

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

GENDER AND DATA POLICIES | PHILIPPINES

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In 2010, the Philippines enacted the Magna Carta of Women, “a comprehensive women’s human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination through the recognition, protection, fulfillment, and promotion of the rights of Filipino women, especially those belonging in the marginalized sectors of the society. It conveys a framework of rights for women based directly on international law” ([Philippine Commission on Women 2010](#)). As the policy through which the Philippines implements the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women’s (CEDAW), the act pledges “to promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, especially marginalized women, in the economic, social, political, and cultural fields without distinction or discrimination on account of class, age, sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, ideology, disability, education, and status” ([Philippine Commission on Women 2010](#), page 8). The law is notable because it mandates “the generation and maintenance” of a gender and development database “containing gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data that have been systematically gathered, regularly updated, and subjected to gender analysis for planning, programming, and policy formulation” (page 27).

In 2019, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) member states, including the Philippines, conducted a national review of their implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. According to the national review, the government agencies will be “encouraged to maximize the use of evidence-based sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for the formulation of and implementation of gender responsive policies, programs and projects” ([ESCAP 2019](#), p. 57).

This report matches the available gender indicators to the objectives of the Philippines’ gender policy.

Policies and Strategies

The *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Plan* for the years 2019–2025 focuses on increasing opportunities for women and girls—especially for those from more marginalized and vulnerable communities—in the domains of social, economic, and human development (Philippine Commission on Women n.d.). The policy has seven “axes” with measurable targets. Many of these measurable targets are based on SDG indicators. In the following sections we look at the data available from the *Bridging the Gap* findings (which includes SDG and non-SDG indicators) to measure and monitor the targets.

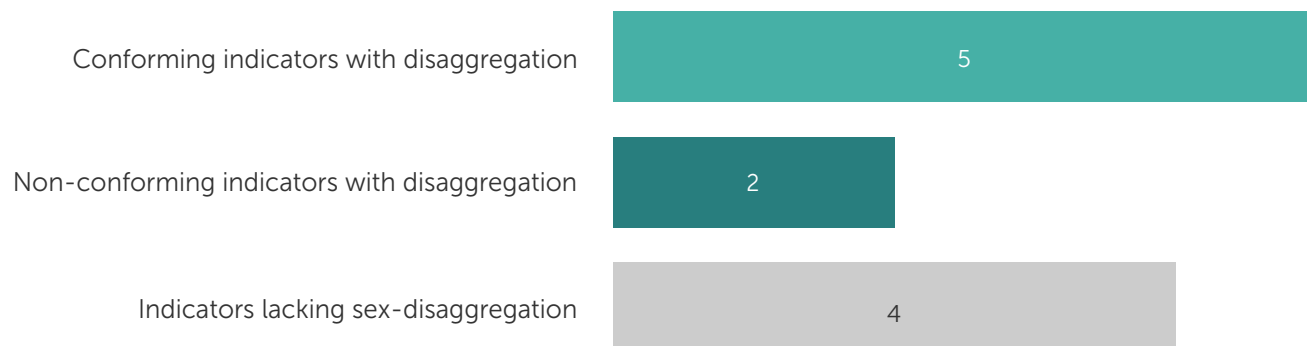
AXIS 1: EXPANDED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

The focus of the first axis is to increase opportunities for women from all intersectional backgrounds for employment (including in the agribusiness and ICT sectors); to reduce their unpaid care work; and improve access to income growth. It also mentions the situation of overseas female workers,

an important component of the Philippines labor force, for which there are no specific indicators included in the SDGs.

There are eleven *Bridging the Gap* indicators that are of relevance to this axis—all of which are from the economic opportunities domain. Ten indicators are from the SDGs and the remaining supplemental indicator is based on UN Women’s *Turning Promises into Action* (2018).

Figure 1: Axis 1 policy indicators



The availability of these indicators is generally good, averaging 5.6 observations over the period, with a median first year of 2013 and last year of 2017.

Sex-disaggregated and conforming indicators:

- 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
- 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex
- 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities
- 8.5.X Labor force participation rate, by sex
- 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Sex-disaggregated, non-conforming indicators:

- 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants

Lacking sex disaggregation indicators:

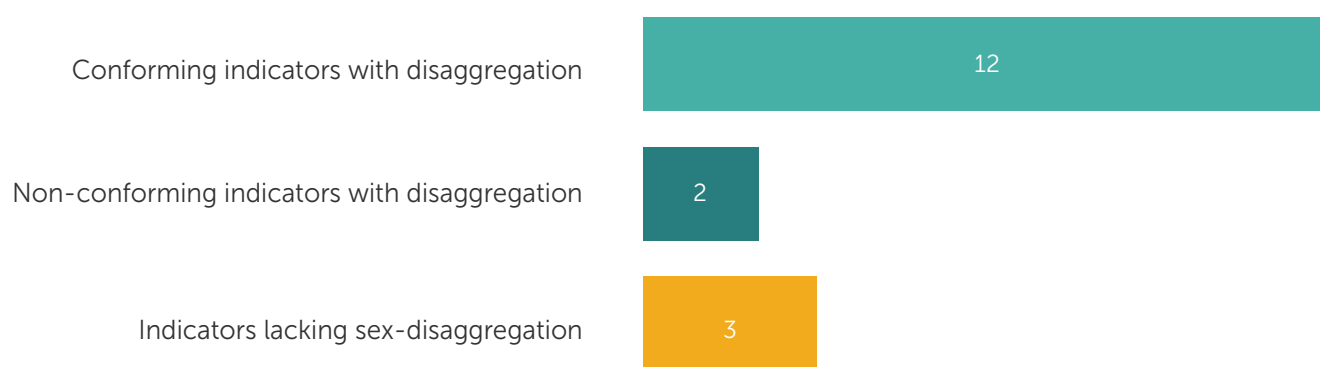
- 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work- injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure
- 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age, and persons with disabilities

- 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

AXIS 2: ACCELERATED HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INVESTING IN GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

This axis focuses on women and girls' access to reproductive health service, social protection, water, sanitation, electricity, and the participation of women in STEM education. There are 17 *Bridging the Gap* indicators that are of relevance to this constellation of issues, where 15 of the indicators are from the SDGs and the remaining two indicators are based on UN Women's *Turning Promises into Action* (2018). Most are grouped into the health, education, and environmental domains. Fourteen indicators are available with sex disaggregation.

Figure 2: Axis 2 policy indicators



The availability of data for these indicators ranges from a single observation on indicators 2.2.3, 3.1.1, 4.1.1, 4.1.X4, and 4.3.X to nine observations on indicators 3.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.3.1, and 4.5.1. The median first year for these indicators is 2013 and the last year is 2016. Some are quite out of date: the sole observation on anemia in women is from 2013 and the maternal mortality ratio dates to 2011.

Sex-disaggregated and conforming indicators:

- 2.2.3 Prevalence of anemia in women aged 15–49 years, by pregnancy status
- 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
- 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)
- 4.1.X4 Illiteracy rates, by sex
- 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)
- 4.3.X Primary and secondary out of school rates
- 4.5.1 Parity indices of education indicators

- 4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to single-sex basic sanitation facilities
- 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

Sex-disaggregated, non-conforming indicators:

- 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations
- 4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months

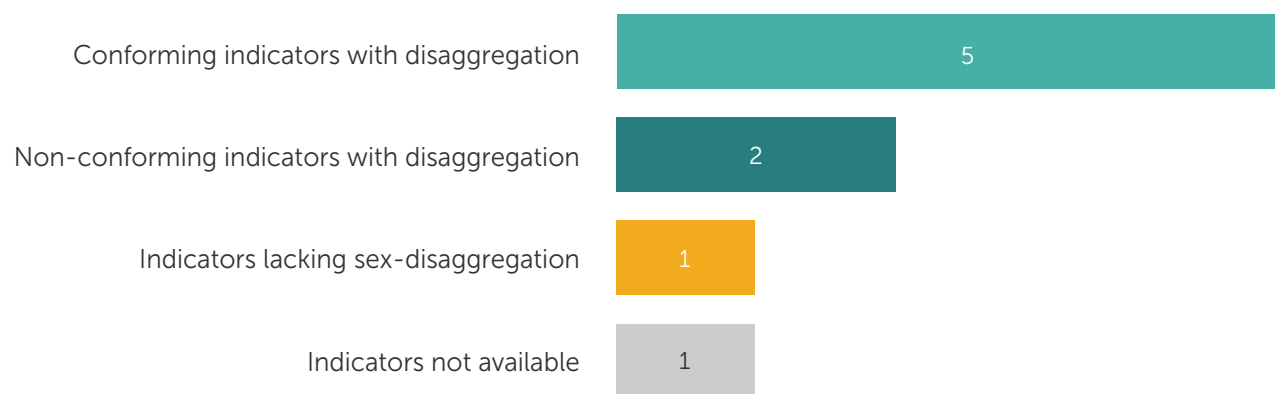
The remaining three indicators lack sex-disaggregation. Indicators 6.1.1 and 6.2.1 could be tabulated using the sex of the head of household, as suggested in the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Plan.

- 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics
- 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
- 6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services).

AXIS 3: SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND ENHANCED GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN JUSTICE, SECURITY, AND PEACE

This axis focuses on the reduction of gender-based violence and the prioritization of women’s access to justice. Nine SDG indicators are of relevance, all from the human security domain.

Figure 3: Axis 3 policy indicators



Apart from indicators 16.2.1 with seven observations and 16.3.2 with nine, the availability of these indicators is low—most have only two observations the first in 2014 and the last in 2017.

Sex-disaggregated and 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

- 5.2.2 Proportion of women (aged 15–49) subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15
- 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence 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
- 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

Sex-disaggregated, non-conforming indicators:

- 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

Lacking sex disaggregation indicators:

- 16.2.1 Proportion of children who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression

Data not available:

- 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.

AXIS 4: EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP, AND BENEFIT IN DISASTER RESILIENCE AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

This axis is focused on improving climate change adaptation for women and girls, along with improving resilience of women and girls who are vulnerable to natural and human-driven disasters. The SDG indicators listed under Goal 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" are institutional measures that are not susceptible to sex disaggregation. Indicator 1.5.1 "Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters" measures the harm done by natural disasters but lacks sex-disaggregated data. To have data-driven results for this axis, it is important to have sex-disaggregated and timely data for this indicator to see how and where women and girls are disproportionately affected. Additional data are needed to identify the impacts of disasters on women and the participation of women in disaster risk reduction.

AXIS 5: EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP, AND BENEFIT FROM SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, ICT, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ENERGY

This axis is focused on the increased engagement and participation of women in the ICT sector, which involves reducing barriers that prevent women from entering the sector. It also focuses on easing "the burden of women in the home, industries, workplaces, and public spaces." There are six SDG indicators that could be of relevance to this indicator, two having to do with the use of modern technology and one concerning employment in research activities. Three more concern access to transportation or the use of public spaces.

Figure 4: Axis 5 policy indicators



Only one indicator is sex-disaggregated and conforming:

- 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Only one indicator is sex-disaggregated and non-conforming:

- 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalents)*

*Indicator 9.5.2 is also included in the list of indicators for Axis 1. There are nine observations on this indicator between 2010 and 2018. Only one observation is available for indicator 17.8.1 from 2013 and is badly out-of-date.

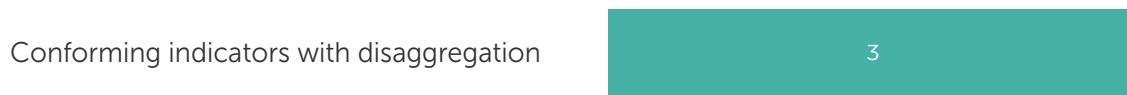
Four indicators focused infrastructure, public safety, and the ownership of mobile phones are not available in the Philippines' national databases but could be constructed using the SDG methodology.

- 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex
- 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within two km of an all-season road
- 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities
- 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities

AXIS 6: ENHANCED WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP, AND BENEFIT IN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE

This axis focuses on improving the representation of marginalized groups, such as women, ethnic and religious minorities, and children; there is also a focus on the representation of women in government and decision-making.

Figure 5: Indicators for policy commitment 6



There are three SDG indicators of relevance, all of which are conforming and sex-disaggregated:

- 16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local public institutions
- 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

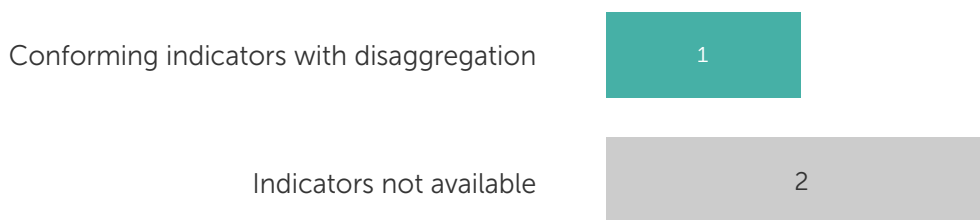
These indicators are generally well represented in the Philippines’ national database, although there are only two observations from 2016 and 2019 for indicator 5.5.1.

AXIS 7: TRANSFORMED SOCIAL NORMS AND CULTURE PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

This axis is focused on promoting gender equality and ending discrimination of women across all sectors. Arguably, all the *Bridging the Gap* indicators are of relevance to this axis—as sex-disaggregated data can highlight where women are disproportionately impacted—but these indicators draw attention to conditions or behaviors that adversely affect women.

For this axis, three SDG indicators are of relevance.

Figure 6: Axis 7 policy indicators



One indicator has two observations with sex-disaggregated and conforming data:

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

Data are not available for the other two indicators:

- 10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed.
- 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

The Philippines’ gender statistics in regional and global perspective

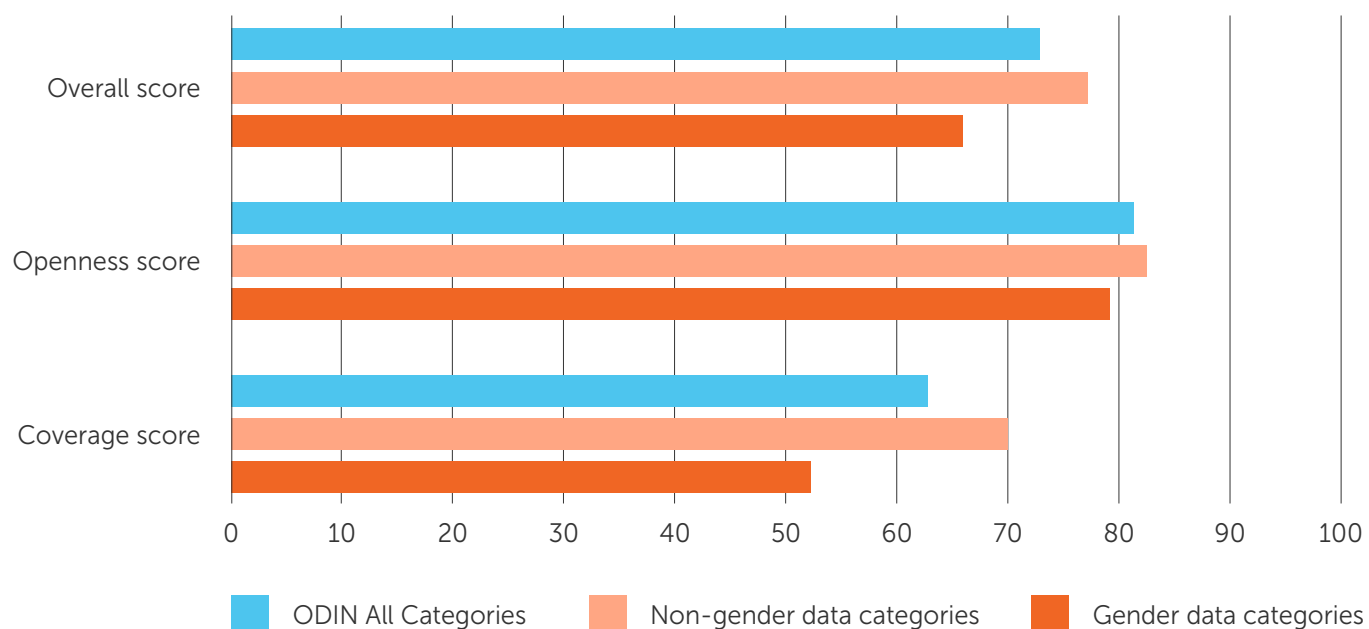
The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) assesses the coverage and openness of statistics produced by national statistical system in 22 statistical categories. Its ratings provide a comparative index of the statistical system’s ability to provide open access to the data and statistics needed to monitor social, economic, and environmental development. Ten categories contain indicators of particular relevance

to measuring the status and wellbeing of women.

The Philippines has a robust statistical system that ranks highly compared to other countries in 2020; the Philippines had an overall ODIN score of 72.7, second among the 11 South-Eastern Asian countries (ODW 2020). Globally it was ranked 18th out of 187 countries and first out of 43 lower-middle-income countries. The Philippines scores better on the measure of data openness (81.3) than on the coverage of its official statistics (72.7). Weaknesses in the Philippines' statistical offerings were found in measures of education facilities and outcomes, health outcomes, reproductive health, crime and justice, pollution and built environment. Its strongest categories were in international trade, balance of payments, and energy. While the Philippines generally scores well on the availability of indicators at the national level, it does not provide data for sub-national administrative units.

ODIN scores for the ten categories of gender-relevant statistics are lower than those for the twelve non-gender categories. The lower coverage scores reflect indicators that lacked full disaggregation and gaps in historical data. Gender and non-gender data have similar scores for data openness, with the largest difference arising because of the lack of metadata for some gender statistics. As we have seen in the review of the Philippines' gender policies indicators, more frequent data collection would provide more timely data needed to achieve the Philippines' gender equality goals.

Figure 7: Philippines gender and non-gender data categories, 2020



Source: Open Data Inventory 2020/21

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