

Why the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights Must Call for Investment in Gender Data

The Generation Equality Forum is a critical opportunity to improve the lives of women and girls, and **investment in gender data must underscore these efforts**. Gender data and accountability are cross-cutting levers for every Action Coalition. This is why all Action Coalitions must **use gender data** to inform blueprints and concrete actions, **develop a gender data plan** to help deliver on that blueprint, and **call for investment** to close the gender data gaps that will impede progress.

WHY MUST GENDER DATA BE INCLUDED IN THE BLUEPRINT FOR EVERY ACTION COALITION?

- **Persistent gaps in gender data** are preventing progress to achieve gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The urgent need to close these data gaps was highlighted by the UN Secretary General's [Beijing+25 Review Report](#).
- Gender data is essential for measuring gender equality progress and informing evidence-based policy; however, baseline data on women and girls is incomplete, missing, and biased as a result of [chronic under-investment and lack of prioritization](#).
- The COVID-19 pandemic has made the achievement of gender equality and the SDGs more urgent, and the need for gender data more pressing. It has also drawn attention to the problem we already know: [the data we have is insufficient](#) to track women and girls' unique experiences.
- Quality gender data will enable Action Coalition leaders to develop a concrete, evidence-based agenda and track progress toward measurable change.

WHAT MUST ACTION COALITION LEADERS DO?

- 1. Use gender data to inform the Action Coalition blueprint.** Action Coalition leaders must utilize available gender data to analyze intersectional discrimination, develop concrete actions, and build the accountability framework to monitor and measure success.
- 2. Develop a gender data plan to deliver on the Action Coalition blueprint.** Action Coalitions must undertake an analysis of gender data gaps related to the concrete actions identified in the blueprint. This analysis should ask four questions: What data do we need? What data is available? What is missing? And how can we gather that data?
- 3. Call for investment in gender data.** Each Action Coalition will undertake a financing analysis on the cost of delivering its blueprint. This analysis must include a costing for producing the necessary data identified in the gender data plan. The "catalogue of commitments" that Action Coalitions will develop must also include commitments to finance gender data.

HOW IS GENDER DATA ESSENTIAL TO THE TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA OF THE ACTION COALITION ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS?¹

- Though time use data provides important insights about women's unpaid care responsibilities, **gender data on access to affordable childcare is absent — leaving a dearth of evidence for law and policy reform enabling women's labor force participation.**
- Data on the enabling environment for women entrepreneurs — including health care, use of public transport, ownership of government-issued identification, market access, and access to capital — is lacking. **This data could help to expose structural inequalities, revealing what is needed to fully enable and support women's entrepreneurship.**
- Data on how women benefit from financial inclusion efforts remains limited. **Enhanced data is needed to determine which financial inclusion practices are the most beneficial in transforming gender norms** (i.e. promoting women's decision-making power, control over resources, and access to market opportunities).

1. Cited from Data2X's March 2020 report, [Mapping Gender Data Gaps: An SDG Era Update](#).