



UN Women / Pim Schalkwijk

ONE STRATEGY FOR EQUALITY AND SIX RELEVANT AREAS OF ACTION

UN WOMEN'S WORK FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING
IN STATISTICS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



...the recognition of the central importance of gender equality for sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) has led to an increasing demand for specialized gender statistics and indicators to formulate, monitor and evaluate public policies

Gender statistics have been recognized as a useful tool for promoting and ensuring gender equality. The work of policy makers, organizations that advocate for women's rights and of academics rests heavily on the information provided by national statistical systems. Therefore, the joint work of national statistical offices, units in different sectors that generate information and mechanisms for the advancement of women has an important role in promoting gender equality.

Gender statistics can describe the division of labor between men and women, and the roles resulting from such social division, the inequalities in socio-economic, political and cultural dimensions, and the discrimination against women and girls, indigenous and African-descent women. Statistics allow us to trace the various forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, to build evidence on inequality between men and women, understand its roots, to know its effects and propose solutions.



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...gender mainstreaming in the production of national statistics aims to generate knowledge based on methodologies, with emphasis on the areas of greatest concern for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

The ultimate purpose is to sustain policies, plans, actions and public budgets for the empowerment of women, substantive equality and the exercise of their human rights.

One of the main challenges for public policies in Latin America is to overcome inequality in its multiple dimensions, using a mainstreaming approach to transform with a global and universal view of the three areas of sustainability: economic, social and environmental.

Mainstreaming gender in public policies empowers citizens and promotes sustainable development by making more democratic and productive societies. Governments face challenges to achieve equality in outcomes as a result of public policies and to ensure women's access to resources, taking into account their specific needs at different stages of their lives.

The challenge is enormous and complex. Therefore, the international community has stressed the need to highlight women's realities revealing the obstacles to expand their capabilities and freedom, to exercise their rights, to show their progress and contributions to society.

we outline



two challenges

1. Revolutionize statistical production to visibilize: gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women and girls; and the contribution of women and girls to society, sustainable development and democracy.
2. Improve the dissemination, analysis and use of information to influence, using solid arguments in the design, monitoring, evaluation and accountability of public policies so they can be used toward the the full realization of women's human rights.

Almost 20 years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform of Action, some aspects of the lives of women and gender equality still remain unseen due to the lack of basic data on their life circumstances in relation to men.

UN Women, in partnership with the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC and the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and the National Women's institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico, has actively promoted the generation and use of gender statistics. **A special effort has been made to improve the statistical production from a gender perspective, following a strategy of gradual and sustained impacts in all stages of the production process, including the dissemination of results.**

Despite these efforts, one can still observe major information gaps and gender bias in the data collection instruments used by national statistical offices and the entities responsible for producing information. **Progress has been slow, intermittent and heterogeneous. Further, where there has been progress, there are still missing connections to translate the knowledge produced with gender-sensitive statistics to gender-effective policy actions.**



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To accelerate progress in statistics it is essential to have a broad commitment to change the ways of collecting and disseminating information. The Open Working Group (OWG) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has pointed out the need to transform the production of statistical information by:¹

- improving the availability and accessibility of statistics disaggregated by income level, gender, age, race, ethnicity, immigration status, disability, geographic location and other relevant characteristics in national contexts to contribute to the monitoring of the SDG, and to adopt urgent measures to improve the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data;
- developing additional measurements to the GDP to measure the progress on sustainable development, including those related to gender equality.

Gender statistics cut across the traditional fields of statistics to identify, produce and disseminate statistics that reflect the realities of the lives of women and men and policy issues relating to gender equality.



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UN Women makes significant efforts to assist countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to fulfill their commitments for producing gender statistics.

An important part of these efforts are aimed at:

1. Strengthening the capacity of producers and users of information, seeking to: transform how phenomena are interpreted from a gender perspective and incorporate this approach in all stages and methods of production of national statistics; develop consensus and sharing best practices on priority issues of policy with decision makers, academics and civil society organizations in the identification of indicators for monitoring women's progress and the evaluation of public policies.

UN Women accomplishes this task through cooperation and technical assistance and by promoting horizontal South-South cooperation, development of forums and events, and the creation of expert groups in gender statistics.
2. Promoting the institutionalization and consolidation of the strategic alliance with the statistical office and the mechanism for the advancement of women in the country coordinator of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of SCA-ECLAC, in order to promote and facilitate the group's work program.²

UN Women works in strategic partnership with INEGI and INMUJERES in Mexico, the coordinating country of the Working Group in 2006, and with ECLAC.
3. Generating knowledge products based on gender statistics in collaboration with the national statistical offices in the region, developing research to improve the data-collection instruments, concepts, classifications and procedures for generating information from a gender perspective.

we adopt



four international commitments

The growing concern about gender inequality for governments, civil society organizations and multilateral organizations is reflected in the growing demand for solid knowledge on gender issues.

This concern has been transferred to the need to produce gender statistics in the statistical offices and the institutions of different sectors that generate continuous information in their administrative records.

The Beijing Platform of Action (1995) focused on removing barriers preventing the full participation of women in the public and private sectors.

The gender perspective in statistics involves the disaggregation by sex, the inclusion of questions and analytical categories related to the issues that particularly affect women, the data collection instruments and data disaggregation for indigenous and Afro-descendent population, and the production and distribution of information to the population groups that face the greatest inequalities.

Much of the demand in the field of gender statistics is aimed at building indicators that enable mechanisms for the advancement of women's contributions to meaningful public policymaking and to monitor existing plans and programs. Another part is aimed at providing indicators to monitor international commitments to advance gender equality and prevent discrimination against women.

However, these demands are far from being met, especially in certain areas of concern, such as gender-based violence, access to justice, time use, unpaid work and poverty.

International commitments:

1. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)³ establishes binding obligations on States Parties to include statistical information in their reports to the CEDAW Committee, considering that it is absolutely necessary to understand the status of women and girls. State Parties undertake the responsibility to make every effort to ensure that their national statistical services, responsible for planning national censuses and other social and economic surveys, formulate strategies for data to be disaggregated by sex.
2. The Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action⁴ urges national, regional and international statistical services, government offices and agencies of the United Nations to prepare and distribute data and information for planning and evaluation.
3. The Belem do Para Convention⁵ establishes that States Parties must adopt specific measures and programs to ensure research and gathering of statistics and other relevant information on the causes, consequences and frequency of violence against women, in order to assess the effectiveness of measures to prevent, sanction and eradicate violence against women, and to develop and implement the necessary changes in their policies.
4. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set for 2015, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)⁶ which guide the international agenda post-2015 are based in indicators for monitoring progress. In defining the SDG we seek to ensure that the framework for future development fully integrates gender equality, women's rights and empowerment, mainstreaming gender to transform with a global and universal view the three areas of development: economic, social and environmental. The post-2015 framework for development might lead to progress in the area of gender statistics, as it is based on commitments already made by countries worldwide.



During the last fifteen years, there have been significant efforts and investment of resources to advance the production of gender-sensitive information.

The lessons learned over the years have enabled UN Women to establish priorities to promote gender statistics:

1. Contribute to the systematization of scattered information, the innovation in the production of indicators, the identification of gaps in data collection and the processing of existing information that is not usually disaggregated by sex.⁷
2. Influence the linkages between national statistical offices, administrative sectors and mechanisms for the advancement of women to promote gender statistics and the creation of systems of indicators.
3. Facilitate the exchange of experience in national and international forums and consultations for the production and use of statistics.
4. Promote the development of tools for the production of information, such as manuals and international classifiers to improve gender statistics.
5. Encourage the institutionalization of permanent mechanisms for the transformation of statistical information systems, using a crosscutting and integrative approach.



in short, we formulate



six lines of work

UN Women supports initiatives to produce gender-sensitive information to support public policies aimed at achieving substantive equality in six lines of work that require strengthening gender statistics

UN Women works with other agencies and UN partners to ensure that gender statistics are integrated into national development plans and strategies, periodic reports to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), to the reports to the CEDAW Committee, to the Monitoring Mechanism of the Convention of Belem do Para (MESECVI), to the Mechanisms of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council, the reports of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



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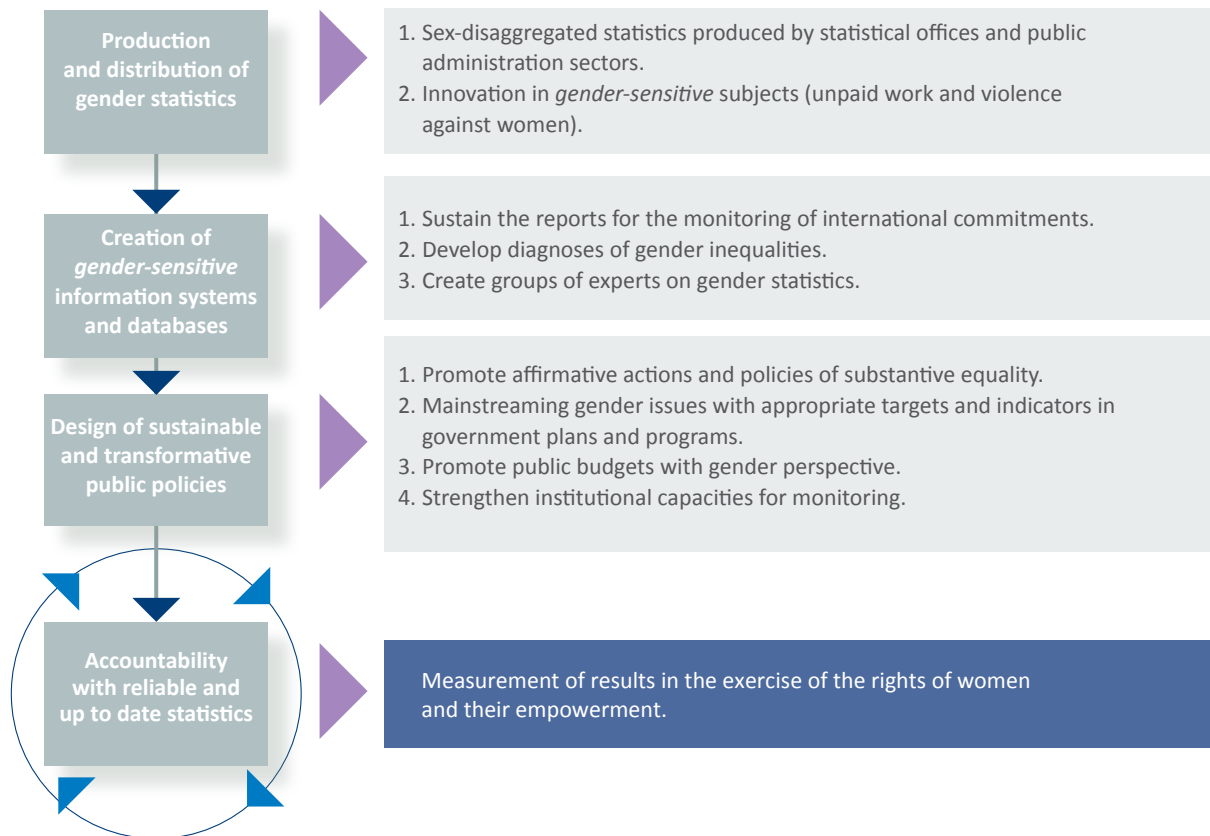
1. Influence on key dimensions of governance and national planning: laws, plans, policies, institutions and budgets to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls at all levels.
2. Ensure the leadership and participation of women in decision making in the areas of political, economic and public life.
3. Ensure gender equality; expanding capacities; access of women and girls to comprehensive health care, protection of sexual and reproductive rights; and quality education.
4. Empower women and girls and ensure their access to resources and opportunities, including assets such as land and credit, housing and the right to decent work and equal pay.
5. Valuing unpaid work (domestic and care) by providing infrastructure, services and social protection.
6. Ending violence against women and girls, eliminate all forms of discrimination against them and harmful practices such as child marriage or forced marriage.



The lines of work that guide the tasks of UN Women are interrelated, because they pursue the universal and indivisible exercise of the human rights of women and girls. Each line of work demands gender-sensitive statistics for the design of gender-effective policies, their monitoring, evaluation and proper accountability on achievements.



UN Women uses a transversal **strategy** to promote the production and use of gender statistics to achieve substantive equality, the exercise of human rights and empowerment of women and girls.



Notes

- 1 See: Outcome document at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>
- 2 See: <http://www.cepal.org/deype/SCAcepai>. The Working Group was established during the presidency of INEGI, Mexico, in the Executive Committee of SCA. During the period between 2014-2015, the Chair of the Executive Committee is in charge of the statistical office of Ecuador.
- 3 CEDAW was adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly and it went into force as an international treaty in 1981. In addition to being the most comprehensive international instrument on human rights of women, it is binding on the governments of the 187 countries that have ratified it. The Convention establishes a comprehensive program of action to guarantee the enjoyment of the rights of women. Accessed September 2014 at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/sconvention.htm>. General recommendations Nº: 9, 12, 16, 17, 19, 23 y 24. Accessed September 2014 at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/recomm-sp.htm>.
- 4 United Nations, Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. Accessed September 2014 at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20S.pdf>, paragraphs 68, 104, 129, 156, 206, 207, 208 and 209.
- 5 Convention of Belem do Para was held in Brazil in 1994 and was sent for registration and publication to the Secretariat of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter. It entered into force in 1995. To this day, 27 countries have ratified it. Accessed September 2014 at: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/tratados/a-61.html>, Article 8.
- 6 Millennium Development Goals (MDG), see: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>, millenniumgoals, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Accessed September 2014 at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>.
- 7 See, for example, the minimum set of indicators identified by the Inter Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and its Advisory Group on Global Database Statistics and Indicators on Gender at: <http://genderstats.org> and <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/default.html>.



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