

Why the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership 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 FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP?¹

- Comparable data on women's representation in local governments and political organizations remains scarce, and for nearly half of all countries, sub-national data does not exist at all — **impeding efforts to track systemic change**.
- **To address inequalities among women represented in politics**, data on the share of women of color, indigenous women, disabled women, and LGBTQIA+ individuals must be collected and used to combat intersectional discrimination.
- More data on private sector and NGO representation is needed **to provide a clear picture of women's voice and influence across sectors**. Most countries do not collect this data.
- **In peace and security processes, nuanced data on women's participation remains scarce**, as does data on the participation and experience of disabled and LGBTQIA+ populations. While national governments and international organizations are increasingly collecting sex-disaggregated data on participation, this information is not tracked consistently by any official body.

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