Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Asia and the Pacific

GENDER AND DATA POLICIES | ARMENIA

APRIL 2021

Armenia does not currently have a strategy or plan concerning women's wellbeing or gender equality, however it has signed treaties and adopted laws that create a legal basis for gender policies. And while there is no formal statistical framework, the gender indicators reviewed here are essential for understanding where new policies are needed and what shape they might take.

In 2013, Armenia enacted a law on Guaranteeing Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men. The purpose of this law is to ensure gender equality across all areas in public life. The third article of the law notes the importance of sex-disaggregated data that adequately reflect the position of women and men in all areas of public life (Armenia Legal Information System 2013). The emphasis of gender statistics embedded within existing laws is significant, as it can pave the way for gender data-policy integration in future, time-bound national development strategies and plans.

In 2018, Armenia became a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, a regional treaty addressing violence against women and other forms of domestic violence. According to the Istanbul Convention, states have a responsibility to prevent violence against women, prosecute perpetrators, promote gender equality, and to protect victims of violence (European Commission N.d.).

In 2019, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) member states, including Armenia, conducted a national review of their implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. At the time of the review, Armenia did not have a current gender strategy or plan, although they were developing the *Strategic Programme 2019–2023 for Implementation of Policy for Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men* (ESCAP 2019).

Armenia also participates in the UN Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Steering Group on Gender Statistics. One commitment of the Steering Group is to ensure that data are efficiently communicated with policymakers and with the public (UNECE 2018).
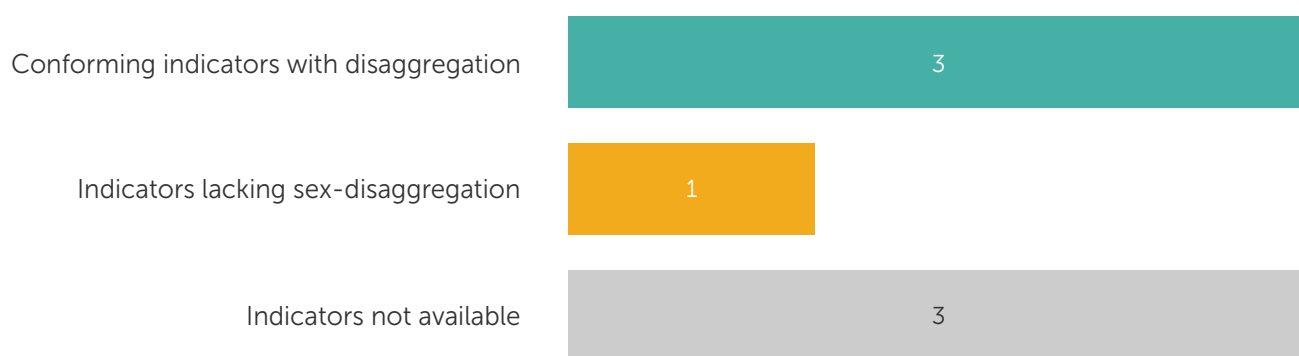
Data to Support Policies and Strategies

An outdated strategy predating the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals, Armenia's *Gender Policy Strategic Action Plan for 2011–2015* did not include a set of measurable indicators; nonetheless, it provides a useful organizing framework for evaluating Armenia's current set of gender indicators. Its implementation strategy addresses six sectors: power and decision-making, socioeconomic, education, health, culture and information, and gender-based violence and human trafficking (Republic of Armenia 2011). Here we consider the six sectors that can be mapped to the *Bridging the Gap* findings, which includes both SDG and non-SDG indicators.

POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

The primary objective for this sector is to ensure women's representation in decision-making and in political life. Additional objectives include introducing a set of indicators to monitor the status of gender, and to properly collect, analyze, and disseminate disaggregated data regarding participation in public and civic life.

There are seven SDG indicators included in *Bridging the Gap* that are of relevance to these objectives. Five of the seven indicators come from SDG 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions), and the remaining two indicators are from SDG 5 (Gender equality). These seven indicators fall under the Public Participation domain of the *Bridging the Gap* study. Three are available in Armenia's national database with sex-disaggregated data; one lacks sex-disaggregation; and three are not available.

Figure 1: Indicators of power and decision-making

Conforming indicators with disaggregation	3
Indicators lacking sex-disaggregation	1
Indicators not available	3

Sex-disaggregated (or female-specific) and conforming indicators:
- 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments
- 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions
- 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Lacking sex disaggregation indicators:
- 16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services, specifically a) healthcare services, b) education services and c) government services
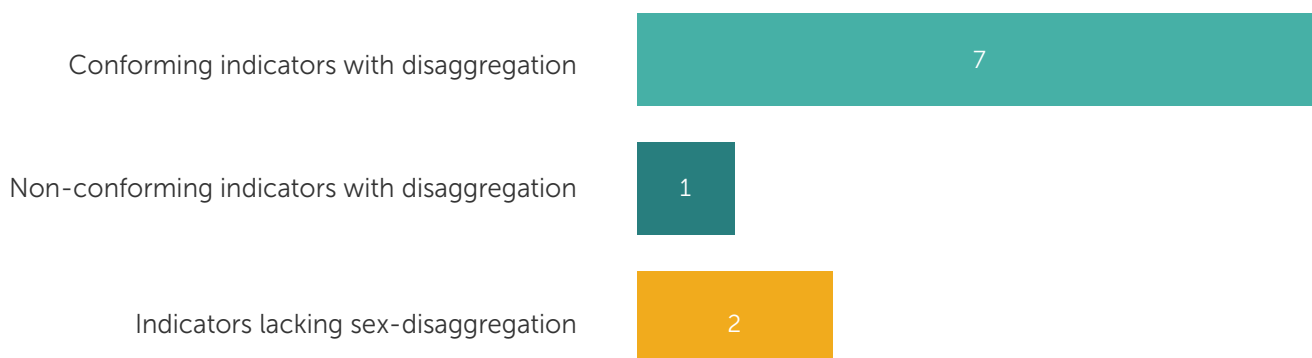
Data not available:
- 16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months
- 16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local public institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities, and population groups
- 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability, and population group

SOCIOECONOMIC POLICY

The objectives for this sector are used to implement and monitor United Nations and other international conventions and to integrate a gender component in existing socioeconomic programs—particularly in the labor, poverty and income, and social protection sectors.

There are ten *Bridging the Gap* indicators that are relevant to the socioeconomic dimensions. Nine are SDG indicators and the remaining supplemental indicator is from UN Women's *Turning Promise into Action* (2018). These indicators fall under SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 9 (Infrastructure and industrialization). They are well represented in Armenia's national databases. Only two lack sex-disaggregated data.

Figure 2: Socioeconomic policy indicators

Conforming indicators with disaggregation	7
Non-conforming indicators with disaggregation	1
Indicators lacking sex-disaggregation	2

Sex-disaggregated, conforming indicators:

- 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status, and geographical location (urban/rural)
- 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
- 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex
- 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age, and persons with disabilities
- 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities
- 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Sex-disaggregated, non-conforming indicators:

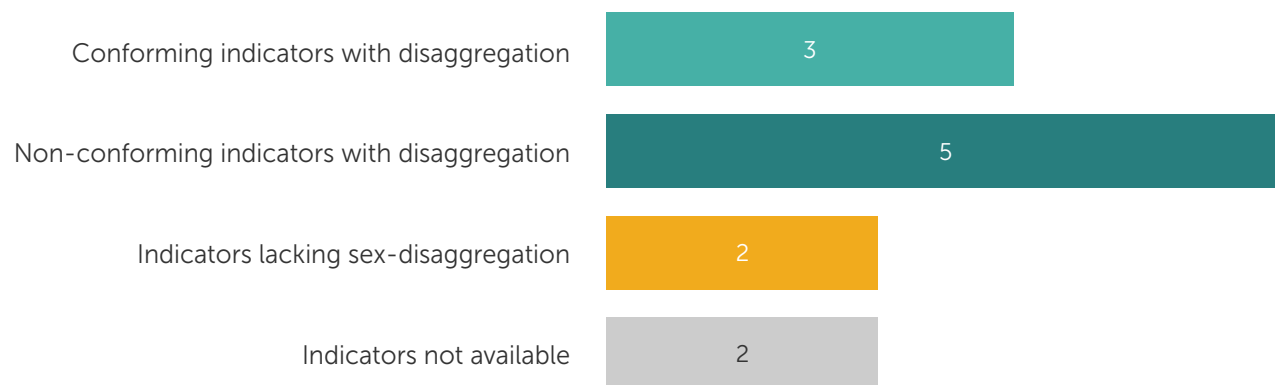- 8.5.X Labor force participation rate, by sex

Lacking sex disaggregation indicators:

- 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work- injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable
- 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants

EDUCATION

The objectives for the education sector include the integration of gender to ensure equal access within education and the development of methodologies for gender analysis. All twelve indicators within the education domain of *Bridging the Gap* are of relevance. Nine are from the SDGs and three supplemental indicators are from UN Women's *Turning Promise into Action* (2018). Two lack sex-disaggregated data and two are not available in Armenia's national databases.

Figure 3: Education indicators

Sex-disaggregated (or female-specific) conforming indicators:

- 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

- 4.1.X6 Education inequality indicators: (a) Proportion of women with less than 4 or 6 years of education; or (b) proportion of women with less than secondary education

- 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

Sex-disaggregated, non-conforming indicators:

- 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)

- 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

- 4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

- 4.3.X Primary and secondary out of school rates, by sex

- 4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

Lacking sex disaggregation indicators:

- 4.1.X4 Illiteracy rates, by sex
- 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill
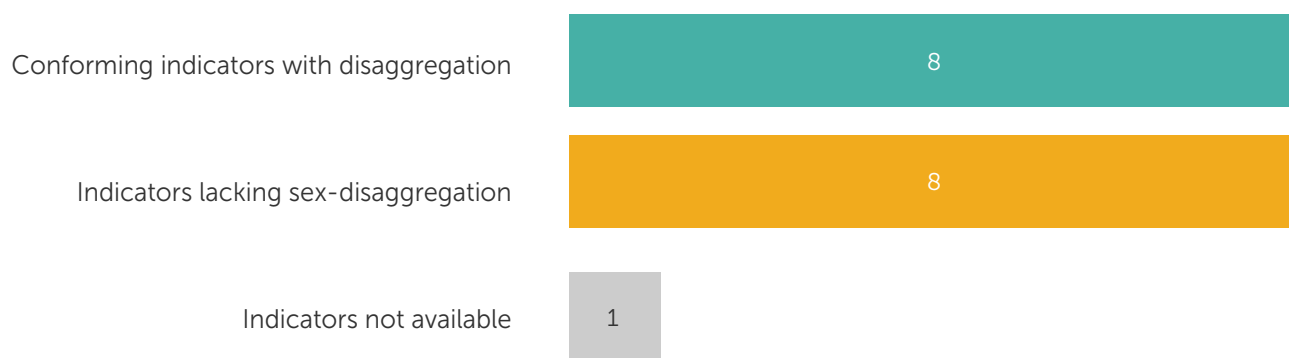
Data not available:

- 4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to single-sex basic sanitation facilities
- 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level

HEALTH

The objectives for the health sector include preventing and detecting diseases, improving the quality of healthcare in rural areas, improving reproductive health, promoting a healthy lifestyle, and raising awareness of sexual health. Seventeen health indicators are of relevance. Sixteen indicators are from the SDGs and one is from UN Women's *Turning Promises into Action* (2018). These indicators cover disease incidence and prevalence, maternal and sexual health, substance abuse, child mortality, and informed decision on healthcare. They are the best represented in Armenia's national databases with an average of 4.8 observations per indicator, but eight lack sex-disaggregated data.

Figure 4: Health indicators

Conforming indicators with disaggregation	8
Indicators lacking sex-disaggregation	8
Indicators not available	1

Sex-disaggregated (or female-specific) conforming indicators:

- 2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15–49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)
- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio
- 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods
- 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group
- 3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older

- 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care
- 5.6.X Proportion of women who have an independent/joint say in own health care

Lacking sex disaggregation indicators:

- 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate
- 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations
- 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population
- 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population
- 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population
- 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease
- 3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

Data not available:

- 3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases
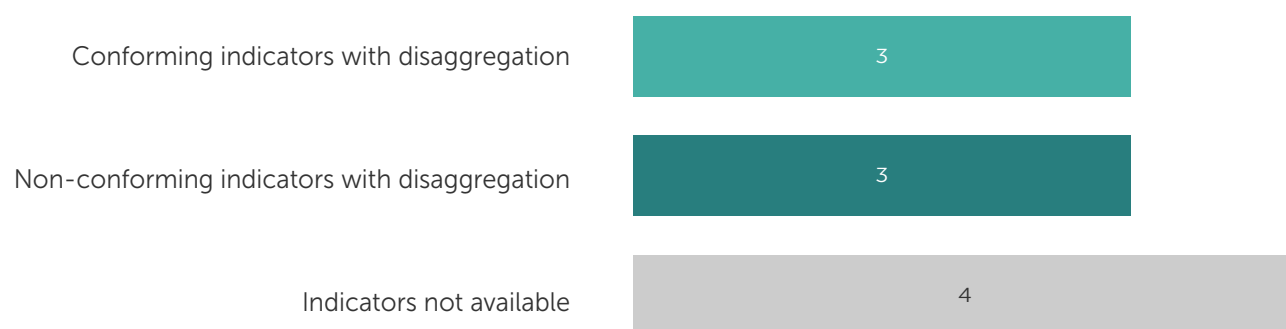
CULTURE AND INFORMATION

This sector is focused on the role of mass media's involvement in addressing gender equality. The SDGs include only one sex-disaggregated indicator that addresses the objectives of this sector (17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet), for which a single observation from 2015/16 is available in Armenia. Armenia should consider developing other indicators to measure the objectives of this sector, for example, the sex-distribution of jobs in the cultural and news sectors.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This sector calls for combating gender-based violence and human trafficking, improve training for law enforcers, and providing methodological support in the areas of human trafficking and gender-based violence. There are ten SDG indicators in the human security domain of *Bridging the Gap* that are of relevance. Four are missing from Armenia's national databases.

Figure 5: Gender-based violence and human trafficking indicators

Conforming indicators with disaggregation	3
Non-conforming indicators with disaggregation	3
Indicators not available	4

Sex-disaggregated (or female-specific) conforming indicators:

- 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

- 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

- 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

Sex-disaggregated (or female-specific), non-conforming indicators:

- 5.2.2 Proportion of women (aged 15–49) subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15

- 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

- 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Data not available:

- 10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

- 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age, and form of exploitation

- 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

- 16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism
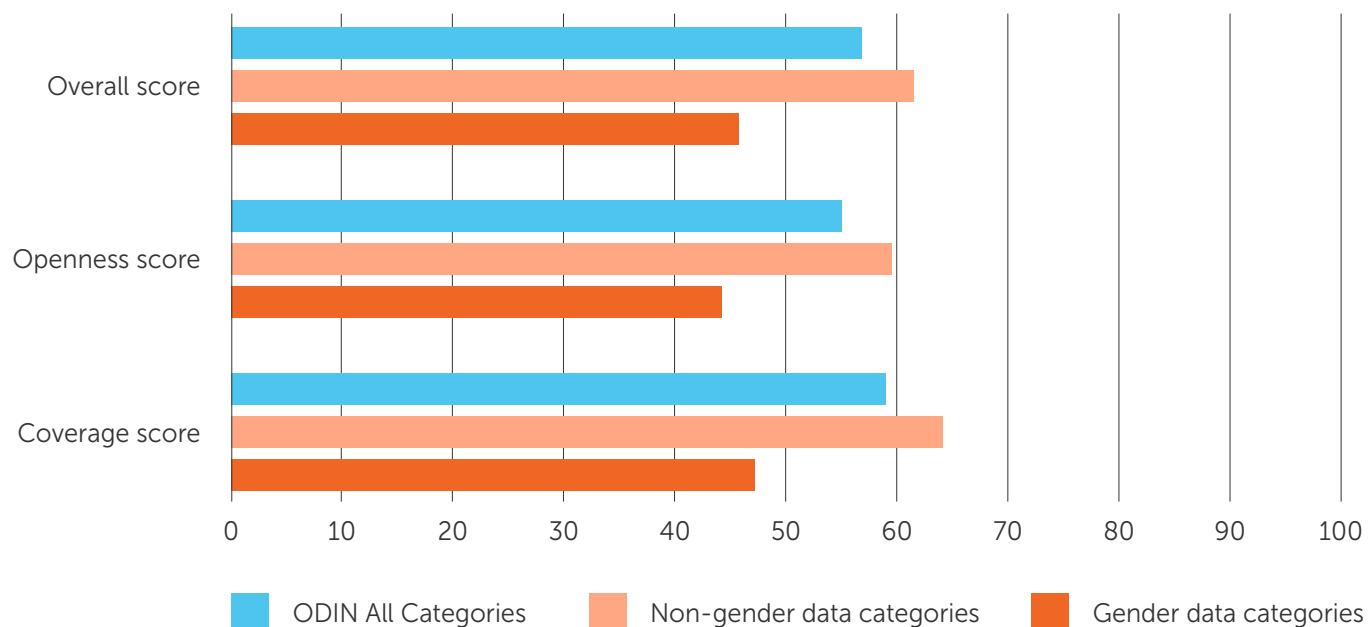
Armenia's gender statistics in regional and global perspective

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) provides a broad assessment of the coverage and openness of 22 categories of statistics in national databases. Its ratings provide a comparative index of the ability of the statistical system to provide the open access to the data and statistics needed to monitor social, economic, and environmental development. Ten of these categories include indicators that are of particular relevance to monitoring the health and wellbeing of women and children.

The 2020/21 ODIN assessment gave Armenia an overall score of 56.6, eighth among the 18 Western Asian countries (ODW 2020). Globally it was ranked 69th out of 187 countries and 19th out of 52 upper-middle-income countries. Armenia scores better on the measure of coverage of its official statistics (58.7) than on their openness (54.7). Weaknesses in Armenia's statistical offerings were found in measures of education facilities and outcomes, health facilities and outcomes, food security and nutrition, gender statistics, crime and justice, and national accounts. Its strongest categories were in the economic and environmental sectors: price indexes, government finance, money and banking,

balance of payments, agriculture, resource use, energy, and pollution. While Armenia generally scores well on the availability of indicators at the national level, it does not provide adequate data for sub-national administrative units.

Figure 6: Armenia gender and non-gender data categories, 2020

The strengths and weaknesses of Armenia's national statistics are reflected in the difference in ODIN scores for gender and non-gender data categories. With an overall score of 45.5, the gender data categories lag behind non-gender data by more than 15 points. Similar differences exist in measures of data coverage and openness. More frequent data collection and regular publication of data from administrative systems would raise Armenia's overall ODIN scores and strengthen Armenia's ability to plan, implement, and monitor its laws and commitments to gender equality.

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