



**Solutions to create an
enabling environment
and improve data use**

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING

The previous chapter described solutions to produce and use more and better sector-specific gender data. It also included cross-domain solutions that can support gender data in multiple sectors. Successful implementation of the solutions requires an enabling environment: policies and technical capacity for data governance; sustainable financing; and political support. This chapter highlights innovations in these areas and elaborates on how gender data are used to produce impact.

Solutions for producing and using more and better gender data take a variety of forms. Some involve small, incremental changes to survey methodologies that have been tried,

tested, and shown to have an impact. Other solutions harness the power of technology and new partnerships to unlock new sources of data. Yet these solutions are only possible if there is a supportive, enabling environment, including data governance processes that establish the legal and strategic conditions for improved gender data and the financial resources to support innovative strategies and better governance. As described in the *State of Gender Data Financing 2021* (Data2X and Open Data Watch 2021b), statistical systems in most low- and lower-middle-income countries lack the resources needed to maintain their current gender data programs, let alone undertake new initiatives.

Successful implementation of the solutions requires an enabling environment: policies and technical capacity for data governance; sustainable financing; and political support.



Governance

IMPROVING DATA GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

Data governance refers to the guidelines, procedures, legal mandates, and strategies that prescribe and regulate the collection, dissemination, and use of gender data. Data governance solutions can include anything from foundational mandates of a national statistical agency, such as Ghana's Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003) (Ghana Statistical Services 2019), to regional data protection frameworks like the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (European Union n.d.), to global frameworks like the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UNSD 2014). Data governance solutions embrace partnerships, collaborative work, and citizen-generated data initiatives; improve access to global toolkits; adopt mandatory reporting and accountability frameworks; and build harmonized databases that publish global, comparative data. Improving data governance requires political will for actors at all levels

to commit to increased accountability and transparency about the ways data are procured, analyzed, and disseminated. The ambition is to change incentives and increase data stewardship skills while providing the needed resources.

Solutions Highlight: Inclusive Data Charter

The Inclusive Data Charter (GPSDD 2018a) is a network launched in 2018 by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (GPSDD) around the pledge to prioritize the collection and dissemination of inclusive data, including sex-disaggregated data. As the previous chapter has shown, many of the challenges to more and better gender data are technical in nature, however, the Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) recognizes that these challenges are also about political will and financing, including overcoming a tendency towards business as usual in NSOs as well as partners. Pledges around the production of data such as the Open Data Charter (Open Data Charter 2015) have been effective in committing governments to their principles and the IDC seeks to replicate these efforts.

To join the IDC, governments and organizations must get internal support, put in place a public statement of endorsement, develop an action plan, including an internal process to monitor and evolve the plan over time, and identify a main point of contact to follow up and sharing lessons with other champions. The secretariat of the IDC in turn provides connections between signatories and knowledge products (GPSDD 2018b).

From a network of ten members (four countries and six institutions), IDC has grown to just under 30 champions, including 12 government



partners and 15 institutional partners (GPSDD 2018a). The governments that have joined IDC include one low-income country (Sierra Leone) six lower-middle-income countries, three upper-middle income-countries, and one high-income country (United Kingdom). Signatories of the pledge have acted on their plans for more inclusive data: Kenya has developed an action plan for their social protection policies to better incorporate and produce disability data; Sierra Leone's education ministry has used data on pregnant girls to help overturn a law against pregnant girls attending school; and Colombia's statistical agency, DANE, used the IDC action plan to enact an inclusive data policy across all its operations (GPSDD 2021).

The IDC is scalable to all countries and relevant stakeholders. Prospective members must ensure enough resources to enact the action plan and monitor its outcomes, but the initial plans may be modest and evolve over time. This helps countries across the income spectrum join these efforts, which will be important if the membership of the IDC is itself to be inclusive. But there are limitations to a voluntary approach that fundamentally relies on positive peer pressure to incentivize improvements: other than reprimanding laggard members, no enforcement mechanisms are available.

Other data governance solutions and findings

A joint commitment for more inclusive data is not the only way in which governance of gender data can be improved. Other data governance solutions in the inventory include:

- OECD Toolkit for Mainstreaming and Implementing Gender Equality: Implements the recommendations of the 2015 Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life (OECD 2018)
- Linking National ID and CRVS Systems: An Imperative for Inclusive Development is a collection of case studies that demonstrate ways in which low- and middle-income countries can link National ID and CRVS systems to benefit gender equality (Mitra 2019)
- American Pandemic Preparedness: Transforming Our Capabilities is a directive prepared by the Biden Administration to improve data sharing across government. This is an example of policies affecting the wider government data ecosystems with implications for gender data (Lander and Sullivan 2021)

Improving data governance requires political will for actors at all levels to commit to increased accountability and transparency about the ways data are procured, analyzed, and disseminated.



- The work of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (IWGHS) (UNSD 2015), the Women's Work and Employment Partnership (WWEP) (World Bank; ILO; FAO 2014), and UNICEF and MICS (UNICEF 2017) contribute to improved instruments for gathering gender data through improved definitions and modules for data collection.

Just under half solutions in the inventory are relevant to data governance, close to half of which in turn are related to the health sector. Examples of such solutions include electronic immunization registries to enable data-driven decision-making and improve health coverage and eliminating sources of gender-bias in CRVS reporting that may disincentivize registration of marriages, divorces, and births.

Half of all governance solutions have the potential to be scaled and replicated across countries. Solutions for better data governance for gender data span the length of the data value chain. Examples include enabling more regular data collection by integrating sex-disaggregated data collection

into statistical agency mandates, ensuring that statistical publications feature sex-disaggregated data, incentivizing the use of gender data in gender equality policy documents, and helping to channel results of gender data into policymaking that makes a difference for women and girls. Governance solutions, while plentiful in the inventory, nevertheless demonstrate the difficulty of aligning political entities around conceptual frameworks; governance solutions are easy to draft, but difficult to implement and sustain.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SCALE UP DATA GOVERNANCE SOLUTIONS?

Although half of recorded solutions relate to governance, data governance that either directly promotes or enables better gender data remains inadequate. Gender data is either siloed as an afterthought or not prioritized at all in data collection and dissemination. Therefore, what is needed is not necessarily more innovation and the creation of more separate systems, but more **rigorous testing and application of existing frameworks and approaches**. The inventory is intended to serve as a repository of information on what has already been tried and might work for others. While each country's context matters, trying out and adapting existing frameworks deserves attention before separate attempts are made.

Data governance also requires **champions of data governance** to implement and scale up solutions. Governments should empower champions of reform within government

(such as those that exist in Ministries of Gender, Social Development, or other relevant ministries) or allow effective partnerships with outside organizations, whether they are technical advisory groups, development partners, or civil society organizations. Champions need not be individuals or specific programs: a committed and diverse group of core partners helped launch and give momentum to the Inclusive Data Charter.

HOW WILL APPLYING THESE SOLUTIONS IMPACT GENDER DATA?

The data governance solutions featured in the inventory will put in place commitments for more and better gender data and create accountability and monitoring systems for data production and use. Although commitment devices and pledges often suffer from a lack of enforcement mechanisms, communicating intentions allows citizens, NGOs, and international organizations to hold policymakers accountable.

These solutions also establish mechanisms for greater interoperability and mainstreaming of gender data that will further entrench the gender data production in routine operations and improve use. The international collaborations around improving gender data-relevant instruments might also contribute to more harmonized standards for data collection instruments, increasing the efficiency of data collection and use.

Data governance also requires champions to implement and scale up solutions.





Finance

FUNDING TO PRIORITIZE GENDER DATA

The solutions listed in chapter 4 have the potential to unlock more and better gender data, but implementation will take political commitment as well as financial commitment, from both domestic and international sources. Financing that supports gender data can come in two forms. On the one hand, there are efforts to create dedicated funding for gender-relevant data collection or uptake efforts, such as a special survey, training programs, or workshops on using data, for example data on unpaid care work by women. On the other hand, there is funding to strengthen statistical systems that will in turn improve the availability of disaggregated data, for example by financing better administrative

data systems for health and education or supporting censuses and household surveys. Thanks to efforts such as the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) (PARIS21 n.d.), we now have more information than ever on how statistical systems are financed by donors, including philanthropic organizations. However, less is known about domestic support for gender data and how financing from the private sector can be leveraged for better gender data.

Solution Highlight: Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) takes into account the needs of a diverse population by using an intersectional gender lens to respond to the different experiences of women, men, and gender-diverse groups (Akabila, et al. 2020). By practicing GRB, governments and organizations ensure that spending is informed by the diversity of their citizens and delivers what they need. Though not a way to fund gender data directly, the adoption of GRB can encourage long-term domestic and external financing of gender data to monitor the impact of investments in gender equality.

Oxfam has released a guide for governments, NGOs, and other actors to facilitate greater data collection and use for GRB (Stephenson 2019). The guide lays out recommendations for the various actors to improve gender data available for GRB, while also providing background on data issues to consider depending on the data collection instrument and authority.

GRB is currently practiced in some form by over 80 countries (Stotsky 2020), including OECD countries (Downes, Trapp and Nicol 2017) and low- and middle-income countries such as Ghana and Rwanda (Akalbila, et al. 2020). Countries differ in their approach to partnering with civil society organizations or external financing partners for GRB, as well as whether GRB is mandated by law or is voluntarily implemented.

The impact of GRB is captured by greater awareness of gender equality in the budget process and improved gender equality outcomes when combined with complementary policies (Combaz 2013). The impact on gender data can be demonstrated through the integration of sex-disaggregated data collection into line ministries' performance plans (Zrinski, Raappana and Rame 2021).

Implementation will take political commitment as well as financial commitment, from both domestic and international sources.

BOX THREE

Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data by The Bern Network on Financing Data for Development

Collating financing information is one of the ways gaps in aid and budgetary allocation can be illuminated and guide improvements in financing for gender data. The Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data by the Bern Network brings international data on financing flows for development data (including a special focus on gender data) together with data sources on domestic financing and statistical capacity (Bern Network on Financing Data for Development 2021). The platform was launched in October 2021, so it is too early to determine its impact, but the construction of the platform has produced an awareness among statistical organizations of the importance of harmonizing data about the financing of development data.

The Clearinghouse provides the knowledge base for funding mechanisms and works together with the newly-established Global Data Facility (GDF) (World Bank 2021). Partnerships allow platforms like the Clearinghouse to more effectively serve statistical capacity needs and build synergy through GDF with other large global programs such as IDA through its Data for Policy Initiative (Dabalen, Himelein and Rodriguez Castelan 2020). These partnerships will also allow the Clearinghouse to incorporate data and inform investments on new as well as traditional bilateral financing and domestic resource mobilization for statistics.




Other financing solutions and findings

Other financing solutions in the inventory include:

- Publish What You Fund's Gender Financing project released detailed studies on where financing for gender is going and how aligned it is with the gender equality priorities of countries (Publish What You Fund n.d.). In addition, the project guides stakeholders on using the OECD DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker

(OECD n.d.), one of the main markers for tracking gender equality in global development financing.

A review of the inventory reveals a lack of solutions to encourage predictable funding, for example, financing targets or international compacts that would help governments and non-governmental agencies plan for the collection and publication of gender data. Of all the areas of focus for the solutions reviewed, gender data funding solutions



were least frequently found. Why is that the case? Our theory is because gender data is a cross-domain area, it may not always have a champion to make the case for the needed financing at the time of budget planning and allocation. This is true both at the national and donor levels. Some more recent innovations noted earlier in the report, such as the Clearinghouse and its focus on a gender channel, show potential for providing an information-rich platform to promote noteworthy gender data financing solutions. With better information, better solutions to financing capacity building for more and better gender data will likely emerge.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SCALE UP FUNDING SOLUTIONS?

The few funding solutions included in the inventory can be scaled up with increased demand. Mechanisms like gender-responsive budgeting and knowledge platforms like the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data will generate additional insights into financing for gender-relevant data as policymakers, researchers, journalists, and advocates use them. Knowledge platforms must be complemented by cross-domain financing mechanisms such as the Global Data Facility to leverage their insights for greater funding. However, even with these platforms and mechanisms in place, there is a need for more country and stakeholder education to facilitate their use, and champions should encourage interest in these platforms among relevant user communities to facilitate engagement and stimulate conversations around improved funding for gender data.

HOW WILL APPLYING THESE SOLUTIONS IMPACT GENDER DATA?

If implemented and used at scale, the funding mechanisms would yield greater investments for gender data systems by facilitating better investment decisions and promoting investments in gender data as part of budgets that seek to promote gender equality. As shown by previous studies (Data2X and Open Data Watch 2021b), gender data systems face a gap of \$1 billion a year in support from domestic and external partners. The scale of this challenge is why these solutions are so important and why additional innovation is needed to crowdsource more funding.

Less is known about domestic support for gender data and how financing from the private sector can be leveraged for better gender data.



DATA USE AND UPTAKE

Improved production does not guarantee continued demand and use of data. To move up the data value chain (Data2X and Open Data Watch 2018), producers of official statistics and stakeholders like CSOs, the private sector, and academia should keep a special focus on what it takes to increase data use and impact and commit to vetting data, monitoring quality, and ensuring data are fit for purpose. In short, stakeholders must come together to create a culture of data use in decision-making and evidence-based policy formulation.

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Open Data

OPENING GENDER DATA FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

Open data is an important component of an enabling environment for gender data that values accountability and recognizes the value of data generated by its use. Open data is a way to make sure that the value of data is maximized through reuse, which sets data apart from non-renewable sources of value, like oil. Open data, as assessed by the Open Data Inventory (ODIN) is evaluated by the availability of official statistics in machine-readable and non-proprietary formats offered in a variety of download options with accompanying metadata and open terms of use (Open Data Watch 2020). While the openness of gender data has increased, work by Open Data Watch shows that relative to non-gender data, gender data are not as open, often because they lack historical data in machine-readable formats (Open Data Watch 2021). Although missing historical data can often not be recovered, current and future data can be made available in machine-readable formats.

Fewer than 20 percent of solutions in the inventory are related to openness, even as ODIN results show the relatively poor state of open gender data, illustrating the need for more solutions in this space. This section will showcase some of the solutions that make gender data more open.

Solution Highlight: Open data mapping by women for better land rights and resilience

The Open Data Mapping efforts by the Unique Mappers Network Nigeria (GODAN 2020) and Open Cities Africa (Gupta, Phillips and Deparday 2020) utilize geospatial mapping and digital skills to create data that improve land rights for women and increases their involvement in planning conversations around disaster resiliency, while improving their digital skills. Data on land rights are not commonly available, depriving rural women in particular of documentation needed to acquire loans and representation in local decision-making. Due to digital gender gaps and traditional expectations of women's roles in

decision-making, their access to mapping efforts is also curtailed.

Both efforts combine technical and social approaches to solving these problems. They use commonly available tools such as OpenStreetMap (Open Street Map n.d.) to access geospatial imagery of areas of interest for participants in workshops, combined with basic mapping by hand. These technical tools help improve the digital literacy of workshop participants. Almost as important is the way in which prior to the technical work, the Open Cities Africa team identifies barriers women may face when engaging with geospatial work (Gupta, Phillips and Deparday 2020). These barriers include traditional gender roles, concerns about safety, and the lack of role models. Recognizing these barriers allows the better design of workshops, and may result in gathering better data.

The work of Open Cities Africa has contributed to regular meetings between citizens and local government, informed resource allocation to city neighborhoods, and empowered women enumerators (Open Cities Africa 2020). Less information is available about the impact of Unique Mappers Network Nigeria, but the organization has made understanding the status of digital skills among women and how open data mapping can help one of its core activities (Humanitarian OpenStreetmap 2020).

Both initiatives are highly replicable because they depend only on commonly available datasets and help from local experts in mapping. They are also highly scalable, either by civil society—as in the case of Unique Mappers Network Nigeria—or through support from multilateral organizations, as with Open Cities Africa. Limitations of both include the need for local support to gather volunteers or to raise consistent funding to conduct regular mappings. The connection between citizen science efforts and official statistics is also not established in many contexts, which would further stabilize funding and support for efforts like this.

Other openness solutions and findings

Other open data solutions in the inventory include:

- An assessment by researchers from De La Salle University for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) provides recommendations on the role of open government data for local governments in the sectors of maternal health and local business cooperatives (Ona, Hecita and Ulit 2014)
- District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) is an open source, web-based platform most commonly used as a health management information system (HMIS) in use by 73 low and middle-income countries (University of Oslo n.d.)
- The University of California San Diego Evidence-based Measures of Empowerment for Research on Gender Equality (EMERGE) is an initiative focused on measurement of gender equality and empowerment (EMERGE n.d.)
- The Center for Global Development (CGD) and Data2X has compiled a selection of Women's Economic Empowerment measurement tools (Buvinic, O'Donnell, et al. 2020)

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SCALE UP OPEN DATA SOLUTIONS?

Open data solutions can be scaled up by **increasing commitments to transparency** by national statistical offices and other parts of the national statistical system and by government authorities (for example through Access to Information laws) and leaders of international organizations. More open data systems often flow from pledges of transparency: creating an open data portal or making data open by default are logical next steps to implementing greater transparency. Whether targeting gender data or



the general statistical system, greater transparency will increase access to and use of gender data.

Open data initiatives will also benefit from the **use of technologies** that allow for centralized, digital databases of gender data and the easy exchange of gender data through APIs. Support for open data must therefore also consider the technical capacity of the implementing agency and ensure that the tools to disseminate open data are in place.

HOW WILL APPLYING THESE SOLUTIONS IMPACT GENDER DATA?

Open data solutions for gender data will increase the use of gender data, improve its value, and generate demand for more and better gender data. The goal of open data is to create a virtuous data cycle where each element spurs greater demand for more gender data.

Open data solutions will in turn result in greater accountability for gender equality policies that governments or agencies have set for themselves. More open data on gender will allow advocates and governments to monitor progress on gender equality, building support for urgent efforts to improve conditions for women and girls.

Data Literacy

IMPROVING DATA LITERACY TO INCREASE GENDER DATA UPTAKE

Producing gender data and disseminating it in a way that targets the users at the appropriate level of data literacy is a powerful but overlooked way to ensure gender data are used. Certain users will always be able to acquire the data they need. However, removing barriers to uptake through better formatting or data presentation (in tables, graphics, takeaway messages) will encourage more users to engage with the data. Importantly, even when gender data are easily accessible it is critical to also ensure that the data are being disseminated.

Building gender data literacy is particularly important, as intersectional data, including those that are sex-disaggregated, quickly become overwhelming to users, by drastically increasing the amount of data that users must process. As always, the appropriate type of solution will depend on the intended audience. Yet in the spirit of producing gender data to leave no one behind, data producers should also strive to leave no one behind in the use of their data.

Solution Highlight: Tools to communicate gender data between statisticians and journalists and improve data literacy within humanitarian organizations

Various efforts have been launched to address the lack of resources for gender data literacy and to improve organization-wide data literacy. For example, PARIS21 and UN Women have designed video courses for statisticians and journalists to learn more about using gender data and how each party does their job. Courses offered by the PARIS21 Academy guide statisticians and journalists to use gender data more effectively, including through data visualizations (PARIS21 n.d.). The Data Playbook of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) helps members of each organization become more familiar with data in their work, how they might improve the data they use and use data for better decision-making. The Data Playbook is a “recipe book or exercise book... to develop their literacy around data, including responsible data use and data protection” (Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) n.d.).

The PARIS21 Academy’s offerings are just over a year old, so data are not yet widely available on its results, but its replicability and scalability, requiring just an internet connection and an understanding of English, mean that it can be an effective tool for improved gender data literacy. IFRC’s Data Playbook has been used by its member societies since its inception in 2018 to stress the importance of data literacy, adapting the modular teachings to each local context. The IFRC is now developing a new version of the playbook using the lessons of the beta release (Slater and Leson 2021). As a toolkit used by a large network of societies around the world, the toolkit is replicable and scalable.



Limitations for both solutions include their reliance on English instructions for their courses, which will limit the audience using these tools. In addition, these tools must be used by a champion who can influence others to participate or recognize the time spent taking courses and participating in workshops.

Other data literacy solutions and findings

Other data literacy solutions in the inventory include:

- Data visualization literacy: A feminist starting point by Catherine D'Ignazio and Rahul Bhargava (D'Ignazio and Bhargava 2020)
- Fellowships for journalists to study gender data by EM2030 and Tableau (Equal Measures 2030 2020)

Though the solutions described above can give data producers and journalists a way to engage with gender data that will encourage continued use, these solutions are some of only a handful of solutions in the inventory. Though a low number of solutions may in other contexts relate to the perceived size of the problem, we know that the difficulty of measuring data use and literacy means that more solutions are needed to improve gender data literacy. Forthcoming work by IDRC and Open Data Watch finds that data use and impact are some of the dimensions least covered by existing data monitoring frameworks, such as the World Bank's Statistical Performance Indicators and OECD's OURdata index on Open Government Data.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SCALE UP DATA LITERACY SOLUTIONS?

Data literacy solutions will require **more socialization and demystification of the importance of data use** for policymakers, the media, and CSOs for them to scale.

Three years after the data value chain for gender data was first published, a small circle of international agencies and NGOs recognized the importance of data use, but this has not translated into wider acceptance or support for data literacy efforts. More innovations that show measurable changes in data use and impact could help convince policymakers of the importance of data use and literacy.

HOW WILL APPLYING THESE SOLUTIONS IMPACT GENDER DATA?

Greater data literacy will increase the value derived from the use of data. Integrating gender data into private sector studies of the size of markets, for example, can create actual monetary value, while the ability to use official gender data enables citizens to hold their government to account and for the government to monitor itself, increasing the efficiency of the government and the value of its programs. Improved data literacy can also start a continuous cycle of demand for improved statistics. This supports government accountability but would also mobilize investment in better data, which in turn would improve the production of gender data and how gender data are disseminated.

Producing gender data and disseminating it in a way that targets the users at the appropriate level of data literacy is a powerful but overlooked way to ensure gender data are used.

Data-Policy Linkages

CREATING DATA-POLICY LINKAGES FOR DATA-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

The link between gender equality policies and gender data systems is often tenuous at best. Coordinating between statistical agencies and gender ministries, as with other parts of the government, is difficult. Yet linking the production of gender data to the issues identified in gender equality strategies can be a mechanism through which financial and non-financial incentives for the production and continued use of gender data are created, not least of which is the government becoming a user of its own data to benchmark outcomes. A virtuous data cycle (Jutting and McDonnell n.d.) and the gender data value chain are both defined by continuous feedback that leads to further improvements of gender data systems. This virtuous data cycle also cannot be imposed from the outside: ensuring the gender targets and associated indicators are part of national development frameworks ensures they are included in national monitoring and evaluation systems and supported through financing by creating local demand for the data. If they are collected only for international reporting, there may be little motivation to mobilize domestic resources or be consistent in collecting these data. Though difficult, there are solutions to better linkages between policies and gender data systems.

Open data is a way to make sure that the value of data is maximized through reuse.

Solution highlight: A tool for policy-data integration

The UNESCAP Every Policy is Connected (EPIC) tool (UNESCAP n.d.) connects national and local policies to datasets required to monitor the effectiveness of policies. Policies meant to improve the conditions of women and girls are often designed and implemented by gender ministries or other government bodies without considering the data necessary to establish baselines and track progress over time. Tools such as EPIC help identify the information needs for each policy.

EPIC has been used throughout the Asia and Pacific region primarily through UNESCAP's Gender-Policy Integration Initiative (UNESCAP 2018). EPIC demonstrates the power of mapping information needs of national and local policies to national and international databases. By establishing this link between policies and the data needed to evaluate them, EPIC creates demand for gender data that helps the continued support of established sources of data and ensures that new sources of gender data correspond to a country's needs.

Limitations of this approach include the need for leadership to notice the disconnect between policies and data systems and to support their implementation and evaluation. In addition, the work of mapping takes time from NSOs and line ministries that may lack capacity.

Other data-policy linkage solutions and findings

Other data-policy linkage solutions in the inventory include:

- COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker by UNDP (UNDP n.d.)

- Laws on Violence against Women and Girls Index by researchers at Emory University (Yount, et al. 2020)
- Gender-sensitive parliament audit by the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) (UK Parliament 2019), also mentioned in Public Participation above
- A guide for evidence-based, gender-responsive migration governance by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Hennebry, KC and William 2021)

Data that are fit for purpose are crucial to get policymakers, most of whom are not data experts, to use them in monitoring outcomes in gender equality policies and other policies with an effect on women and girls. It therefore falls to gender task forces or dedicated focal points within NSOs and other data producers or their partners in technical advisory groups to ensure that data produced align with local and international demands. Tools that match data to policies can, therefore, play an important role in defining the indicators needed.

However, few solutions on linking data to policy were found in the inventory, illustrating the difficulty of conducting mapping exercises like this and the scarce resources countries must devote to it. In addition, this kind of exercise may fall through the cracks without clearly assigned responsibilities and leadership since data-policy linkage efforts require extensive coordination between disparate departments and actors.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SCALE UP DATA-POLICY LINKAGE SOLUTIONS?

Data-policy linkage solutions can be scaled through **greater use** of instruments like EPIC

and continued **advocacy for the importance of data-policy linkages**. Tools such as EPIC are important for governments to become consumers of their own data by linking them to development outcomes such as gender equality. Using these tools, governments can improve their integration of gender data production into their policy process. NGOs and international organizations meanwhile can focus on continuing to advocate for the importance of data-policy linkages to improve uptake of tools such as EPIC.

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT OF DATA-POLICY LINKAGE SOLUTIONS FOR GENDER DATA?

Linkages of gender policies to data will improve the coherence of gender policies by basing them on real data produced by the country's national statistical system, which will in turn increase buy-in for monitoring efforts and accountability exercises. The interoperability of gender data across the national statistical system will also improve if they are used to regularly monitor the status of gender equality policies.



Review

Data governance and financing both contribute to an enabling environment for gender data by establishing the rules and financing capacity that allow gender data to be collected, disseminated, and used. Data governance was part of nearly half of all gender data solutions collected for this report, compared to financing, which had the lowest number of solutions. This finding is also not unique to gender data. Significant work has been done to establish rules for official statistics from local governments to the highest level (for example the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics), but such energy has not translated to financing. According to PARIS21, financing for development data has been stuck at half of what is required to meet the ambition of the SDGs for the last ten years, (PARIS21 2020) while statistical agencies are left to piece together financing for gender data.

Gaps in solutions for gender data use and uptake take the form of a lack of modular and scalable trainings to promote gender data literacy and improved data use within NSOs. Initial efforts to socialize the importance of gender data use within ministries are taking place through initiatives such as the Gender Data Network (PARIS21 2021), but more work is needed to increase country ownership and match it with support by international organizations and academia. These efforts must be more holistic in their approach to engaging users. Models for mobilizing political will, whether through incentives or a change in culture, are another area for further research and solutions to increase the reach of data literacy and user engagement efforts. Further linkages between open data and IT systems would improve the operationalization of many plans for greater data sharing and utilization for better service delivery, including on gender data. All this points to a need for creating a user-centric data strategy including training, building a culture of data use, and improving data governance to ensure quality and trust for data.

