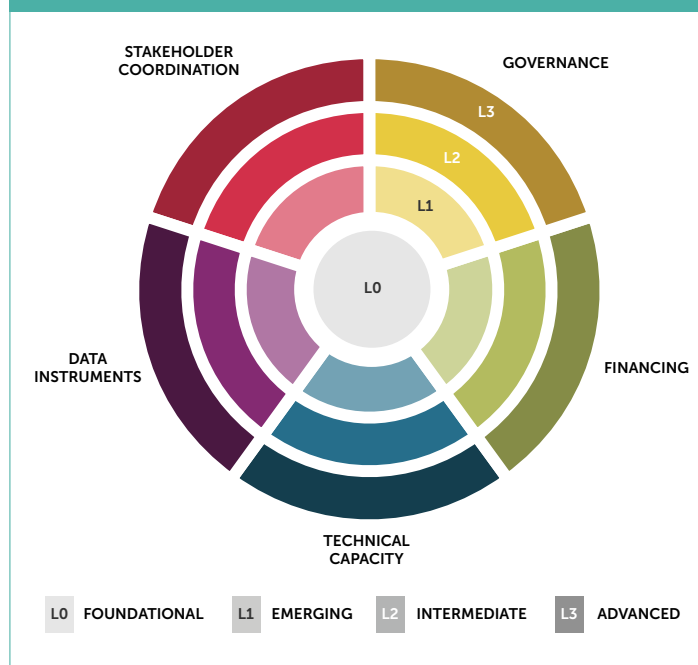


# Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality (BRIDGE) Tool Assessment Methodology

## Introduction

Open Data Watch and Data2X have developed an assessment to help countries assess the maturity of their gender data systems and articulate their priorities for gender data investments as part of the Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality (BRIDGE) tool. The BRIDGE assessment is intended to be used by gender data focal points in national statistical offices (NSOs) of low- and middle- income countries and by their partners within the national statistical system (NSS) to communicate their gender data priorities to domestic sources of financing and international donors.

FIGURE 1: GENDER DATA SYSTEM MATURITY MODEL



BRIDGE assessment results will help gender data stakeholders understand the current maturity level of their gender data system, diagnose strengths and weaknesses, and identify priority areas for improvement. They will also serve as an input to any roadmap or action plan developed in collaboration with key stakeholders within the NSS.

The assessment is based on the [Gender Data System Maturity Model](#) developed by Open Data Watch and Data2X as part of BRIDGE. The maturity model conceptualizes gender data production and use along five dimensions and with increasing levels of maturity (see Figure 1).

This note describes the development of the BRIDGE assessment and how the accompanying [questions](#) are translated using the [scoring criteria](#) to form an overall assessment of system maturity and provide insight into potential action plans to strengthen gender data systems.

## Development of the BRIDGE Assessment

Open Data Watch interviewed NSO or NSS representatives from Lesotho, Senegal, Zambia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, and Ghana in early 2022. Using the Gender Data System Maturity Model as the basis for discussion, the interviews unearthed the challenges countries face when building sustainable financing streams for gender data and whether these are captured by the maturity model. The interviews with the seven NSOs and other ministries lead to further development of the maturity model and the present assessment.

Open Data Watch developed the BRIDGE Assessment during summer 2022. The assessment records information from country experts on aspects of their gender data system. Their answers are then mapped to levels of the maturity model.

To test the assessment and scoring, Open Data Watch identified three pilot countries based on the following criteria: income level, their engagement in the [Gender Data Network](#), and the earlier interviews on the Gender Data System Maturity Model. The pilot countries were Ghana, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. Throughout fall 2022, ODW familiarized gender data focal points with the assessment and solicited feedback on the questions and scoring method. The feedback from the countries formed the basis for the current version of BRIDGE.

## BRIDGE Assessment Methodology

### Country Process Recommendations

The BRIDGE Assessment is intended to be a self-service assessment that interested stakeholders from low- and middle-income countries can use to assess the maturity level of their gender data system and identify actions to improve the resource allocation for gender data production and use.

The most important 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. Especially for answering parts of the assessment dealing with administrative data, contacts at line ministries such as the ministry of education and ministry of health can provide relevant information. For more information and suggested implementation, please refer to the BRIDGE [How-to Guide](#).

### Assessment and Scoring

Gender data systems are complex. The assessment distills a country's performance into the most important questions for each of the five dimensions of the maturity model. In the assessment, there are six questions on governance, four on financing, four on technical capacity, nine on data instruments, and five on stakeholder coordination. Table 1 provides a summary of the assessment. Within each dimension of the maturity model, questions are grouped by category. For example, the six questions under the governance dimension include one on statistical law, four on national strategies, and one on political support. Questions are multiple choice, with each answer corresponding to a maturity level: (0) foundational, (1) emerging, (2) intermediate, and (3) advanced.

The maturity levels resulting from each question are combined to produce the categorical maturity level. The following rules are applied:

**Rule 1:** In cases with only one question to a category, the maturity level of the question is directly assigned to the category.

**Rule 2:** For categories with two questions, the lowest maturity level is used because both would need to be at the same maturity level to assign it to the category.

**Rule 3:** In cases where there are three or more questions to a category, the two highest maturity levels are used. If only one question is level 3 and the rest are level 2, then level 2 would be used for the category. In cases where no scores are the same, the rounded down median is used.

To assign an overall maturity level to each dimension, the median of the category maturity levels is calculated. The median is rounded down in order to raise the bar for passing beyond each level of maturity.

The final assessment, its scoring rubric, and the Excel workbook to input scores are available [here](#).

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT		
Dimension & Category	No. of questions	Scoring rule
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>5</b>	
Statistical Law	1	Rule 1
National Strategies	4	Rule 3
Political Support	1	Rule 1
<b>FINANCING</b>	<b>4</b>	
Planning	1	Rule 1
Stability	2	Rule 2
Allocation	1	Rule 1
<b>TECHNICAL CAPACITY</b>	<b>4</b>	
ICT	1	Rule 1
Staff Capacities	1	Rule 1
Gender Bias	1	Rule 1
Innovation	1	Rule 1
<b>DATA INSTRUMENTS</b>	<b>9</b>	
Population Census	1	Rule 1
Core Surveys	2	Rule 2
Specialized Surveys	3	Rule 3
CRVS Data	1	Rule 1
Other Administrative Data	2	Rule 2
<b>STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION</b>	<b>5</b>	
Data Producers	2	Rule 2
Data Users	1	Rule 1
Focal Points	1	Rule 1
Development Partners	1	Rule 1

This process allows countries to identify their maturity level across dimensions as well as strengths and weaknesses within each dimension. Countries can then prioritize activities across and within dimensions. If a country is doing particularly well in one dimension, they can leverage that success to prioritize efforts in others. Or if a country is doing well in some categories but finds a deficit in another category, this assessment can highlight where the best opportunity may be for improvement.

Countries can use the results to identify where efforts may go furthest to increase the overall maturity of the gender data system, make a case for improvements, and allocate additional resources. It also provides a means of tracking progress over time by allowing users to compare initial maturity levels with improved maturity levels at a later date.

### Feedback and Action Plan

Open Data Watch and Data2X will continue their work to improve gender data systems in low- and middle-income countries, including on how such systems are financed. We are eager to continue learning how countries adapt this assessment process for their own use and what actions are taken as a result. For questions about the maturity model, assessment, and assessment results, or to share stories about the use of this assessments please contact: [Data2X](#).