



**Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa**

Ninth session

Addis Ababa, 30 October–1 November 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Statistical programme of the Economic Commission for Africa:
statutory issues**

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

I. Introduction

1. Gender statistics provide the evidence that policymakers need to make informed decisions and to evaluate the effectiveness of development policies and programmes, including progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment. Given the significant role played by gender statistics in achieving human rights and development agendas, stakeholders throughout the African continent have strengthened their focus on encouraging the production and use of high-quality statistics at the national and regional levels.
2. To this end, in 2008, the Statistical Commission for Africa established the African Group on Gender Statistics, which was mandated to support and advise on the issues, needs and challenges associated with gender statistics, poverty reduction strategies and global development agendas in the region. The Group's secretariat functions are provided by the Economic Commission for Africa. In 2012, the Group developed a regional programme on gender statistics: the African programme on gender statistics, which was endorsed by the Statistical Commission for Africa at its third session in 2012. The Statistical Commission entrusted the Group with the coordination of efforts to implement the African programme on gender statistics and the reporting on progress at each of its sessions. The Statistical Commission is currently implementing the third phase of the programme (2022–2026), jointly developed by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the African Development Bank and ECA. It builds on the programme's implementation agenda over the first and second phases, and also on existing and planned programmes of the Group's member institutions.
3. Activities undertaken by member institutions in the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics over the period October 2022–October 2024 are highlighted in the present report.

II. Implementation of the African programme on gender statistics

4. The following sections outline activities undertaken at regional and

* E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/1/Rev.1.



national levels in implementation of the African programme on gender statistics, including institutional partnerships and coordination; capacity-building and research; reporting, storage and dissemination; and advocacy.

A. Regional partnerships and coordination

5. The Regional Gender Statistics Forum is convened annually to coordinate all gender statistics activities in Africa. Through the Forum, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, ECA and UN-Women have been collaborating to build the capacity of national statistical offices, ministries responsible for gender issues and gender directorates of the regional economic communities in the production and use of gender data. The annual meetings of the Forum provide a platform for harmonizing and strengthening the collection, dissemination and use of gender statistics in the region along thematic areas. The four aforementioned organizations, working in partnership with the collaborative technical and advocacy platform Data2X and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century, and also with the Governments of Botswana and Morocco, organized the fifth and sixth meetings of the Forum in Casablanca, Morocco (7–11 November 2023) and Gaborone (8–12 July 2024), respectively.

6. Over the period from 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024, UN-Women, ECA and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century completed an assessment of the gender data and capacity gaps at the African Union Commission. In the light of that assessment, it was recommended among other things that the Statistical Commission for Africa should play a bigger role in the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics and that there is a need for internal capacity-building on gender statistics at the African Union Commission.

7. The gender statistics activities of UN-Women are based on the entity's "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" programme. During the reporting period, the African regional project under the Women Count programme has provided technical and financial support on gender statistics to five pathfinder¹ countries in the region (Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania). Some gender statistics support was also provided to 16 other countries in the region: Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The regional project under the Women Count programme entered its second phase in January 2022 and will build on initiatives started during the first phase, while also expand its reach to provide support to more countries previously not covered. The work planned for the second phase will be articulated around the following three outcomes: strengthening the enabling environment for the production and use of gender statistics; boosting the production of gender statistics; and expanding data accessibility and use.

8. In 2023 and 2024, UN-Women provided support for assessments using the Washington Group-International Labour Organization labour force survey disability module and crime and gender-based violence administrative data systems in Djibouti, Lesotho and Somalia; assessments of gender data and capacity gaps in the domain of women, peace and security in all member countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development; and also five new assessments of the gender statistics systems in the Central African Republic, Liberia, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria. These assessments highlighted

¹ The Women Count programme is first being rolled out in so called "pathfinder countries" where, through the implementation process, the programme is developing methodologies that can be replicated in the form of South-South learning and extended to countries that are showing an interest in strengthening their work on gender data and statistics.

similar problems: lack of capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate gender statistics; lack of integration of gender statistics into national statistical systems; and the need to make better use of this information, whether by policymakers, civil society or even researchers for a deeper analysis.

9. In 2024, Women Count also supported the Praia Group on Governance Statistics in its endeavours to conduct a continent-wide assessment of administrative data systems related to discrimination and inequality. The consolidated report of the assessment contains subsections on data systems in North Africa, West and Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and two Portuguese-speaking countries. The assessment will be used to inform the development of guidance materials on administrative data in the areas of discrimination and inequality, to be incorporated in the Praia Group handbook.

10. Where the strengthening of statistical coordination and the integration of gender in national statistical systems are concerned, UN-Women provided support to the National Agency of Statistics and Demography of Senegal in developing the country's minimum set of gender indicators and to Mozambique for the establishment of the country's first ever gender statistics task force, mandated with coordinating the mobilization of gender statistics resources.

11. With a view to mainstreaming gender in national statistical planning, the Women Count programme has supported the integration of gender statistics in the fourth national development plan of Kenya, for the period 2023–2027, with a dedicated sectoral plan on gender, youth and vulnerable groups that prioritizes gender data and research. The new gender and development policy in the United Republic of Tanzania includes a section on gender statistics, set up with support from UN-Women. South Sudan has developed its first ever gender statistics strategy, for the period 2023–2033, with support from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and UN-Women, with the aim of establishing an institutional framework for gender statistics, enhancing the production and use of those statistics and ensuring their quality. In the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, UN-Women has supported the mainstreaming of gender into the countries' national statistics development plans.

12. An Eastern and Southern African community of practice on gender data and statistics has been established, with more than 230 members on its mailing list. The community holds online meetings on a quarterly basis, bringing together a wide range of users and producers of gender statistics, and serves as a forum for peer-to-peer learning and exchange and for the introduction of regional and international statistical best practices to a broad audience.

13. In 2022, working in collaboration with the regional commissions and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs implemented a global survey of national gender statistics programmes as part of the work priorities under the Global Gender Statistics Programme. The main objectives of the survey were to measure progress in the production and use of gender statistics in countries since 2012, when a similar survey had been conducted; to assess the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the production of gender statistics; to obtain information on whether and how the gender perspective was being mainstreamed into national statistical systems; to identify related best practices and challenges in countries; to assess the relevance and impact of the work of the United Nations and its partners in this areas; and to guide future work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the Global Gender Statistics Programme.

14. The fourteenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account project on statistics and data, designed to enhance the resilience and agility of national statistical systems to respond to emerging economic, social, and environmental data needs in times of crises and disasters, started on 1 April 2022 and will end on 30 June 2025. The Statistics Division is implementing the

project in collaboration with the five regional commissions, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The project is structured around six workstreams, including one on measuring gender and social discrimination, and is being delivered in two phases. In the first phase, now completed, countries were informed about methodologies and good practices available to measure gender-based violence, with a focus on gender-related killings of women and girls. In the second phase, support is currently being provided to selected countries to measure femicide and to adopt innovative ways of monitoring this phenomenon.

15. The twelfth tranche of the Development Account project on gender and trade project – “Gender data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies in Africa, the Caucasus and Central Asia” – is being jointly implemented by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, ECA and the Economic Commission for Europe. Under the project, over the period January 2020–June 2023, a coherent approach was developed to measuring the impact of trade on gender equality and analysing the related implications of COVID-19 using official statistics and building on the existing statistical data and capacity of countries.

16. ECA and the African Development Bank are working in partnership on the implementation of a capacity-building project on gender statistics and monitoring and evaluation systems in four countries: Burundi, Mozambique, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. The project aims to enhance gender-responsive programming by the four beneficiary countries, thereby contributing to inclusive development. The initial implementation time frame of 2022–2024 has been extended to the end of 2025.

17. Founded in 2019, the Gender Data Network is a joint initiative of ECA, Data2X, and Open Data Watch, designed to raise the standard of gender data production to ensure a better link with demand, to improve communication about and the dissemination of gender data, and to encourage gender data use across participating countries. To further facilitate country capacity-building and cross-regional exchange, the Network has been expanded to include the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It now has over 40 members from Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, including China, India and Indonesia. In 2023, the African members of the Network met in person at the fifth session of the African Gender Statistics Forum in Casablanca, Morocco, where they learned from others and shared their own best practices. Members also participated in various online capacity-building workshops and events and featured as speakers at the fourth United Nations World Data Forum, in 2023.

18. UN-Women, ECA and the African Development Bank collaboratively established a global minimum set of gender indicators relevant for the second ten-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This set of indicators serves as a guide for the prioritization of indicators to be collected in Africa, providing an important resource for African countries in developing their own minimum sets of gender indicators as part of their gender statistics frameworks and plans, and also in facilitating the harmonization of current regional and subregional indicator initiatives.

19. The metadata for the minimum set of gender indicators were validated by representatives of national statistical offices at the African Gender Statistics Forum in July 2022 and at the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa in 2022. COMESA has assessed the availability of data for a minimum set of gender indicators framework for its member States, with a view to their adoption of the framework for gender reporting purposes.

20. The African Union Commission, in collaboration with ECA and UN-Women, developed the Africa gender scorecard in 2015. The scorecard is a

simple and user-friendly mechanism designed to provide the African Union Commission and African Union member States with implementation, monitoring, and accountability tools to attain gender-related aspects of the key objectives of Agenda 2063. The African Union Gender Observatory was established in 2018 and was revamped over the period 2021–2022 to better capture indicators related to gender-based violence, under the African regional programme of the Spotlight Initiative. This collaborative effort, coupled with technical support provided to the African Union Commission, resulted in the systematic inclusion of data on violence against women and girls, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, as called for and mandated by African Union instruments related to women’s rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment. Work on the observatory is currently under way, with the revision of women’s empowerment-related indicators.

21. The African Group on Gender Statistics, whose primary goal is to monitor implementation of the African programme on gender statistics and to provide strategic guidance to its implementing partners, has been strengthened through the adoption of a new structure. Nominations and elections of the Group’s new office bearers took place at the fifth session of the African Gender Statistics Forum in Morocco. The following new office bearers were elected: Kenya as chair; Benin as vice-chair; Zambia as secretary; and Cameroon and Morocco as rapporteurs. The members of the Group have also revised the Group’s terms of reference and these are currently awaiting endorsement by the Statistical Commission for Africa at its ninth session. In June 2024, ECA and the African Union Commission proposed the incorporation of the African Group on Gender Statistics as a subgroup of the Specialized Technical Group on Demography, Migration, Health, Human Development, Social Protection and Gender.

B. Capacity-building and research

22. A wide range of training measures have been conducted, at both regional and national levels; training materials have been prepared; technical, advisory and financial support has been provided and research has been conducted in both methodological and thematic areas, as outlined below.

1. Regional training measures

23. The fifth session of the African Gender Statistics Forum was held in Casablanca, Morocco, from 7 to 11 November 2023. The session was jointly organized by the African Development Bank, ECA, UN-Women, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the Moroccan High Commission for Planning and held on the topic of accelerating progress towards attainment of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals with the use of gender statistics. The Forum was attended principally by statisticians and gender experts from national statistical offices and the various countries’ gender-related offices and created an opportunity to discuss how to make better use of limited resources and time.

24. The sixth session of the African Gender Statistics Forum was held in Gaborone from 8 to 12 July 2024, under the auspices of ECA and in partnership with the African Development Bank, the Southern African Development Community, UN-Women and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century. The session was held on the issue of pooling gender statistics, under the theme: “Financing the numbers that make women and girls count”. The Forum brought together users, producers and experts in policy analysis and gender statistics from across Africa to share the latest innovations and best practices related to gender statistics and engage in policy dialogues. It provided an opportunity to link the financing of gender statistics for accelerated

progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment with the forthcoming fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in 2025, including as follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference. The United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also made contributions at the Forum, with information about their work on education and gender statistics.

25. Where the harnessing of automated business processes for census dissemination and communication and the preparation of a census dissemination and communication toolkit are concerned, the African Centre for Statistics of ECA, the Kenyan Office for National Statistics, the East and Southern Africa Regional Office of UN-Women and the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of the United Nations Children's Fund collaborated to support the automation of some of the associated census-related analytical processes, along with the dissemination and use of these products. A four-day training workshop was held from 12 to 15 September 2023 in Nairobi, attended by statisticians and information technology and communications experts from the national statistical offices of countries in which censuses had been conducted recently and data analysis was currently under way.

26. A regional stakeholders consultative meeting on mainstreaming gender equity in civil registration and vital statistics in Africa was organized by ECA in partnership with the global public health organization Vital Strategies and the Rwandan Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in Kigali, from 22 to 24 March 2023. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss key priorities in the work to integrate a gender perspective in civil registration and vital statistics. The meeting was also aimed at addressing challenges faced by African States in the production, analysis, dissemination and use of gender-related vital statistics.

27. A webinar series on measuring gender-based violence in Africa, Asia and Europe was organized by ECA in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime from 15 to 17 May 2023. The main objective of the webinars was to enhance the knowledge and capacity of participants to optimize the use of survey and administrative data for the monitoring of gender-based violence.

28. A regional workshop on measuring gender-in-trade statistics for the Development Account project entitled "Towards a framework for measuring gender-in-trade in official statistics in Africa" was held in September 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The workshop focused on the importance of collecting and using gender-in-trade statistics to support better policymaking across Africa. It was organized by the African Centre for Statistics and the Regional Integration and Trade Division of ECA, in conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe. Findings obtained from six pilot countries (Cameroon, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe) that participated in micro-linking trade and non-trade data within their countries were discussed, along with the identification of strategies on how to improve data collection in gender-in-trade statistics.

29. The Women, Gender and Youth Directorate of the African Union Commission convened the eighth session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment from 8 to 13 November 2023. The meeting was attended by the ministers in charge of gender and women's affairs and their experts and UN-Women gave a presentation on gender and youth statistics on the continent. The meeting focused on discussing progress and new developments related to gender equality and women's empowerment.

2. National training measures

30. A series of national workshops on measuring gender statistics in international trade was organized by ECA in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe, as part of the twelfth tranche of the implementation of the Development Account project. Workshops were held in Yaoundé on 4 and 5 May 2023; Nairobi on 23 and 24 March 2023; Dakar on 17 and 18 April 2023; and Harare on 5 and 6 April 2023. The main objective of the national workshops was to assess the availability of gender-related official statistics on trade, including small-scale and informal cross-border trade activities.

31. As part of national training on gender data openness, the organization Open Data Watch collaborated with the African Development Bank and COMESA to provide targeted support and training in open data concepts to national statistical offices in the region, with a specific focus on gender data openness. Open Data Watch conducted five workshops between July and August 2023 on the issues of open data in official statistics; coverage gaps in social statistics, economic data and environmental data, as identified by the Open Data Inventory; and gaps in open formats, metadata and licensing. Workshops were conducted and accompanying action plans prepared for Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

32. The capacity-building for gender statistics and monitoring systems project aims to contribute to improved development planning through the provision of gender statistics to policymakers. The project was launched in 2022 and will run until the end of 2025. Work on integrating gender in civil registration and vital statistics systems is continuing, with the training of statisticians and gender experts in Burundi (28 August–1 September 2023) and South Sudan (4–8 September 2023) in the undertaking of a comprehensive assessment of civil registration and vital statistics. In Mozambique and Zimbabwe, statisticians have been trained in the methodology for conducting time-use surveys. In Zimbabwe, a gender thematic report has been produced and will be validated at the end of 2024. A gender strategy for national statistical systems at the African regional level is at the drafting stage and the development of gender monitoring systems is currently under way in the four aforementioned countries.

33. The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section of ECA provided training to Lesotho and Zimbabwe for the implementation of their African Gender and Development Index assessments in 2023. The training sessions were based on the technical note on the African Gender and Development Index developed by ECA in 2021.

34. UN-Women contributed to gender statistics capacity-building across the region through more than twenty training workshops held across 16 countries between January 2023 and July 2024. A total of 2,987 individuals participated in these training measures, covering a range of topics, such as basic gender data literacy; the care economy and the importance of producing household satellite accounts to measure the value of unpaid work to gross domestic product; skills in the communication and use of gender data; training in the cognitive testing of the Washington Group mental health questionnaire survey module; and the quality assurance of administrative data systems.

35. The Gender Data Network organized online events for its members and interested colleagues within national statistical office, arranged in three thematic series. Each series comprises a set of interactive short training sessions conducted online:

- (a) Gender data and technology series (June and July 2023);

(b) Tools to understand and improve national gender data systems series (September and October 2023);

(c) Gender data use series, covering the topics: ways to empower civil society to improve gender data production and use (22 June 2023); how African Governments can leverage gender data for development (15 February 2024); and connecting the dots: understanding gender data use (24 and 25 June 2024).

3. Training materials

36. The gender statistics training curriculum developed by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UN-Women and adapted in Africa by the entity's African subregional offices has been translated into French and will be made available to all on the Women Count data hub in September 2024.

37. Working in partnership with the Administrative Data Collaborative, UN-Women developed training materials on improving the quality of administrative data. The materials have been used to train staff of national statistical offices and of ministries, departments and agencies in Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique and South Sudan and are expected to enhance the quality of the administrative data that are being used to compile reports on the status of women and men, among other issues. The materials are currently being revised to align them with the recently completed United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics.

38. Where communicating gender data is concerned, UN-Women updated and customized training materials on this process for mid-level policymakers. The materials were used in Kenya to train 36 Kenyan statisticians and policymakers through interactive and peer-to-peer learning sessions, and also 15 members of the United Nations country team in Zimbabwe.

39. In partnership with the Southern African Development Community, UN-Women ran a training course for 89 individuals representing 15 member States of the Community in financial inclusion surveys with strong gender considerations, from 21 to 25 June 2024 in Lusaka. As an outcome of the workshop, a financial inclusion training toolkit was developed, to standardize and regularly monitor financial inclusion surveys in East and Southern Africa. The independent organization FinMark Trust is currently reviewing the toolkit, with a view to its co-branding together with UN-Women and the Southern African Development Community for the purposes of publication, once it has been endorsed by the Community's member States.

4. Technical, advisory and financial support

40. UN-Women has contributed in both financial and technical terms to the development and enhancement of gender statistics mechanisms and systems in East and Southern Africa.

41. For its part, the Pan-African Institute for Statistics has developed terms of reference for a consultant assignment to support the development of guidelines on gender statistics. The terms of reference will be presented for endorsement to the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices of African Union member States at its meeting in Banjul in December 2024.

42. Open Data Watch and Data2X have collaborated in developing the Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality tool, known as the BRIDGE tool, for countries to understand the current maturity level of their gender data system, to diagnose their strengths and weaknesses and to identify priority areas for improvement. The results will serve as an input to any road map or action plan developed in collaboration with key stakeholders within the national statistical system. Open Data Watch piloted the BRIDGE tool with gender data focal points in Ghana, Kenya and Sierra Leone in 2022 and later worked with the Nairobi-based think-tank Local Development Research

Institute to expand the uptake and use of the tool in five countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia) in 2023.

5. Methodological research

43. Where methodological research is concerned, UN-Women, working in partnership with ECA, the Statistics Division and the United Nations Children's Fund, has developed a toolkit on methods that can be used to link data from different data sources, in order to increase the interoperability of various data sets. This will enhance the intersectional analysis of data and improve the ability of data users to create more targeted approaches to reaching those women and girls that are most left behind. Training has been carried out in the use of toolkit in Kenya and Zimbabwe and similar workshops are planned in Ethiopia and South Africa.

6. Thematic research

44. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, ECA and the Economic Commission for Europe have collaboratively developed a framework for the compilation and analysis of gender-in-trade data in Africa. ECA has adjusted the framework to take account the realities of the African context.

45. Working in partnership with the Kenyan Association of the network, Grassroots Organisations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS Kenya), UN-Women has developed a gender data toolkit with the intention of providing guidance and strategies for promoting the uptake and use of gender data and statistics to inform policy, advocacy, planning, research and accountability across East and Southern Africa.

46. In 2023, Open Data Watch launched the Gender Data Compass, a new resource that provides information about national gender data systems and their enabling environment. It documents the current availability and openness of 53 important gender indicators in over 180 countries and supplements this information with a qualitative assessment of countries' governance structures, financing landscape and technical capacity.

47. Between September 2022 and September 2024, the African Development Bank, in collaboration with UN-Women, developed country gender equality profile reports for the following countries: Benin, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Liberia and Somalia. In addition, five gender profiles (Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria and United Republic of Tanzania) are being finalized to inform the Bank's country strategy papers and regional integration strategy papers. The production of the country gender equality profiles provides an opportunity to build capacity in countries, assess their national gender statistical systems, build national awareness of progress and gaps in achieving gender equality, strengthen monitoring systems and provide evidence to inform strategic policy priorities and to scale up gender-equitable programming to advance the development agenda.

48. ECA, the African Development Bank and UN-Women have commenced the development of the second edition of the African Gender Index. The purpose of the Index is to offer a comprehensive picture of the status of gender equality in Africa, highlighting the progress that is being made in closing gender gaps, in such areas as education, health, employment, participation in politics and leadership roles. The index is also expected to facilitate gender integration in planning processes by African States to accelerate progress in pursuit of the goals of gender equality and leaving no one behind, in line with the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and applicable human rights frameworks. Findings were validated at the fifth session of the African Gender Statistics Forum, preceded by online regional meetings for the validation of African Gender Index data and their index calculation, held in the margins of the ninth Global Forum on Gender Statistics. In addition, the draft 2023 report of the

African Gender Index was reviewed and validated during the sixth session of the African Gender Statistics Forum.

49. ECA, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN-Women and the National Statistical Agency of Senegal, working in collaboration with other stakeholders, are implementing the second part of the fourteenth tranche of the Development Account project, with the aim of supporting selected countries in measuring gender-related killings of women and girls and adopting innovative approaches to the monitoring of this phenomenon. The study builds on global work by the Office on Drugs and Crime and related regional initiatives to monitor the killings of women by their intimate partners or family members and the continuing implementation of the statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls.

50. Women Count has provided technical and financial support for the testing of the time-use survey developed by the International Labour Organization in Malawi and training for the roll-out of the survey. The survey is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2024 and UN-Women will maintain this support throughout the analysis and report-writing phase. In Zimbabwe, UN-Women and ECA will provide similar support, which will commence in the fourth quarter of 2024, with the expectation that the report will be completed in 2025. Support is also currently being provided by UN-Women to Nigeria, which is currently conducting its first time-use survey.

51. Open Data Watch is working with Data2X to map gender data gaps, with a view to finding means of closing these gaps. A document entitled “Transforming the data landscape: solutions to close gender data gaps” has been compiled, describing more than 140 innovative solutions that have emerged in recent years with a view to improving women’s economic opportunities and education, the environment, health, human security and public participation.

52. Where gender data financing is concerned, Open Data Watch has supported the creation and maintenance of the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data since its launch in 2021. Over the period 2022–2024, Open Data Watch has led efforts for the development and maintenance of the gender data channel on the Clearinghouse platform, in collaboration with the gender data financing portfolio of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century. The gender data channel presents information on gender data-relevant funding activities from donors and domestic Governments for all countries eligible for International Development Association credits, with a view to focusing attention on the importance of capacity-building for inclusive data systems in the most vulnerable countries. In 2023 and 2024, Open Data Watch has been developing a special results framework for evaluating the impact of gender data financing on activities and initiatives related to gender equality.

53. Among other methodological research by UN-Women, attention is drawn to support that it provided to the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics to test the femicide statistical framework developed by UN-Women in conjunction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In addition, in 2024, ECA, UN-Women and the African Development Bank compiled a toolkit on gender data in humanitarian settings based on a desk review of best practices and resources that have been produced by a range of stakeholders. The toolkit will be launched at the fifth United Nations World Data Forum in November 2024.

C. Reporting, storage and dissemination

54. The gender data portal launched by the African Development Bank during the Global Gender Summit, held in Kigali in December 2019, was integrated in July 2024 into the Bank’s Africa Information Highway and is available on the Bank’s open data platform, accessible at the address:

<https://dataportal.opendataforafrica.org>. The platform contains gender statistics knowledge products, in particular relating to Africa.

55. The Bank has also designed the Africa Gender Index website to enhance the accessibility of its data and results, and also of reports and other gender knowledge products of the Index, including country gender profiles and gender briefs. The website is accessible at the address: <https://agi.afdb.org>.

56. UN-Women has supported the publication of reports and statistics in various areas, as shown in the following table.

Reports and statistical publications supported by UN-Women

<i>Publication type</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Countries</i>	<i>Number of publications</i>
Time-use survey reports and statistical bulletins	2023, 2024	Kenya, Senegal	2
Gender-based violence surveys and gender-based violence modules attached to other surveys	2023, 2024	Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania	5
Gender and the environment survey briefs	2024	Regional	1
Technical guidelines and toolkits	2023, 2024	East and Southern Africa Regional Office	4
Gender data assessments	2023, 2024	African regional assessments (2) East and Southern African regional assessment (1) West and Central African regional assessment (1) Country-level assessments (8)	12
Other publications on women and men	2023, 2024	East and Southern African region (1) Zimbabwe (2), Mozambique (10), Niger (1), Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania (1), Kenya (5), Rwanda (15), Cameroon (1)	36
Total completed or supported during reference period			60

D. Advocacy

57. The Gender Data Network has organized a number of webinars, including the following:

(a) Reinvigorating the Sustainable Development Goals through gender and inclusive data: harnessing the power of networks, held on 30 May 2023 as part of the Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series. The webinar highlighted the current state of gender statistics within the region covered by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

(b) The hidden power of gender data: insights from the DataDelta team of the global advisory, data analytics and research organization IDinsight, held on 23 July 2024. Among other things, the webinar provided valuable insights into the importance of gender data, showcased practical examples from the work by the DataDelta team, and offered strategies for implementing gender-sensitive data practices.

III. Conclusion

58. Implementation of the third phase of the African programme on gender statistics is on track, with the expansion of its contributing members, reformulation of the terms of reference for the African Group on Gender Statistics and the proposed integration with the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. As highlighted in the present report, several activities have been conducted at regional, subregional and national levels aimed at advocacy of the production and use of gender data; support for the development of normative frameworks and indicator frameworks; capacity-building in several gender statistics domains; development of methodological guidelines and toolkits; and the production of knowledge products that widened the availability of gender data.

59. Amid improvement of the coordination and harmonization of gender statistics across the region, there are several challenges that Africa still faces in the production and use of quality gender statistics, including the fragmented nature of data, limited financial resources, inadequate gender statistics on key areas such as environment and climate change, and low prioritization and lack of political will. Addressing these challenges is paramount for informed decision making at all levels and the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment across the continent.

IV. Recommendations for consideration by the Statistical Commission

60. The Commission is requested:

(a) To take note of the continuing work on the production and use of gender statistics on the continent and to support activities of the African programme on gender statistics;

(b) To endorse the revised terms of reference for the African Group on Gender Statistics;

(c) To endorse the African Group on Gender Statistics as a subgroup of the Specialized Technical Group on Demography, Migration, Health, Human Development, Social Protection and Gender, mandated to provide strategic guidance on gender-related issues to the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa coordinated by the Pan-African Institute for Statistics;

(d) To urge its members to strengthen coordination, partnerships and collaboration among various stakeholders in the regional, subregional and national statistical systems;

(e) To call upon its members to develop effective resource mobilization strategies to address the inadequacy of the resources required for the production and use of good quality gender statistics.