



**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Statistical Commission for Africa**  
Seventh meeting  
Addis Ababa (online), 13–15 October 2020

## **Progress report on implementation of the African programme on gender statistics**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In recognition of the importance of statistics for the attainment of gender equality and women's empowerment, African countries and the continent's gender statistics specialists have given increasing attention to promoting the production and use of gender statistics. At its first meeting, in 2008, the Statistical Commission for Africa established the African Group on Gender Statistics and entrusted the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with the performance of its secretariat functions. The mandate of the African Group on Gender Statistics is to support and advise on gender statistical issues, needs and challenges surrounding poverty reduction strategies and global development agendas. Establishment of the Group has also contributed towards improving the coordination and harmonization of gender statistics across the region.

2. Although significant progress has been made at both regional and national levels in improving gender statistics in Africa, efforts in this domain continue to be project-based, ad hoc in nature and still not optimally coordinated, resulting in duplication.

3. To address these issues, in 2012 the Group developed the African programme on gender statistics as an umbrella regional programme. The Statistical Commission for Africa endorsed the programme at its third session in 2012 and entrusted the Group with the coordination of its implementation and the submission of progress reports at each of its sessions. ECA provides secretariat services for the programme. The first phase of the programme covered the period 2012–2016 and the second phase from 2017 to 2021. During the second phase, the programme has been aligned with the data and methodological requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The present report is a summary of activities undertaken by the member institutions of the African Group on Gender Statistics in accordance with the Group's plan of action for the period 2018–2020.

### **II. Regional partnerships and coordination**

#### **A. Making Every Woman and Girl Count (Women Count) programme**

5. The gender data and statistics activities of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) are driven by the Entity's flagship initiative "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" (Women



Count). The Africa regional project under the initiative is providing technical and financial support on gender statistics to five pathfinder<sup>1</sup> countries in the region, namely, Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, and six non-pathfinder countries, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. The Ethiopia country office of UN-Women obtained an independent grant for a gender statistics project.

6. Two regional statistics specialists were appointed in July and August 2019, responsible, respectively, for East and Southern Africa (based in Nairobi) and West and Central Africa (based in Dakar). Their primary role is to improve regional coordination and provide technical support services to the countries participating in the project.

7. The Women Count Africa regional project is crafted around three primary objectives:

(a) *Creating an enabling environment*: Regional coordination is being improved, working with organizations such as ECA and the African Development Bank, countries are being supported in their work to identify and surmount institutional, legal and financial constraints to the mainstreaming of gender into national statistical systems and establishment of an efficient monitoring and evaluation system for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) *Increasing data production*: Technical capacities of national statistical systems are being strengthened and, with the aim of improving monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, quality data are being produced on violence against women, unpaid care work, gaps in access to decent work and pay, participation in public life and decision-making, and access to and use of information and communications technologies;

(c) *Improving data accessibility and use*: Capacities of users are being strengthened in the conduct of gender data analysis; gender statistics are being made more accessible to all users through better reporting; users' capacity to communicate gender data is being enhanced through training; and data and metadata-sharing is being encouraged to facilitate data flows, including regional and global Sustainable Development Goal-related databases.

## **B. Strengthening statistical coordination and integration of gender in national statistical systems**

8. During the reporting period, thanks to support from the Women Count programme for coordination activities at the country level, the normative frameworks for gender statistics were strengthened and the measurement and use of such statistics were largely standardized. Activities to this end included:

(a) National assessments of gender statistics systems were conducted in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in 2018; in Cameroon, Ethiopia and Senegal in 2019; and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone in 2020. Similar studies are in progress in Malawi and Mozambique and will be completed before the end of 2020;

(b) Support was provided for the revitalization and strengthening of interagency gender statistics working groups and coordination committees in Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe;

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<sup>1</sup> The Women Count programme is initially being rolled out in so-called "pathfinder countries", in which, through the process of its implementation, the programme is developing methodologies that can be replicated as products of South-South learning in countries wishing to strengthen their work on gender data and statistics.

(c) Support was provided for the inclusion of gender and gender statistics as part of the government planning processes and monitoring frameworks in Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, and in the statistics master plans in Kenya, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania;

(d) Monitoring of spending on gender equality was included in government processes in Kenya;

(e) Support was provided for the development and inclusion of gender and gender sensitive indicators in national frameworks with special reference to Sustainable Development Goal reporting and national development monitoring, in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

### **C. Meetings of the African Group on Gender Statistics**

9. The African Group on Gender Statistics met in Côte d'Ivoire on 28 September 2018. The meeting was attended by gender focal points from the national statistics offices of more than 25 African countries and representatives of training institutions. One of the outcomes of the meeting was a renewed call to member States for the formal nomination of representatives in the African Group on Gender Statistics. Morocco was confirmed as the chair of the Group. Other member States which have confirmed their focal points for the Group include Cameroon, Djibouti, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting focused on a number of issues, such as the review and validation of the second phase of the African programme on gender statistics (2017–2021); discussion of institutional issues, including the functioning, coordination and rotation mechanism of the African Group on Gender Statistics; and the revision of the Group's terms of reference to reflect the new demands set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

10. The African Group on Gender Statistics met again in November 2019 in Accra. The meeting was organized as a collaborative venture between ECA, UN-Women, the African Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the Data2X collaborative technical and advocacy platform, and it comprised four events held back-to-back: a regional workshop on coordination mechanisms of gender statistics; an expert group meeting on gender statistics in Africa; the first face-to-face meeting of the Gender Data Network; and a discussion on the minimum set of gender statistics for Africa and the African Group on Gender Statistics. These four meetings responded to the key recommendations and engagements entered into over the previous two years by the African Group on Gender Statistics. The regional workshop was attended by 24 gender statistics experts and 10 members of the Group representing 24 different African member States.

11. A third meeting of the African Group on Gender Statistics was called in September 2020 to review the progress report and strategize proposed functioning for the remainder of the term of the current members (second phase of the African programme on gender statistics, 2017–2021).

### **D. Network of gender data focal points**

12. In March 2019, working in partnership with Data2X, ECA initiated a project aimed at improving the production and use of gender data within African national statistics systems, through the creation of the Africa Gender Data Network. The overarching goal is to create a network of technically competent gender data experts who can have an immediate and positive impact

on the work of their organizations, to equip them with the tools to make rigorous arguments for filling gender data gaps and producing and using gender data, and to raise their profile and the profile of gender data as a whole. The Network seeks to foster gender data expertise, facilitate cross-country learning, enable capacity-building and training, enhance coordination mechanisms and, crucially, provide a platform for members to raise and solve the issues that they face.

13. The Network is open to gender data experts at national statistical offices and line ministries and mainly works through webinars and online meetings. Initially, the project was piloted in the following countries: Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

#### **E. Regional roster of experts on gender statistics**

14. A regional roster of experts on gender statistics was established by UN-Women and is being used by countries to source specialists to carry out gender statistics activities. The experts on the roster will also be included in consultative processes related to gender statistics as required. The roster includes information on areas of specialization within gender statistics, preferred geographic area of operation, whether or not the individuals are associated with national statistical offices and their consultancy status.

#### **F. Community of practice on data and statistics**

15. UN-Women established a community of practice on data and statistics in East and Southern Africa in 2020. The overall goal of the community of practice is to create an enabling environment for learning and coordination around gender data and statistics in the region and to provide a forum for South-South learning. Core members of the community of practice include representatives of national statistical offices, ministries of women, country offices of UN-Women, and regional bodies and United Nations agencies. Resource persons from gender bodies and universities will be invited to attend specific meetings, depending on their theme.

#### **G. Minimum set of gender indicators for Africa**

16. An important step towards harmonizing gender statistics on the continent has been the development of a minimum set of gender indicators for Africa. In collaboration with ECA and the African Development Bank, UN-Women led a continent-wide consultative process with national statistics offices, gender bodies, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations to inform the development of the minimum set. The consultation resulted in the identification of a draft indicator framework comprising 50 indicators across six domains, namely: economic structures (15 indicators); participation in productive activities and access to resources and health and related services (8 indicators); education (11 indicators); human rights of women and the girl child (7 indicators); public life and decision-making (6 indicators); and environment and climate change (4 indicators). These are aligned with the global minimum set of gender indicators agreed upon in 2013 by the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The 50 proposed indicators were discussed at a virtual workshop held in September 2020 and attended by 48 representatives of national statistical offices, United Nations agencies, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and other international partners. Based on the inputs received, the

indicator matrix was further refined for submission to the Statistical Commission for Africa for formal adoption. The revised framework of 53 indicators will be presented to the Commission at its 2020 meeting.

17. The minimum set of gender indicators for Africa 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. In addition, the minimum set guides national, regional and international entities in setting priorities for the sustainable production and use of gender statistics in the region. The initiative provides strategic direction and scope for stakeholders in the gender data system in such areas as strengthening institutions, improving coordination mechanisms, updating legislation, ensuring adequate budgetary allocations, advancing research and methodological development (such as the Africa gender index), and improving staff competencies and data sources.

## **H. Reporting of financial resources for gender statistics**

18. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century designed a special gender module for its 2019 survey, the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS),<sup>2</sup> designed to gather information on donor support specific to gender statistics. The survey captures the volume of projects and financing commitments broken down by donor type (bilateral or multilateral) and thematic sector. The results of the latest PRESS survey will be published in September 2020.

## **III. Capacity-building and research**

### **A. Regional training and capacity-building workshops**

#### **1. Webinars on data collection**

19. A webinar was held on 31 March 2020, as a collaborative venture between ECA, Data2x and Open Data Watch, on methodological research on approaches to gender data collection. In all, 62 participants attended the webinar, including speakers from the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO). It highlighted the latest standards adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) on work statistics and shared guidance in the design of surveys and data analysis to shed light on gender issues, along with fieldwork experience and preliminary findings. The webinar contributed to sustaining the momentum behind better gender data collection in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. A second webinar was held on 7 May 2020, on building a business case for disaggregated data, and was attended by 76 participants. These included speakers from the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the United Kingdom Office of National Statistics and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century. The purpose of the webinar was to share best practices and success stories, to assist national statistical offices in their efforts to mainstream data disaggregation in their programmes.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://paris21.org/press-2019>.

## **2. Training in the conduct of national assessments of gender statistics**

21. In 2019, UN-Women organized a capacity-building measure for six countries in the conduct of assessments of their gender statistic systems. This training programme, organized in collaboration with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, was held in Dakar in November 2019 and was attended by six countries: Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi and Mozambique. The workshop was attended by three representatives from each country and one representative each from UN-Women, the national statistical office of Senegal and the Ministry of Gender of Senegal.

## **3. Communication, uptake and use of gender statistics**

22. An online training course on communicating gender data and statistics was developed and presented to 26 UN-Women staff members from nine countries in East and Southern Africa. The trainees included users and producers of gender statistics and communication specialists. The training materials used for the course will be further refined in the light of the experience gained during the course and will then form the basis for an Africa region training seminar, aimed at national statistical offices and ministries of women. This is currently planned for the final quarter of 2020.

23. In March 2020, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, in collaboration with UN-Women, organized a webinar on communicating gender statistics, featuring a panellist from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. The session explored the complementary roles of journalists and national statisticians in leveraging gender statistics in pursuit of gender equality.

24. In June 2020, the Partnership and UN-Women held a second webinar on mobilizing gender data for better decision-making during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The session featured insights from the gender statistics assessments conducted by the Partnership and the COVID-19 rapid gender assessments carried out by UN-Women, including contributions from the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics and the Kenyan State Department for Gender.

## **4. Training workshop on violence against women**

25. In July 2019, working in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN-Women organized a regional capacity-building workshop on the planning and implementation of surveys on violence against women. The workshop was held in the United Republic of Tanzania and targeted national stakeholders that are engaged in and leading violence against women survey processes, specifically, national statistical offices and national women's agencies. The workshop was attended by 51 participants from nine countries in the region, namely, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

## **B. National training and capacity-building workshops**

### **1. National training workshops and webinars supported by ECA during the reporting period**

26. Training was delivered at workshops held in Ouagadougou from 11 to 13 September 2018, in Harare on 9 and 10 October 2018 and in Cairo from 30 October to 1 November 2018 to strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices to disseminate their Sustainable Development Goal indicator-related data. The workshops included participants from governments, civil society and

universities involved in gender data development and the management of gender issues.

27. A workshop on communicating gender statistics to enhance data use and policy relevance was held in Accra on 25 and 26 November 2019. The workshop brought together persons responsible for gender issues, statistics and policy from selected line ministries, producers and users of gender statistics from planning and statistical units, and gender advocates from civil society organizations and other key stakeholder institutions.

## 2. National-level training activities supported by UN-Women

28. Training support provided through the Women Count programme enabled participants to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills in gender and gender statistics concepts and definitions, gender analysis and presentation of gender statistics, and the translation of data into results. These included the preparation of issue papers, gender and equity budgeting in Uganda, and institutional coordination mechanisms for gender statistics. In turn, participants were shown how to maximize their use of existing data and, by so doing, to increase the availability of and access to user-friendly gender-responsive data. An increase has also been observed in the uptake and use of gender data to inform programming, budgeting and research and advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

29. Specific training interventions organized by UN-Women at the national level included the following:

(a) In Ethiopia, 46 users were trained in improving data literacy, enabling the country's central statistics agency to engage more effectively with users of gender statistics about their needs;

(b) In Cameroon, more than 140 data producers were trained in basic gender concepts and ways to mainstream gender in their data collection, resulting in the strengthening of their capacities to mainstream gender in censuses and key surveys;

(c) In Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, in 2019, training was administered to 60 data producers in the production and analysis of gender data, strengthening their capacity to re-analyse existing data and produce reports including gender statistics;

(d) In Ethiopia, in 2019, 54 producers of statistics were trained in data mining, data analysis, report-writing and monitoring skills required to mainstream gender in the statistical system, with a view to empowering decision-makers, through the more effective use of statistics, to make more informed policy decisions;

(e) In Uganda, training was conducted for data producers, to improve the production of data on violence against women;

(f) In Kenya, a training course was held in scientific writing skills, organized in partnership with the University of Nairobi, for graduate students, with the aim of building their capacity to produce high quality gender research papers, which will be compiled and published upon their graduation with masters degrees by December 2019;

(g) In Uganda, the Women Count programme, in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Centre at Makerere University provided training for the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, to improve its analytical capacity for in-depth analysis;

(h) In Uganda, in 2018, UN-Women, working in partnership with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, adopted and customized the Swedish international

training programme model and conducted two tailor-made training courses on gender statistics for 52 data producers and users.

## **IV. Technical and advisory services**

### **A. Technical assistance to Zimbabwe**

30. A regional Development Account project is being implemented by ECA to step up its support for member States in producing and using gender statistics for better development outcomes. As part of this endeavor, an advisory mission was undertaken to Zimbabwe, on 11 and 12 October, to conduct consultations and provide technical advice on addressing gaps in gender statistics and to assist the country in producing relevant gender statistics on selected tier II indicators.

### **B. Country-level technical and financial support**

31. During the reporting period, Women Count provided technical and financial support to countries in the region on a variety of topics, some already mentioned in section II above, on regional partnership and coordination, together with country-level training, as listed in the previous section. Other areas of technical support included advice on the conduct of time use (Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) and gender-based violence surveys (Rwanda and Uganda); the production of gender statistics and development of policy briefs through the analysis of existing data (Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania).

### **C. Mainstreaming gender statistics in government strategic planning**

32. In October 2019, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and UN-Women published their framework and implementation guidelines for assessing data and statistical capacity gaps for better gender statistics.<sup>3</sup> The framework and guidelines are designed to support countries in assessing the state of gender statistics, with a view to informing the design of a national strategy for gender statistics which, in turn, can be incorporated in the national strategy for the development of statistics.<sup>4</sup>

33. This joint project by the Partnership and UN-Women is supporting nine countries (including Egypt, Lesotho and Senegal in Africa) in piloting the assessment. Of the nine pilots, Senegal was the first country to mainstream gender in its national strategy for gender statistics in January 2020.

## **V. Preparation of training materials**

### **A. Communicating gender statistics**

34. Training materials on the communication of gender statistics training materials were developed by UN-Women in 2020 for use in online workshops. The materials, aimed at users, producers and communication specialists, were tested during a training workshop for UN-Women staff and will be rolled out on a larger scale to member States during the fourth quarter of 2020.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://data.unwomen.org/resources/assessing-data-and-statistical-capacity-gaps-better-gender-statistics>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://paris21.org/national-strategy-development-statistics-nsds>.



35. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century launched a new online course on communicating gender statistics on the PARIS21 Academy, the Partnership's flagship online learning platform. The free e-learning course is aimed at statisticians, and journalists, and combines conceptual study with practical training and guidance.

## **B. Development of guidelines on citizen-generated data to encourage use of alternative data sources to fill gender data gaps**

36. UN-Women has developed regional guidelines for national statistical offices on harnessing the potential of citizen-generated data to improve the quality of the statistics used to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The guidelines will contribute to strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to use non-official data sources for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and building the collaboration between national statistical offices and civil society organizations in the region to develop country-specific citizen-generated data plans. As a result of the inclusive process of developing the guidelines, UN-Women plans to work in partnership with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (Data4SDGs) and other civil-society organizations, with a view to further expanding country-specific applications of these guidelines.

## **C. Regional guidelines on COVID-19 and gender**

37. As part of its COVID-19 response, UN-Women has developed two sets of regional guidelines to inform gender-related research during this time. These are the guidelines on engendering socioeconomic impact assessments<sup>5</sup> and on conducting qualitative research during COVID-19.<sup>6</sup> These guidelines provide practical ideas and are intended to strengthen the ability of UN-Women country offices and other users to give a gender dimension to their data collections and to adjust their research methods to the constraints of the movement and social distancing restrictions imposed during the pandemic.

# **VI. Research activities**

## **A. Methodological research**

### **1. Development of country gender profiles**

38. Gender equality profiles are being finalized for publication by the African Development Bank, in collaboration with UN-Women, for 11 countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, the Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Malawi, the Niger, South Sudan, the Sudan and Zimbabwe. The studies are designed to enhance national knowledge on progress and gaps in efforts to achieve gender equality and identify high impact initiatives for evidence-based policy dialogue. They also provide an opportunity to build capacity in countries, assess the national gender statistical and monitoring systems, and furnish evidence to inform strategic policy priorities and gender-equitable programming.

<sup>5</sup> Available at <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/review-of-covid-19-related-socio-economic-impact-studies-and-related-research>.

<sup>6</sup> Available at <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/guidance-note-for-conducting-qualitative-research>.

## **2. Launch of the 2019 Africa gender quality index report at the Global Gender Summit in Kigali**

39. The 2019 edition of the Africa gender equality index was issued in a report on the theme: “What does the 2019 Africa gender index tell us about gender equality, and how can it be achieved?” The report was launched in 2019 in Kigali, at the Global Gender Summit. The new edition of the Africa gender equality index, which was produced jointly by the African Development Bank Group and ECA, provides data for 51 of the 54 countries in Africa. It offers a comprehensive picture of gender equality in Africa and progress towards closing gender gaps in the continent. It also highlights marked differences between subregions, which indicate that there is a nexus between gender equality, stability and economic prosperity.

## **B. Thematic research**

### **1. Study to examine the potential of administrative systems in Africa**

40. UN-Women has prepared this study to show how administrative data may be used to produce gender statistics for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>7</sup> The study examines the potential of administrative systems to fill gaps in gender-specific data relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, in the light of experience gathered in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The findings will inform the provision of support by UN-Women to countries to overcome challenges in producing relevant gender indicators from administrative data for their Goals monitoring frameworks.

### **2. Production of COVID-19 gender data**

41. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN-Women is spearheading the implementation of computer-assisted telephone interview-based rapid gender assessments across the continent. These are being performed in partnership with national statistical offices, ministries of gender, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNFPA and, in some countries, international non-governmental organizations. The survey is currently being implemented in Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya and Senegal. Planning for the conduct of similar surveys in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda is well advanced and all surveys should be completed by December 2020.

### **3. Best practices update on gender statistics in Africa**

42. ECA has undertaken a study on lessons learned and best practices related to improving gender statistics for further promotion and replication of these practices. The document presents an update on gender statistics in Africa, lessons learned and best practices. It provides an analysis of the status of gender statistics on the continent; identifies key issues in mainstreaming gender perspective into national statistical systems and builds on the work done in 2012 to measure progress provided in the Compendium of Gender Statistics in Africa. It also provides up-to-date examples that can be replicated and adapted across the region.

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<sup>7</sup> UN-Women, East and Southern Africa, “Advancing administrative sources of data for monitoring gender-specific Sustainable Development Goals in Africa”, Nairobi, 2019. Available at <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/08/advancing-administrative-sources-of-data-for-sdgs>.

#### 4. **Report on measuring violence against women in Africa**

43. In the light of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, ECA has developed a report on measuring violence against women in Africa, reviewing progress and best practices in statistics. The report draws on existing publications and provides a timely overview of work to measure violence against women in Africa, lessons learned and best practices.

#### 5. **Narratives on women in politics and decision-making in Africa for World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics**

44. Working in partnership with the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section in the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division of ECA, the Africa Centre for Statistics has contributed to the 2020 issue of the World's Women report: *World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics*, by drafting a narrative on women in politics and decision-making in Africa. The narrative highlights the situation of women and trends followed by them in politics and decision-making in Africa, including national parliaments, cabinets of ministers and senior managerial positions. The narrative also highlights the role of positive discrimination in boosting the participation of women in politics and decision-making, along with continuing obstacles to the increased participation of women in political and public life on the continent.

## VII. Reporting, storage and dissemination

### A. **Knowledge-sharing and information-sharing platform**

45. The African Group on Gender Statistics has developed a regional platform for the sharing of knowledge and information on gender statistics issues among partners and member countries in Africa. The platform is to be used for sharing research and other materials emanating from the various institutions at the national and regional levels. It was launched by the Group in September 2018, at its meeting in Abidjan.

### B. **African Development Bank gender data portal**

46. The African Development Bank has also improved the management and dissemination of gender data both within and outside the Bank. The focus has been on more efficient service delivery to support the research, policy, and operational functions of the Bank and to position the institution as the first port of call for gender statistical knowledge products, in particular data relating to Africa. To this end, at the Global Gender Summit in 2019, the Bank launched its gender data portal. The portal enables users to access and select data according to their preferences and needs and it makes gender statistical information directly available to users' computers. The introduction of the gender data portal will help to enhance quality control in the databases managed by the Bank.

### C. **Women Count**

47. Besides its global data hub,<sup>8</sup> which also includes regional data, UN-Women has supported the development of web-based platforms in Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania that are aimed at enhancing access to data in general and gender statistics in particular. As a result of these efforts, an increased uptake and use of gender data have been observed in the Entity's

<sup>8</sup> Available at [data.unwomen.org](http://data.unwomen.org).

partner countries. Other activities supported by UN-Women include the following:

(a) In Kenya, the broad-based women's movement GROOTS Kenya and UN-Women have teamed up to encourage civil society organizations to use gender data for advocacy;

(b) Students have been supported in the use of data to advocate inclusive sustainable development (Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania);

(c) User-producer dialogues have been held in Cameroon and Uganda to raise awareness about gender issues and engage more data users;

(d) In Rwanda, working in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, UN-Women has conducted statistical advocacy by organizing an infographic competition in the production and use of gender statistics.

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

#### UN-Women support for statistical publications

<i>Publication type</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Countries</i>	<i>Number of publications</i>
Publications related to the national or gender statistics system	Q4 - 2018	Ethiopia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania	3
	2019	Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania	2
	2020	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sierra Leone	2
Publications related to national development plans, monitoring and evaluation and government departments	Q4 - 2018	-	0
	2019	Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania	4
	2020	Uganda	1
Technical guidelines	Q4 - 2018	Regional office	1
	2019	Regional office	2
	2020	Regional office	3
Gender statistics publications	Q4 - 2018	-	0
	2019	Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania	11
	2020	Kenya	3
COVID-19 report	2020	Cameroon	1
Total supported during reference period		Region	33

## VIII. Conclusion

49. Since its inception in 2012, the African Group on Gender Statistics has constituted the main framework for the collaboration and harmonization of efforts among various stakeholders working on gender statistics at the global, regional and national levels. Various consultations during the reporting period between the Group's members, under the leadership of UN-Women, ECA and the African Development Bank, have enabled them to increase their support for the improvement of gender statistics on the continent.

50. The collaboration between UN-Women, ECA, the African Development Bank and various other agencies, such as the Partnership in Statistics for

Development in the 21st Century and Data2X, has resulted in a significant increase in the variety and scope of the gender statistics support available to member States. Normative frameworks applicable to the production of statistics in general and gender statistics in particular have been revised and enhanced and the knowledge and understanding of the gaps in these frameworks have also increased. Thanks to the technical and financial support provided to member countries, there has also been a general increase in the availability of data on the Sustainable Development Goals and other gender data on the continent. The wide range of training activities that have taken place, along with the development of new training materials, have benefited several countries in the region. These initiatives have contributed to enhancing the capacity of experts in member States in various areas of gender statistics.

51. Notwithstanding these advances, significant challenges remain, at both the regional and national levels, in the production, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics. Where future efforts are concerned, the most important of these are the following needs:

- (a) To expand and build on the current collaborative processes;
- (b) To adjust existing and future programmes in the light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) To widen the provision of existing technical and financial support to more countries;
- (d) To institutionalize virtual gender data and statistics support networks;
- (e) To step up activities aimed at mainstreaming gender considerations in the statistical normative frameworks and increasing the uptake and use of gender statistics;
- (f) To focus on supporting the entire gender data system, including administrative data, big data and citizen-generated data, among other types of data;
- (g) To support the continued modernization of national statistical office operations, with particular reference to gender statistics.

## **IX. Points for discussion by the Statistical Commission for Africa**

52. The Commission is requested:

- (a) To take note of the continuing work for the development of gender statistics in the continent and support other work priorities of the African programme on gender statistics;
- (b) To endorse a minimum set of gender indicators for Africa;
- (c) To provide guidance for and approval of the revision of the second phase of the African programme on gender statistics, in order to align it with COVID-19-related methodological and data requirements;
- (d) To call upon member States to support the development of gender-related administrative data.