

Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality (BRIDGE) Tool: How-to Guide

About This Guide

The Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality (BRIDGE) tool is a suite of products to help actors in the national statistical system identify priorities for improving their gender data funding mechanisms. The gender data system maturity model is the foundation of BRIDGE and was used to develop the BRIDGE methodology, questionnaire, and scoring form.

This how-to guide provides a brief explainer of each component of BRIDGE.

The Gender Data System Maturity Model

The gender data system maturity model consists of five dimensions across four levels of maturity systems. The five dimensions are:

Governance, such as statistical decrees and laws, statistical strategies, gender statistics strategies and gender policies that create the enabling environment for gender data.

Financing for gender data produced by the NSS from all sources, including domestic and external funding.

Technical capacity, such as staff expertise and technology needed to publish and promote the use of gender data.

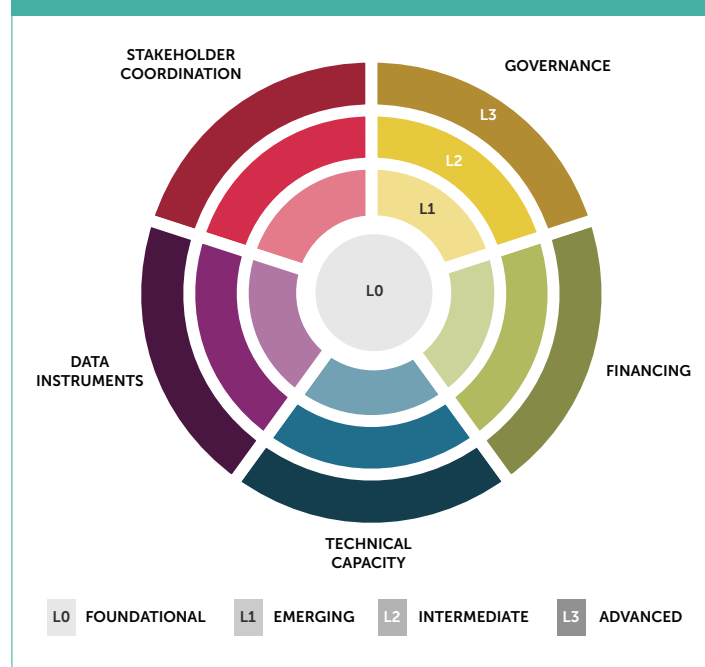
Data instruments, such as the processes and tools, including surveys and administrative data, that generate gender data.

Stakeholder coordination, such as the mechanisms and structures within a national gender data system that enable engagement from all relevant actors.

While the maturity model is intended to assess gender data systems, the core dimensions and levels of maturity can be adapted to apply to other sectors of interest. The visual representation of the gender data system maturity model is showcased below, and the accompanying brief can be found [here](#).

Use this guide to familiarize yourself with the dimensions of gender data systems before conducting the BRIDGE assessment. Understanding these dimensions will prepare you for the range of materials and stakeholders that should be involved in the assessment. Even without conducting a formal assessment, the maturity model can be used on its own to identify areas of work to improve gender data systems.

FIGURE 1: GENDER DATA SYSTEM MATURITY MODEL





The Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality Assessment

The BRIDGE assessment consists of the [methodology](#), the [questionnaire](#), and the [scoring form](#). The assessment helps stakeholders understand the current maturity level of a gender data system, diagnose strengths and weaknesses, and identify priority areas for improvement. The assessment results serve as an input to any roadmap or action plan developed in collaboration with key stakeholders within the NSS.

Methodology

The BRIDGE Assessment is designed to be a self-assessment for stakeholders from low- and middle-income countries to assess the maturity level of their gender data system and identify actions to improve resources for gender data production and use.

The first step is to identify knowledgeable respondents to complete the assessment and create a team to analyze and communicate the results. They can be gender data focal points within national statistical offices (NSOs), or from other programmatic activities within the NSS. Contacts at ministries such as the ministry of education and ministry of health can also provide relevant information, especially for completing parts of the assessment on administrative data.

The full methodology is available [here](#) and describes the assessment and scoring process. Use this document to learn more about the how to conduct the assessment, including how to interpret its results.

Questionnaire

The BRIDGE includes a set of questions to assess the maturity of gender data systems, grouped by the five dimensions of the maturity model. For each dimension, there is a set of questions with responses corresponding to maturity levels and optional additional questions to qualify answers.

Use the questionnaire to engage stakeholders and discuss answers with the group to ensure the assessment reflects the opinion of a variety of stakeholders. The questionnaire is available [here](#).

The NSO gender data focal point or an NSO-designated staff member should be the lead contact in answering the questionnaire. However, to provide accurate and high-quality answers to the questionnaire, the lead contact should engage with other relevant staff within the NSO and other ministries. The list below provides a general summary of key focal points to reach out to—please note that this is not an exhaustive list:

Governance: Planning department within the NSO; ministry of gender (or equivalent) staff.

Financing: Planning or financing department within the NSO.

Technical capacity: Information technology (IT) and planning departments within the NSO; relevant NSO staff responsible for collection and publication of data; staff within the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and other relevant ministries that produce statistics.

Data instruments: NSO staff responsible for the collection and publication of censuses and surveys; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Gender (or equivalent), and civil registrars responsible for the collection and publication of health, education, agriculture, labor and time use, gender-based violence, and vital statistics through administrative or survey sources.

Stakeholder coordination: Planning department within the NSO; international cooperation department within the NSO; Executive Director office within the NSO; corporate (or equivalent) service within the NSO; and the public relations department within the NSO.

The modality of the BRIDGE assessment is intended to be flexible. The gender data focal point or designated NSO staff can undertake the assessment based on their overall internal and organizational capacity. For example, kickoff calls or workshops between focal points and consultants can be a useful way to introduce the assessment, develop a plan for completing the assessment, and learn more about the maturity model. Alternatively, focal points can complete the assessment themselves to the extent possible and then reach out to stakeholders listed above. Open communication is important during the completion and scoring of the assessment to ensure accurate responses and—critically—to build common understanding and consensus. Regardless of how the assessment is undertaken, reviewing the results in a joint setting, such as a follow-up call or workshop, will start the process of translating the assessment into action plans that each country can pursue at a national, organizational, or sector specific level.

Scoring Form

Responses are captured and analyzed in an Excel worksheet that helps respondents understand the current maturity level of their gender data system and identify priority areas for improvement. The results will also serve as an input to any roadmap or action plan developed in collaboration with key stakeholders within the NSS.

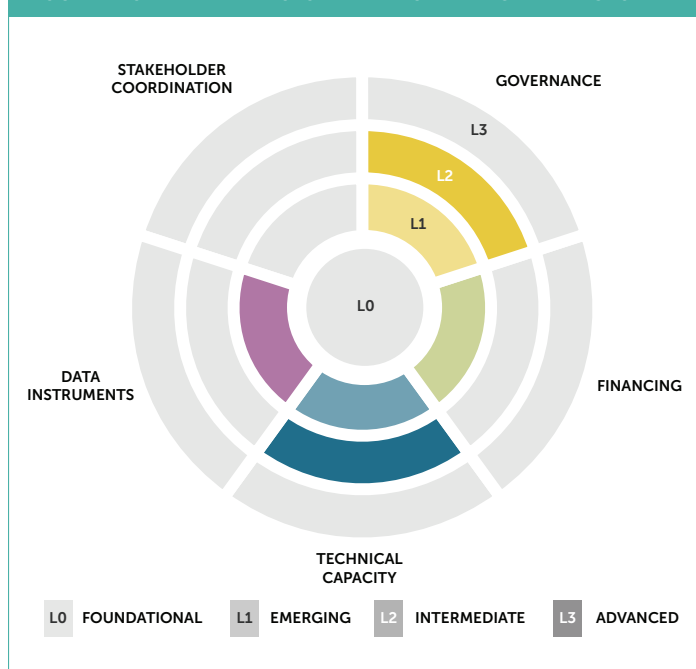
The questions found on the BRIDGE Assessment document are also in the scoring form for NSO staff. To use the Excel workbook, NSO representatives, consultants or other assessors start the assessment with the governance dimension, followed by financing, technical capacity, data instruments, and stakeholder coordination. Each dimension is represented by a tab, and for each question, users can choose each answer from 0, 1, 2, or 3 in the drop-down menu. After completing the scoring forms, review the “Score” tab to see the overall scores in each of the five dimensions. Download the scoring form [here](#).

Radar Graph

To help visualize the scores for each dimension, the scoring form features a radar graph template. By using the radar graph, users may find that they score lowest in stakeholder coordination but score highest in governance and technical capacity—as shown in the example below.

Use the radar graph to communicate the high-level takeaways from the assessment to the stakeholders who completed the assessment and others who can support enacting the recommendations from the assessment. The radar graph may also be a useful basis for written communications about the assessment, such as an action plan for improving the conditions for funding gender data.

FIGURE 2: GENDER DATA SYSTEM MATURITY MODEL—A CASE



Contact

For additional information about the project and for questions about any of the products above, please contact [Data2X](#), [Lorenz Noe](#), Open Data Watch, and [Tawheeda Wahabzada](#), Open Data Watch.