data2x

Why the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality 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 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY?[1]

▪ Sex-disaggregated data on ICT access remains scarce, **presenting a challenge in assessing the potential of technology to support gender equality.**

▪ Though existing evidence suggests that digital gender-based violence and harassment is a widespread challenge, there is a dearth of data on women's and girls' safety online. Of the little information available, almost all is from the Global North, meaning that **our understanding of technology-facilitated gender-based violence in the Global South is limited**.

▪ When combined with traditional datasets, big data can provide unique information on women and girls that is otherwise challenging to measure. **Investments in big data technology can yield innovative insights for gender equality.**

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1. Cited from Data2X's March 2020 report, *Mapping Gender Data Gaps: An SDG Era Update*, and Data2X's November 2019 report, *Big Data, Big Impact? Towards Gender-Sensitive Data Systems*.