synergies among the principal gender statistics stakeholders in Africa. The programme has been particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, since member States were prevented from conducting their gender statistics activities in a timely and effective way. Thanks to their coordinated efforts, stakeholders working on gender statistics on the continent have created the necessary technical and financial support for member States to better address challenges related to COVID-19 and to adapt their gender work to the situation brought about by the pandemic.

IV. Points for discussion by the Statistical Commission for Africa

60.   The Commission is requested to take the following actions:

(a)   Take note of the ongoing work for the development of gender statistics in Africa and support the other work priorities of the African programme on gender statistics;

(b)   Endorse the third phase of the African programme on gender statistics;

(c)   Endorse the metadata for the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa initiative;

(d)   Call upon member States to support improvements to the production and use of gender-related administrative data;

(e)   Call upon the African group on gender statistics to renew its members, as the current members were elected in September 2018.

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