

# Bridging the Gap:

## Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa

# ETHIOPIA COUNTRY PROFILE

*Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa* traces the availability and quality of data for 104 gender-relevant indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic empowerment, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers 15 African countries.

Strong political support for gender data exists in Ethiopia. It has an ambitious national plan for gender mainstreaming and the development of statistics and is making a concerted effort to improve the registration of births and vital events.

Like other countries in the study, Ethiopia lacks comprehensive gender data. Challenges exist in ensuring the timeliness and publication of data, especially in the education sector, and the country's civil registration and vital statistics systems need improvement.

### Ethiopia lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2018 in international databases and in national databases maintained by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.



AVAILABILITY

Ethiopia's national databases contain **64 out of the 104 gender indicators** in the study.



DISAGGREGATION

**7 gender indicators** lack sex disaggregation in Ethiopia's national databases.



ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS

**21 published gender indicators** in Ethiopia's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.



TIMELINESS

**19 indicators** in Ethiopia's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



The 15 African countries included in this study.

### Opportunities to improve gender data in Ethiopia

Closing gender data gaps requires time, resources, and capacity. But there is a path to an improved gender data ecosystem in Ethiopia through a number of key opportunities:



Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems and close gender data gaps to improve Ethiopia's birth registration rates, which are far lower than the average for the 15 African countries in the study.



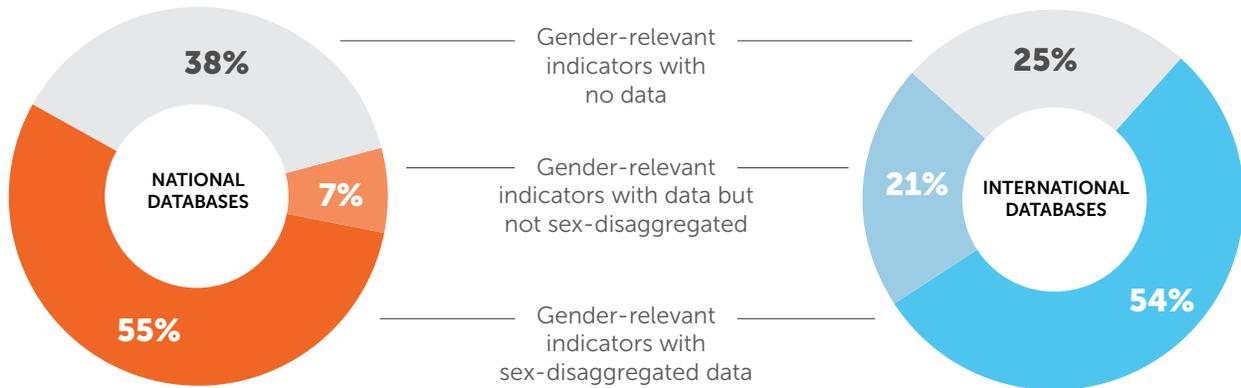
Publish more data on school enrollment and outcomes. The most recent publications provide data for education indicators that are over 10 years old, and many education indicators have been collected but are not published in national databases.



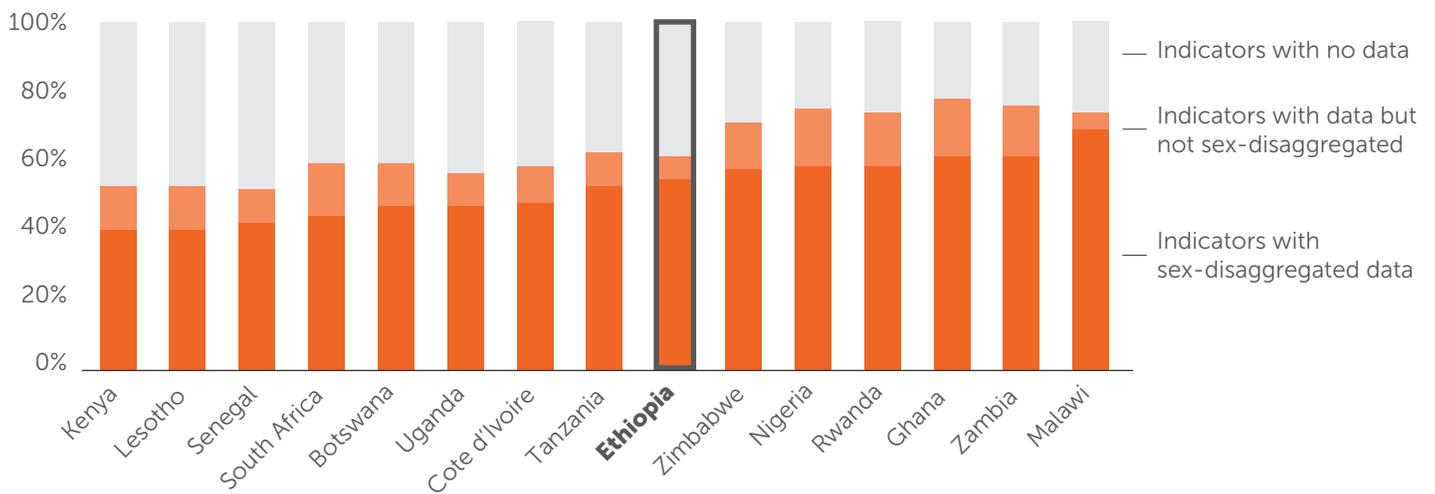
Conduct regular national labor force surveys or agricultural labor surveys. Seventy three percent of Ethiopia's employed population works in agriculture and this information is critical to the creation of data-driven policy.

## A closer look at gender data gaps

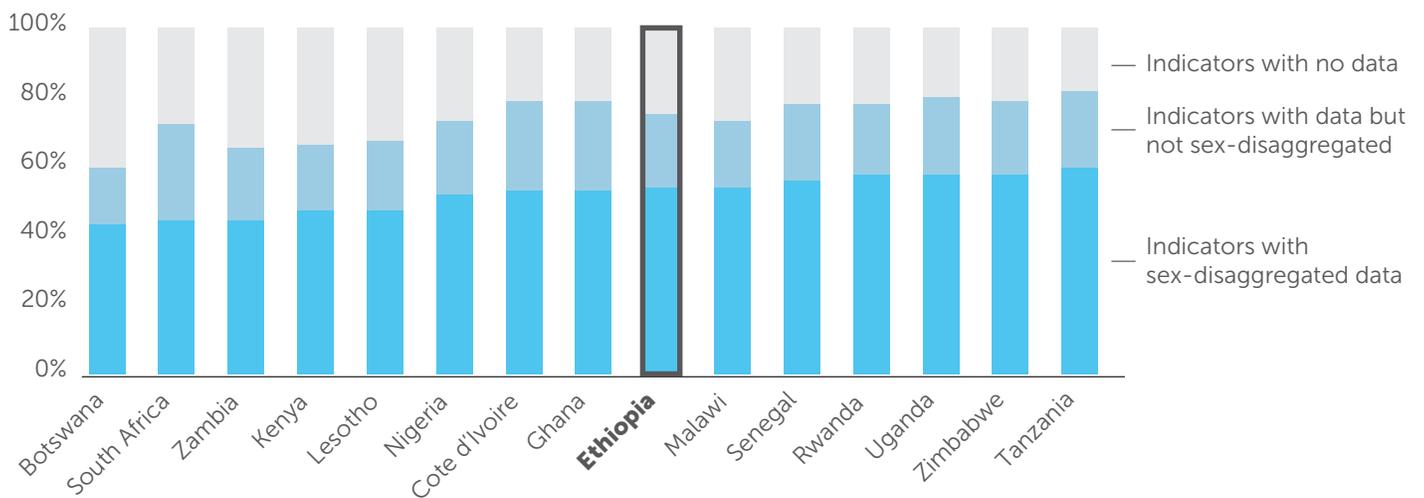
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. Ethiopia's national databases lack data for 38 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations have better coverage of Ethiopia's gender indicators, but 25 percent are still missing, and another 21 percent of the indicators are available but lack sex-disaggregation.



Ethiopia publishes an average number of gender indicators in **national databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

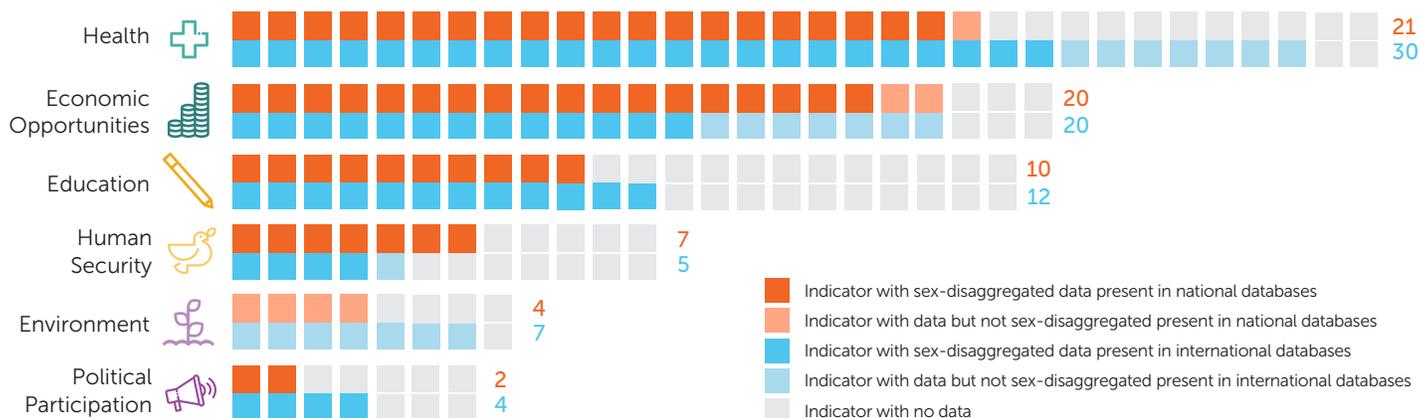


Ethiopia also publishes an average number of gender indicators in **international databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

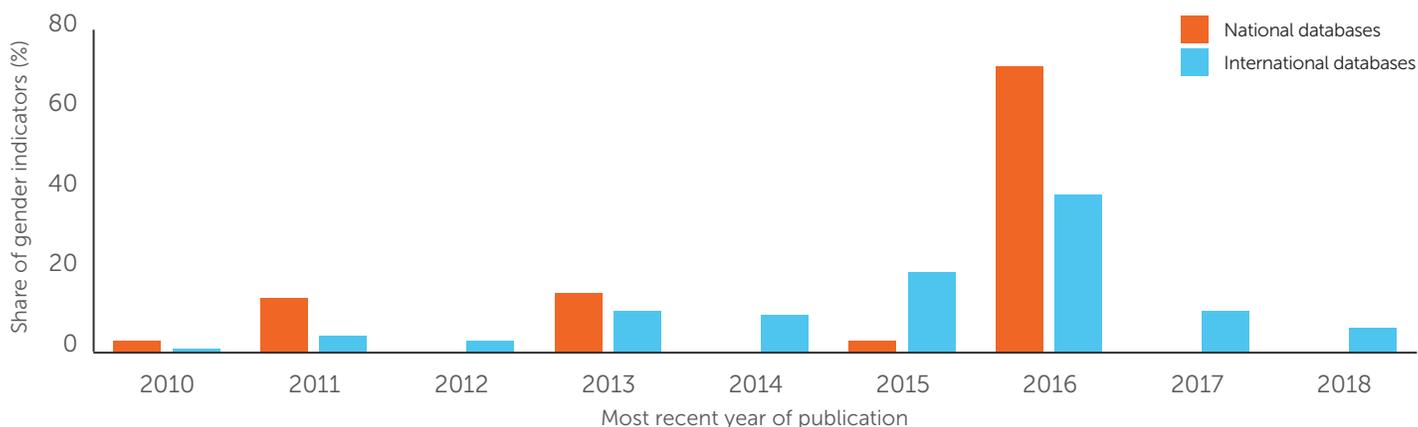


## Data availability and timeliness

Data in the categories of economic opportunities and health have the highest availability in Ethiopia, but there are large gaps in knowledge about women's education, human security, and political participation. There are no sex-disaggregated data for any environmental indicator.

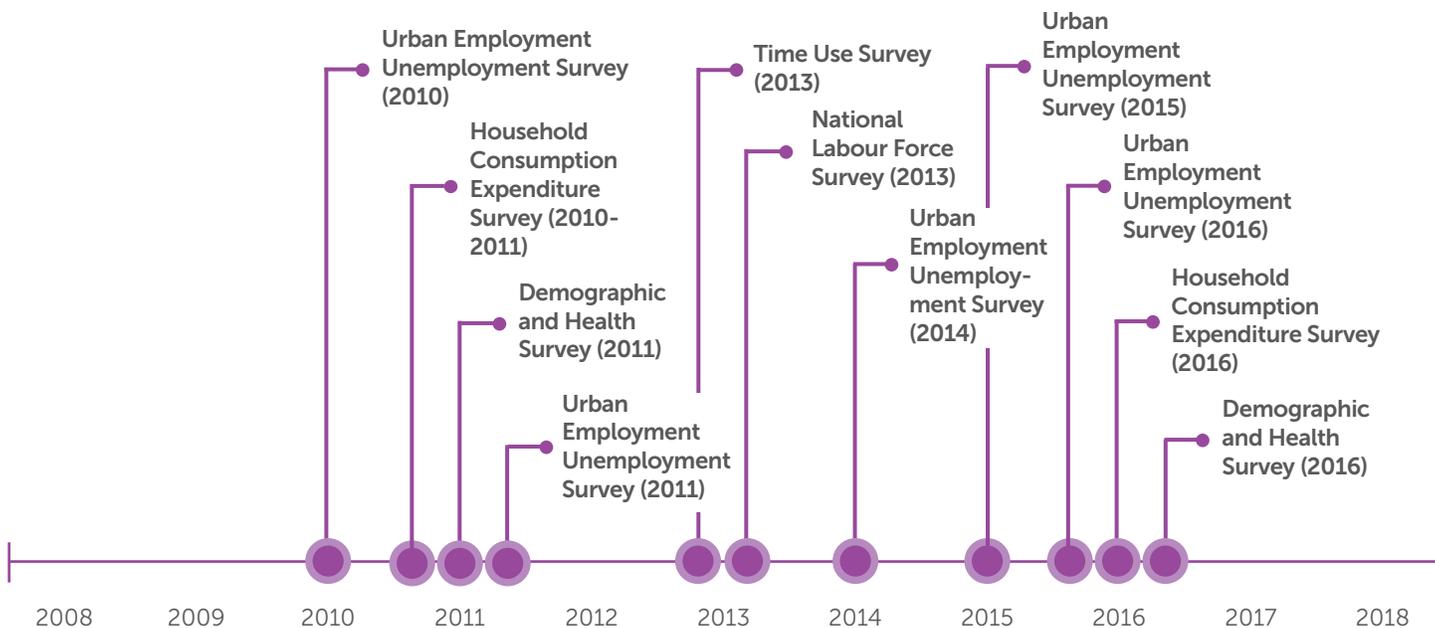


Thirty percent of gender indicators in Ethiopia's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



## Core systems to produce gender data

Many of the gender indicators in Ethiopia are produced through surveys. Ethiopia's last census took place in 2007. Although a census was scheduled for 2017, it has consistently been postponed by the government and a date for the next census has still not been finalized.



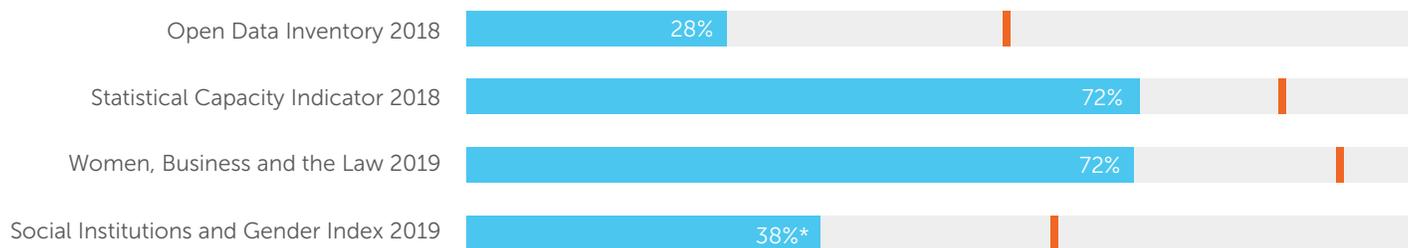
**Civil registration and vital statistics** provide basic demographic and health information. This is especially important for women and children as the data is foundational and helps to unleash opportunities and combat discrimination and exclusion. However, in Ethiopia, birth registration rates remain far below the SDG target of universal registration.

- 3%** Children aged 0 to 4 years in Ethiopia whose **births were registered**, of which
- 1%** Children aged 0 to 4 years were **registered without a birth certificate**
- 2%** Children aged 0 to 4 years were **registered with a birth certificate**

Source: 2016 DHS. The DHS Program STATcompiler. <http://www.statcompiler.com>.

## Assessments of Ethiopia's data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a more complete picture of Ethiopia's statistical and legislative environment.



\* Percentile rank among 120 countries worldwide with scores.

Vertical red line: Highest score for a Sub-Saharan African country

## Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

Ethiopia is taking steps to improve data availability by mainstreaming gender data into national plans, engaging in partnerships, and mobilizing finances.

- Ethiopia's **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (2015/16 – 2019/20)** has an ambitious program for gender mainstreaming and the development of statistics, but it relies solely on donor support.
- The World Bank's **Health Sustainable Development Goals Program for Results** project provided 15 million USD for continued development of Ethiopia's Federal Vital Events Registration Agency. This support is important for increasing birth registration rates, and the recording of vital events which could improve maternal and child health and prevent child marriages.
- The **Ethiopia 2017 Voluntary National Review on SDGs** notes that the Ethiopian government seeks to learn from other countries' experience in achieving SDGs for women, particularly about the production and use of sex-disaggregated data.

To access the full report, please visit [bit.ly/BridgetheGapReport](http://bit.ly/BridgetheGapReport)

