

# Commitment Makers Must Prioritize Gender Data throughout the Generation Equality Process

## TRACKING PROGRESS, REVEALING PITFALLS, AND ILLUMINATING POSSIBILITY

When used to shape policies and investments, gender data has the power to accelerate gender equality. Disaggregated by sex and reflective of gender roles and inequalities, gender data reveals systemic inequities, illuminates a path for action, and can be used to monitor global progress. This is why data must be a cross-cutting priority of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF). It is a critical enabler of the success of Action Coalitions and commitment makers, but also a key indicator of progress and pitfalls in any effort to achieve gender equality.

Unfortunately, high quality gender data is not always easily accessible, regularly produced, or adequately financed. As of 2020, less than 40 percent of countries had data available to effectively monitor Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and fewer still had regularly collected that data over time—impeding measurement of trends and progress.<sup>1</sup> Underinvestment exacerbates these challenges: worldwide, core gender data systems have been underfunded by an estimated \$448 million per year since 2015.<sup>2</sup>

To ensure government, multilateral, private sector, and civil society leaders ground their GEF commitments in the data necessary to drive meaningful progress, gender data must be integrated throughout the [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#). It should figure prominently in blueprint targets, inform every commitment, and underpin monitoring, evaluation and learning efforts.

## GENDER DATA IS STILL AN INCONSISTENT PRIORITY ACROSS GEF ACTION COALITIONS

Data is a key driver of gender equality. Yet of all the actions outlined in the draft Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality, **less than half featured a tactic on data**. At the same time, **only about 13 percent of examples in the [Commitments Handbook](#) address data**.

### GENDER DATA IS NOT YET A STRONG GEF PRIORITY



### GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Certain Action Coalitions featured gender data prominently in their blueprints and, significantly, recognized the need for increased financing. Data2X applauds their efforts to center gender data investment and use—and urges others to follow their lead:

- **Feminist Action for Climate Justice** recognizes a lack of gender data as an inhibitor of gender-responsive, transformative climate programming and, accordingly, introduces **the only action blueprint-wide to be dedicated to data**, focused on both production and policy use. This includes a tactic acknowledging the importance of **financial** support for gender data.

- Similarly, **Gender-Based Violence** recognizes the necessity of **investment** to close gender data gaps, not only in production and availability, but also in accessibility and use of data. This includes a data tactic calling for broad improvement across the data value chain.

## DRAFT ACTION COALITION BLUEPRINTS ARE INCONSISTENT ON GENDER DATA

	Data Tactics	Calls for Collection or Use	Calls for Funding
Bodily Autonomy & SRHR	0		
Economic Justice & Rights	2	✓	
Feminist Action for Climate Justice	1	✓	✓
Feminist Movements & Leadership	4	✓	
Gender-Based Violence	1	✓	✓
Technology & Innovation	2		

Other Action Coalitions listed data more generally. Blueprints ranged from mainstreaming gender data throughout actions to no references to gender data at all:

- **Feminist Movements & Leadership** recognized the importance of data, and included a data and accountability tactic for **every action**.
- **Economic Justice & Rights** recognized the importance of gender data as an **accountability** tactic across two actions.
- Similarly, **Technology & Innovation for Gender Equality** featured **two data and accountability tactics**, though did not outline specific data mechanisms for change.
- **Bodily Autonomy & Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** featured **no data tactics**, though the subsequent indicator framework references data disaggregation.

## COMMITMENTS HANDBOOK

The Commitments Handbook reflects the varied approach across Action Coalitions, but overall, gender data is underrepresented. **Of 207 total potential commitments, just 27 directly address data.**<sup>3</sup>

While all Action Coalitions mentioned data to some extent, those with a strong gender data emphasis in the Global Acceleration Plan had similarly robust sample commitments in the Handbook, demonstrating best practices applicable for all Action Coalitions:

- **Feminist Action for Climate Justice** devoted over a quarter of its potential commitments to data—including two separate calls for investment.

- Similarly, **Feminist Movements & Leadership** includes a section on data and accountability commitments under **every draft action**, including language emphasizing the importance of financing.
- As in their draft blueprints, **Technology & Innovation** and **Gender-Based Violence** made several detailed mentions of gender data, focusing on collection, disaggregation, analysis and, in the case of Technology & Innovation, big data.

## WHERE DO GENDER DATA REFERENCES APPEAR IN THE COMMITMENTS HANDBOOK?



## COMMITMENT MAKERS MUST INTEGRATE GENDER DATA TO DRIVE PROGRESS ON GENDER EQUALITY

To deliver on the promise of meaningful action and transformative change, Generation Equality stakeholders must prioritize gender data. **Action Coalition leaders** must ensure that data is featured throughout the finalized Global Acceleration Plan, while **commitment makers** must ensure commitments are both data-driven and invest in the data needed to deliver on their goals.

**A commitment to gender data now will drive gender equality tomorrow.**

**Ready to make a commitment in support of gender data?** See Data2X's guidelines for commitment makers [here](#).

1. Per the United Nations' [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020](#).  
 2. Cited from Data2X and Open Data Watch's May 2021 report, [State of Gender Data Financing 2021](#).  
 3. Data2X assessed each commitment for gender data relevancy using two criteria: 1) producing, using, or financing gender data is an explicit commitment focus; or 2) gender data is mentioned in any action steps outlined. This meant that certain commitments without the word data still counted as data-relevant—i.e. "Support the implementation of nationally representative, individual level surveys..."—and that not all commitments under a "Data and Accountability" tactic necessarily met the criteria, i.e. "Scale up human and financial capacities of women and gender units within government departments..." Per these standards, only about half of blueprint actions featured a gender data commitment at all, accounting for about 13 percent of total commitments listed. This is insufficient to ensure long-term accountability and success.