

Gender Data to Achieve U.S. Policy Objectives: Policy Recommendations Following the United States' National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality

Quality gender data is a critical informant of progress, revealing systemic inequities, informing a path for action, and driving policy innovation. Gender data is thus a strategic imperative for the United States. The success of the new National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality will rest, in part, on agencies' ability to identify and measure the scope of inequalities; tailor new and existing initiatives; and rigorously measure progress. Data2X proposes the following policy recommendations to ensure successful Strategy implementation and drive progress for women, girls, and gender non-conforming people worldwide.

- **Contribute to closing the global gender data financing gap.** In addition to increasing its own development financing for gender data, under the new National Strategy, the United States has an opportunity to use its influence as the largest DAC ODA donor to encourage other bilateral donor and national government financing of core gender data systems. In tandem, and to support these investments, the United States can play a bigger role in multilateral advocacy to close gender data gaps, contributing to monitoring the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Make gender data use an explicit priority central to strategy implementation and measuring progress.** While the identification of gender data gaps and the collection of gender data is important, the success of the Strategy will be limited if gender data is not ultimately used to inform policymaking. Centering gender data use will also strengthen accountability for the most effective use of taxpayer dollars.
- **Harmonize metrics for success across agency implementation plans.** Comparability of data across agencies will be key to tracking government-wide progress, and these data must be open to allow for a transparent process of monitoring and evaluation.
- **Increase human resource capacity for gender data collection, analysis, and policy use and ensure it is a priority within the Equitable Data Working Group.** U.S. investments in gender data should also support increasing the capacity of partner governments to collect, interpret and use gender data to advance equity and equality.
- **Clarify how financial and programmatic Generation Equality Forum commitments intersect with the National Strategy.** This includes making clear how specific GEF commitments support agency implementation plans and establishing baselines that distinguish commitments based on preexisting investments from new initiatives.
- **Consider the role of big data to fill gender data gaps.** Data2X research has demonstrated that big gender data—which is often held by technology firms such as social media platforms—has the [potential to complement more traditional forms of data like the DHS](#). To that end, there may be value in defining a plan to engage private sector actors in the U.S. and overseas to help fill gender data gaps implicit in the National Strategy.
- **Build on the strong consultative strategy development process for implementation.** The National Strategy was developed through an impressive, deeply consultative process that involved civil society, the private sector, and more than 200 women, girls, and gender non-conforming youth. The administration should consider how implementation can also be undertaken with a similarly inclusive, multistakeholder process to foster mutual accountability.