Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality (BRIDGE) Assessment
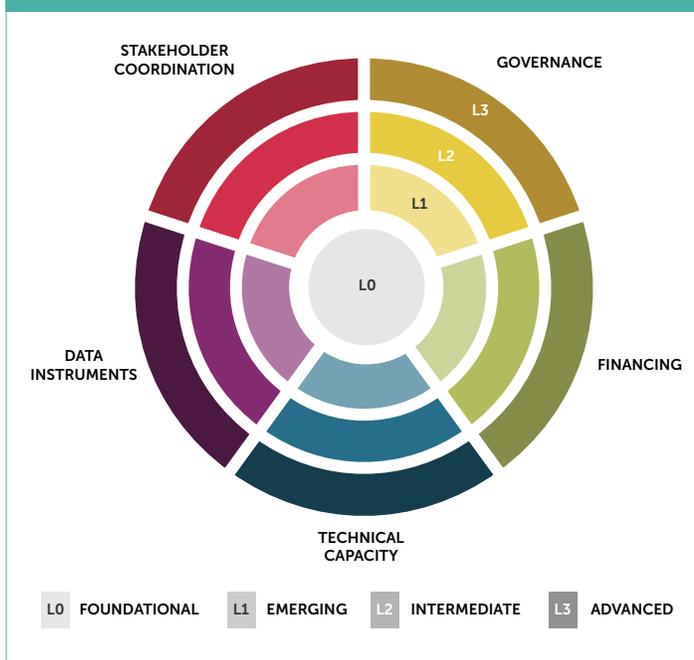
Introduction

The Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality (BRIDGE) Assessment includes a set of questions to assess the maturity of gender data systems. This assessment diagnoses the strengths and weaknesses of existing gender data systems and helps national statistical systems identify priorities for improvement to promote gender equality and meet monitoring targets. The results and insights gleaned from this assessment can be shared at the discretion of participants in consultation with the assessment team.

Maturity Model Background

A maturity model is a tool to identify strengths and weaknesses and by establishing a framework for future assessments, they can be used to measure organizational progress. BRIDGE is based on a **gender data system maturity model** that assesses the capacity of a national statistical system (NSS) to produce a robust set of gender data needed to guide policies, monitor progress, and measure their effects. This maturity model is visualized in Figure 1 as tiers of concentric circles showing the dimensions as part of a whole gender data system. The capacity of the gender data system is expanding as it progresses to higher levels of maturity.

FIGURE 1: GENDER DATA SYSTEM MATURITY MODEL

STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION — GOVERNANCE — FINANCING — TECHNICAL CAPACITY — DATA INSTRUMENTS

L0 FOUNDATIONAL L1 EMERGING L2 INTERMEDIATE L3 ADVANCED

Each dimension has four maturity levels. Foundational national statistical systems represent the minimum needed to support gender data systems. Although the capacity to produce gender data may exist in a foundational system, there is no intent to produce gender data. At successively higher maturity levels—emerging, intermediate, and advanced—a gender data system emerges as a prioritized and integral component of the national statistical system. For example, an emerging data system has capacity to produce statistics with sex-disaggregation and the beginnings of a systematic way of producing gender data. Intermediate gender data systems are intentional about gender data by incorporating gender data into governance frameworks, budgetary plans, and capacity building and stakeholder coordination. And finally, advanced statistical systems have a robust gender data system where gender data are mainstreamed in governance frameworks, short and long-term budgetary plans, capacity development, and stakeholder coordination.

How Will Questions Be Scored?

The responses to each question start off at "Foundational" gender data systems and gradually build to reflect conditions in "Advanced" gender data systems. Answers to each question will be averaged by the scoring mechanism to identify an overall maturity level for each of the five dimensions of maturity. The assessment does not include a score for the overall maturity level of a country's core gender data system. Keeping the scores for each dimension rather than computing an overall score maintains the focus on each country's system and discourages cross-country comparisons, which will not be objective since many questions of the questionnaire reflect subjective self-assessment.

Questionnaire Logistics

How long will this questionnaire take?
Each of the five dimensions will feature five or more multiple-choice questions, with optional text fields for additional detail. The questionnaire is designed to be completed in two to three hours, but respondents may want to take additional time to consult with others.

Who should fill out this questionnaire?
Gender data focal points at national statistical offices or other gender data focal points in government, in collaboration with relevant actors who coordinate work on gender data within government on topics such as financing and planning of data collection instruments. For more information, please refer to the BRIDGE **How-to Guide**.

Whom should I contact with questions?
For questions about the assessment, either on substance or logistics, please contact **Lorenz Noe, Research Manager** and **Tawheeda Wahabzada, Data & Policy Specialist**.

About You

What is your name, title and organization?
Click below to enter text.

Governance

Governance includes institutional governance structures and the policies, strategies, political engagement and statistical laws needed to support gender data. To fill out these questions by involving key stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and perspective, please refer to the BRIDGE **How-to Guide**.

1. Does the statistical law of this country mandate the production and use of gender data?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ There is no national statistical law.

☐ A national decree or law authorizes data collection and the production of official statistics.

☐ A national decree or law authorizes data collection and the production of official statistics and includes the production of gender data and its use.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on the statistical law in the country with regard to gender data. Click below to enter text.

2. Planning for the statistical system

a. How is planning for the statistical system carried out?
Please select *all* that apply:

☐ There is no planning document or strategy (please proceed to question 3)

☐ National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

☐ Corporate Business Plan

☐ Strategic Plan

☐ Other Plan (please write-in name and link below)

b. If a current national plan for statistics exists, to what extent does it cover gender data?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ No current national plan for statistics exists.

☐ A current plan exists, but without mention of gender data-related topics.

☐ A current plan exists and includes at least one mention of gender data-related topics.

☐ A current plan exists and includes at least one in-depth section with a dedicated heading on gender data-related issues.

☐ A current plan exists and incorporates substantive content on gender data-related topics throughout multiple sections of the planning instrument.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on national statistical planning regarding gender data, including links if possible. Click below to enter text.

3. If a stand-alone gender data plan exists, to what extent does it prescribe open access to gender data? Open data are accessible by all users without restriction in non-proprietary, machine-readable formats. Please refer to the open definition for further information on open data.
Please select one of the following options:

☐ There is no stand-alone gender data plan.

☐ There is a stand-alone gender data plan, but it does not prescribe open access to gender data.

☐ A stand-alone gender data plan incorporates open access to gender data.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on the gender data plans in the country, including links if possible. Click below to enter text.

4. What other national development plans exist and to what extent do they mention gender data or support access to open gender data?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ No additional development plans exist.

☐ Additional development plans exist but do not mention gender data.

☐ Additional development plans exist and mention gender data.

☐ Additional national development plans exist and include at least one in-depth section on gender data-related issues. Open data is also included in these policies.

☐ Additional national development plans exist and incorporate substantive content on gender data-related topics throughout multiple sections. Policies incorporate gender data within discussions of open data.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on other development plans in the country with regard to gender data, including links if possible. Click below to enter text.

5. If a dedicated gender equality policy exists, to what extent does it emphasize gender data?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ A gender equality plan does not exist.

☐ A gender equality plan exists but it does not mention gender data.

☐ Gender equality policy exists with mention of gender data.

☐ Gender equality policy emphasizes the importance of gender data.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on gender equality policies in the country with regard to gender data. Click below to enter text.

6. To what extent have high-level government officials (such as heads of state, ministers or department heads as applicable) expressed support for gender data?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ No explicit high-level support exists for gender data.

☐ Superficial high-level political support exists for gender data.

☐ Extensive high-level political support exists for gender data but with limited impacts.

☐ High-level support for gender data exists with meaningful impacts.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on high-level political support in the country regarding gender data. What form has this support taken? Please share any examples of the impact of this support if possible. Click below to enter text.

Financing

The financing dimension focuses on the budget, sources of financing, and the financial stability and independence of a gender data system. To answer these questions by involving key stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and perspective on the budgetary process within the NSS, please refer to the BRIDGE **How-to Guide**.

1. If a proposed budget for statistical activities exists, to what extent does it integrate gender data activities?
Please select one of the following options:
- ☐ No proposed budget exists for the NSO and other agencies of the national statistical system.
- ☐ A proposed budget exists for the NSO and for the statistical activities of other agencies of the national statistical system.
- ☐ The current proposed budget for statistical activities includes limited funding for strengthening gender data (example: Gender Data Yearbook using findings from existing household surveys or admin sources).
- ☐ The current proposed budget for statistical activities includes funding for specific programs for gender data (examples: specialized surveys, such as time use surveys (TUS), gender-based violence (GBV) surveys.
- ☐ Gender data are integrated throughout all statistical activities in addition to specific gender-related programs funded by the proposed budget.
- *[Optional] Add any additional commentary on the proposed budget for the NSO or statistical agencies regarding gender data, including links if possible.* Click below to enter text.

2. Is funding for gender data a regular part of the past and proposed planning and budgeting process?
Please select one of the following options:
- ☐ Gender data have not been specifically included in previous plans or budgets.
- ☐ Funding for gender data has been included irregularly in some previous plans and budgets.
- ☐ Funding for gender data has been included in recent budgets, including the current proposed budget, but there is no long-term plan for proposed funding on gender data.
- ☐ Gender data are planned for and funded on a regular, long-term basis.
- *[Optional] Add any additional commentary on the regularity of funding for gender data.*
  Click below to enter text.

3. To what extent have gender data activities identified in the budgets for the NSO or statistical agencies received funding in the previous or current budget cycle?
Please select one of the following options:
- ☐ No funds have been allocated for gender data.
- ☐ At least some of the funds to meet the needs of gender-related statistical activities are received.
- ☐ More than half of the funds to meet the needs of gender-related statistical activities are received.
- ☐ The full scope of funds to meet the needs of gender-related statistical activities are received.
- *[Optional] Add any additional commentary on whether budget provisions regarding gender data have been met.* Click below to enter text.

4. To what extent does financing for gender-related statistical activities in the NSS come from national resources versus donor support?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ No funds are allocated for gender data.
☐ Financial support for gender data draws almost exclusively on external financing (70−100% external).
☐ Financial support for gender data draws on a mix of external and domestic financing (30−70% external).
☐ Financial support for gender data draws primarily on domestic resources (0−30% external).
[Optional] Add any additional commentary on national resources versus donor support for gender data. Click below to enter text.

Technical Capacity

Technical capacity of a gender data system refers to the capacity of staff to collect and produce gender data, along with the necessary technological capabilities needed to produce gender data and to promote greater gender data use. This includes analyzing, synthesizing, interpreting and presenting data for use by policymakers, journalists, researchers and other identified users. To answer these questions by involving key stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and perspective on staff development and technical capacity, please refer to the BRIDGE **How-to Guide**.

1. What level of technological capacity (computers, internet access and other ICT infrastructure) exists to carry out gender-related statistical activities?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ No basic ICT infrastructure exists to support statistical activities.
☐ Basic ICT infrastructure exists (for example, computers with access to internet and sufficient storage capacity) to carry out statistical activities.
☐ ICT capacity is used to support gender data collection and publication and other gender data activities.
☐ ICT capacity exists to support gender data production in open (**non-proprietary**, **machine-readable**) formats.
☐ ICT capacity exists to support all gender activities in open formats (see **first** and **second** links) and continuously improve **interoperability** for gender data.
[Optional] Add any additional commentary on the technical capacity in your government regarding gender data. Click below to enter text.

2. How would you describe the technical capacity of staff at the NSO to pursue the following activities?
Please think of the following activities as a whole.

- Collection of sex-disaggregated and gender-relevant data
- Management of databases including gender data
- Analysis of gender data
- Dissemination of gender data
- Promoting the use of gender data

Please select one of the following options:

☐ Staff technical capacity is insufficient to support core statistical activities.

☐ Sufficient staff with adequate training to support core statistical activities but not aware of and working specifically on gender data.

☐ Capacity exists to collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data and some data reflecting gender issues.

☐ Capacity exists to manage databases with gender data or data reflecting gender issues and provide analysis of gender data.

☐ Capacity exists to manage gender data systems effectively and to promote the use of gender data through effective dissemination practices.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on the above activities regarding gender data.

Click below to enter text.

3. How would you describe the technical capacity of statistical staff in other ministries (such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health) to support gender data activities?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ Staff technical capacity in other ministries is insufficient to support broad statistical activities.

☐ There are sufficient staff in other ministries with adequate training to support broad statistical activities.

☐ Capacity exists in other ministries to collect and publish sex-disaggregated data and some data reflecting gender issues.

☐ Capacity exists in other ministries to provide sex-disaggregation on most relevant indicators and collect data on most gender-specific issues, with an establishment of a key gender data contact.

☐ Designated gender data staff exist in other ministries to collect and publish all sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators to address gender issues and NSO gender data staff work with ministry gender data staff.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on the technical capacity of other ministries regarding gender data collection and use. Click below to enter text.

4. What is the level of awareness among staff of the risk of gender bias in statistical production? What steps have been taken at the staff level to address gender data bias? (For example, trainings to ensure women and other overlooked groups are included in data collection processes.)

Please select one of the following options:

☐ Gender data bias issues are not acknowledged.

☐ Gender data bias issues are acknowledged.

☐ Sources of gender data bias issues are identified and discussed.

☐ Steps are taken to address gender bias in collection and publication practices.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on the awareness of staff on the risk of gender bias.

Click below to enter text.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary about the kind of training or programs that address gender bias within the statistical system. Click below to enter text.

5. What methodological innovations have been considered to support the collection and publication of gender data?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ Traditional data methodologies are used to support data collection.

☐ Traditional data methodologies are used to support gender data collection and analysis.

☐ There is interest in exploring and utilizing innovative methods for gender data collection and production.

☐ There is a demonstrated capacity to employ innovative methods for gender data collection and publication.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on methodological innovations regarding gender data. Click below to enter text.

Data Instruments

Data instruments are the tools and processes for collecting data. They include administrative data systems such as civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), education management information systems (EMIS), health management information systems (HMIS), and the censuses and surveys used to collect information on households and individuals. To answer these questions by involving key stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and perspective on planning and carrying out statistical activities relevant to gender data, please refer to the BRIDGE How-to Guide. For additional information about the questions in this section, please refer to section 3b (measuring the capacity of gender data systems) of the joint ODW-Data2X report on the **State of Gender Data Financing 2021**.

1. When was the most recent census conducted, and to what extent have gender data been collected and analyzed?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ A recent (post-2005) census is not available.

☐ A census has been conducted or is planned for the 2020 round (2015-2024) and collects demographic data such as sex.

☐ A recent census for the 2010 or 2020 round has produced population indicators by sex.

☐ A recent census for the 2010 or 2020 round has produced sex-disaggregated data and indicators and gender-relevant analysis has been produced based on these data and indicators.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on census work and gender data. Click below to enter text.

2. In the last ten years, how many household health surveys or modules that collect health outcomes were conducted, and to what extent have gender data been collected and analyzed?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ A household health survey or module has not been conducted in the last ten years.

☐ A household health survey or module has been conducted in the last ten years.

☐ At least one household health survey or module has been conducted in the last five years that collects demographic data such as sex and age of all household members.

☐ A household health survey or module is conducted every other year and has produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

☐ At least four household health surveys or modules have been conducted in the last five years and have produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

☐ At least four household health surveys or modules have been conducted in the last five years, where gender-relevant analysis has been produced based on sex-disaggregated data to inform decision-making.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on household health surveys and gender data.
Click below to enter text.

3. In the last ten years, how many labor force surveys or modules were conducted, and to what extent have gender data been collected and analyzed?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ A labor force survey or module has not been conducted in the last ten years.

☐ A labor force survey or module has been conducted in the last ten years.

☐ At least one labor force survey or module has been conducted in the last five years that collects demographic data such as sex of all household members.

☐ A labor force survey or module is conducted every other year and has produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

☐ A labor force survey or module is conducted at least annually and has produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on labor force surveys and gender data.
Click below to enter text.

4. In the last ten years, how many time use surveys or modules were conducted, and to what extent have gender data been collected and analyzed?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ A time use survey or module has yet to be conducted in the past ten years.

☐ If a time use survey or module has been conducted, it has not produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

☐ A time use survey or module has been conducted and has produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

☐ A time use survey or module has been conducted in the last five years, producing gender-relevant analysis based on sex-disaggregated data to inform decision-making.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on time use surveys and gender data.
Click below to enter text.

5. In the last ten years, how many agricultural surveys or modules were conducted, and to what extent have gender data been collected and analyzed?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ An agriculture survey or module has yet to be conducted in the past ten years.

☐ If an agriculture survey or module has been conducted, it has not produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

☐ An agriculture survey or module has been conducted and has produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

☐ At least two agriculture surveys or modules have been conducted in the last five years, producing gender-relevant analysis based on sex-disaggregated data to inform decision-making.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on agricultural surveys and gender data.
Click below to enter text.

6. In the last ten years, how many gender-based violence (GBV) surveys or modules were conducted, and to what extent have gender data been collected and analyzed?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ A GBV survey or module has yet to be conducted in the past ten years.

☐ A GBV survey or module may be planned but has yet to be conducted.

☐ A GBV survey or module has been conducted and has produced sex-disaggregated indicators.

☐ A GBV survey or module has been conducted in the last five years, producing gender-relevant analysis based on sex-disaggregated data to inform decision-making.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on gender-based violence surveys.

Click below to enter text.

7. Please review the following information about the CRVS system in your country ahead of answering the question below:

- What is the availability of sex-disaggregated indicators on births, deaths, marriage, divorce?
- What is the population coverage of CRVS systems?
- What is the frequency of publication of CRVS system data?
- What is the extent of gender-relevant analysis based on CRVS system data?

Based on your assessment of these points, please select one of the following options:

☐ CRVS system does not currently exist or function.

☐ CRVS system exists with minimal coverage (at least a quarter of the population).

☐ CRVS system records sex of births and covers at least half of the population.

☐ CRVS system produces sex-disaggregated indicators on births and deaths, covering at least three quarters of the population. Annual data are produced with no more than a two-year delay.

☐ Gender-relevant analysis to inform decision-making has been produced based on sex-disaggregated CRVS data on all aspects of life (births, deaths, marriage and divorce) and the CRVS system covers more than 90% of the population. Annual data are produced, including for the previous year. There is the potential to produce real-time data in emergencies.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on gender data and CRVS systems.

Click below to enter text.

8. Please review the following information about the Health Management Information System (HMIS) system in your country ahead of answering the question below:

- What is the availability of sex-disaggregated indicators on morbidity, disease incidence & prevalence, and vaccinations?
- What is the frequency of publication of HMIS data?
- What is the extent of gender-relevant analysis based on HMIS data?

Based on your assessment of these points, please select one of the following options:

☐ HMIS does not currently exist or function.

☐ HMIS exists to collect data on health.

☐ HMIS collects sex-disaggregated information on morbidity.

☐ HMIS produces sex-disaggregated indicators on disease incidence and prevalence. Annual data are produced with no more than two-year delay.

☐ Gender-relevant analysis has been produced based on sex-disaggregated HMIS data to inform decision-making on disease prevalence/incidence and vaccinations. Annual data are produced, including for the previous year. There is the potential to produce real-time data in emergencies.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on gender data and HMIS. Click below to enter text.

9. Please review the following information about the Education Management Information System (EMIS) in your country ahead of answering the question below:

- What is the availability of sex-disaggregated indicators on enrollment, completion and test results?
- What is the frequency of publication of EMIS data?
- What is the extent of gender-relevant analysis based on EMIS data?

Based on your assessment of these points, please select one of the following options:

☐ EMIS does not currently exist or function.

☐ EMIS exists to collect data on education.

☐ EMIS collects sex-disaggregated data on enrollment.

☐ EMIS produces sex-disaggregated indicators on enrollment and completion. Annual data are produced with no more than a two-year delay.

☐ Gender-relevant analysis has been produced based on sex-disaggregated EMIS data including as enrollment, completion, and exam results to inform decision-making. Annual data are produced, including for the previous year.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on gender data and EMIS. Click below to enter text.

10. Are there other sources of data (such as private, citizen-generated data) that the NSO/NSS is exploring?
Please select one of the following options:

☐ Traditional sources of data (administrative records, surveys, census) are used to produce statistical data, but gender data gaps persist.

☐ Traditional sources of data (administrative records, surveys, census) are used to help close gender data gaps.

☐ There is interest and experimentation in using innovative data sources to help close gender data gaps.

☐ Innovative data sources are in use to close gender data gaps.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on innovative data sources and gender data.
Click below to enter text.

Stakeholder Coordination

Stakeholder coordination involves mechanisms set in place for gender data producers and users to coordinate and communicate. To answer these questions by involving key stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and perspective on coordinating gender data activities within the NSO and NSS, please refer to the BRIDGE How-to Guide.

1. What is the level of coordination between gender data producers within the government?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ There is no coordination mechanism between different producers of data.

☐ Different producers of data within the national statistical system have some coordination mechanism but don't focus on gender data.

☐ Different producers of data within the national statistical system have some coordination mechanism and focus on gender data but this does not include all gender data producers.

☐ All producers of gender data communicate and coordinate with each other.

☐ All gender data stakeholders are consulted to identify new gender data demands and methods for production and coordination.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on government producers of gender data.

Click below to enter text.

2. To what extent does the NSO engage with producers of data outside government such as civil society groups or the private sector?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ Only traditional data producers are involved in the production of official statistics.

☐ Traditional data producers have identified potential non-traditional sources of gender data such as civil society groups or the private sector.

☐ Initial engagement has occurred with non-traditional gender data producers such as civil society groups or the private sector.

☐ There is regular involvement of traditional and innovative gender data producers.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on engagement with gender data producers outside government. Click below to enter text.

3. To what extent do you work with user groups or public stakeholders on gender data? Examples could include civil society organizations, academia, or user groups. This could also include data users within the government.

Please select one of the following options:

☐ The NSO does not work with any of the user groups or public stakeholders on gender data mentioned above.

☐ Overall data needs of users are understood through some instance of engagement.

☐ Gender data needs of users are understood and addressed through some instance of direct engagement.

☐ Engagement with gender data users occurs on a regular basis to understand needs.

☐ Systematic involvement of gender data users informs data production.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on work with gender data users.

Click below to enter text.

4. Are there designated gender data focal points in other ministries, departments, or agencies? If so, what are their activities and impacts?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ There are no sector statistics focal points

☐ There are sector statistics focal points but gender data intermediaries are not yet involved.

☐ Gender data intermediaries are identified and involved.

☐ Support for gender data intermediaries results in use and impact.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on work with gender data focal points.

Click below to enter text.

5. How do you work with development partners on gender data capacity building?

Please select one of the following options:

☐ The NSO works with development partners on statistical projects.

☐ The NSO works with development partners on statistical projects and development partners are aware of and use the NSDS or similar plans as a tool for coordination, with potential for coordination for gender data.

☐ Development partners work with the NSO or coordinating bodies directly to devise statistical plans for gender data.

☐ Development partners have long-standing projects on gender equality and gender data and planning is coordinated with relevant national bodies.

[Optional] Add any additional commentary on work with development partners on gender data.

Click below to enter text.