

Statistics IN ACTION

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IN FOCUS: Gender Statistics



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LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

WE ARE DEDICATING this issue of Statistics in Action to the topic of gender statistics. The reasons are many. Agenda 2030 and the SDGs are currently a window of opportunity that both producers and users of statistics share. It is indeed a point of departure to further develop statistics to monitor and follow up. What data do we have and what data gaps are there to fill? How will countries manage to implement and follow up the international commitments for a better and more equal world? These and similar questions are being asked for many thematic areas linked to the SDGs with the underlying vision of Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind. Policy makers want more disaggregated data and more analysis. Gender statistics are but one of several instruments in this discourse. Since the subject is based on people it is also a very powerful one. Therefore it deserves to be highlighted and discussed.

Statistics Sweden is not the only statistical institution that acknowledges that the proposed global indicator framework to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs will put more pressure on national statistical systems' ability and capacity to deliver. In the midst of the ongoing discussions on the global indicator framework, the national level is next in line. National plans and their follow-up put data needs and data gaps in the spotlight and official statistics have a major role to play.

By collecting data and analysing, producing and communicating gender statistics we contribute to increased knowledge and raise public awareness

of the conditions of men and women, girls and boys. Gender statistics provide decision and policy makers, researchers and the public with information to influence and follow up changes to existing policies and practice in the field of social, economic and environmental development.

IT IS ENCOURAGING that much has happened in the field of gender statistics since the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995. The understanding of gender statistics has also increased, not least globally. Gender mainstreaming is a well known term within many institutions and organisations around the world. But much more remains to be done: improving standards and methods, developing new indicators as well as strengthening the analysis and cooperation between producers and users of statistics. And again, the national statistical institutes' ability to deliver gender statistics is key. My hope is that the articles in this issue of Statistics in Action can inspire us all to reach further. Let's turn the challenges with leaving no one behind into opportunities that can trigger new ideas and partnerships within the statistical and development community alike.

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Gender statistics in Agenda 2030

Gender equality is one of the cornerstones of the Agenda 2030. Goal number 5 in the agenda reads: **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

Of the 17 goals that make up the Agenda 2030, 12 goals cover gender equality. Of the 230 proposed indicators, more than 30 percent are gender relevant and 21 percent of the indicators should explicitly be disaggregated by sex. This is an improvement in ambition, range and coverage compared to the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The proposed indicators developed by the Inter Agency and Expert Group for the SDGs have been classified by the UN Statistical Commission's secretariat into three tiers based on their level of methodological development and data availability. Some indicators will be possible to measure with statistics from the countries' statistical systems while others require other or new data sources.

If we look closer at goal 5, we see that it includes nine targets about issues like violence and harmful practices against women, unpaid care and domestic work, opportunities for leadership, access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, rights to economic resources and use of technology. Goal number 5 includes a total of 14 indicators, 4 of which are classified in tier 1, meaning that they have established methodologies and that data is regularly produced. Here we find indicators such as: Proportion of women who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18, proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments, proportion of women in managerial positions.

IN TIER 2 the indicators have established methodologies but data is not regularly produced. Here we find indicators such as proportion of ever-partnered women and girls subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work and proportion of women who own a mobile telephone. And

finally, the indicators classified in tier 3 imply that they have no established methodologies or that methodologies are being developed. Examples of indicators are whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, proportion of women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care and proportion of women in agricultural populations who own agricultural land, and share of women among owners of agricultural land.

Gender equality permeates Agenda 2030 and to measure and follow up how gender equality is developing in the countries is crucial and challenging. Gender statistics play an important role and we look forward to being part of the very interesting work ahead with the target for increased and new data sources, data availability and not least the continuous work with new and improved statistical definitions and standards.

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An agent of change in the UN

How can we collect and use gender statistics in a positive way? Those were some of the questions that UN statistician **Ms Francesca Grum** tried to answer when she spoke at the recent International Training Programme (ITP) in gender statistics at Statistics Sweden.

MS FRANCESCA GRUM is Chief of Social and Housing Statistics Division at United Nations, UNDESA. She is an expert on statistics as a tool for measuring and counteracting inequality. Her presentation introduced the ITP participants to the use of statistical methods that are used to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.

Every five years The UNDESA publishes the World's Women Report that shows the global status of gender inequalities in critical areas such as health, education, work, poverty, environment and decision making. This report has become increasingly important now that development institutions understand the need for data.

– Today it's accepted that statistics are fundamental for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. To monitor progress we need evidence that we are on the right track. But the SDGs are also so ambitious that we need to quickly multiply the capacity to create the data needed.

Here is where training such as the ITP programme in gender statistics can be of great importance. Ms Francesca Grum's experience

"Statistics are not only a tool for developmental change, but can also change social norms, which takes time, and may be the hardest development goal of all."

is that there is usually a lot of data available in developing countries, but there is often a need to take one step backwards in order to examine how to use the data that is already there. Sharing good examples and best practice is necessary to work out tools for tabulation and analysis that mines the data to highlight the gender dimension.

– I must stress that gender statistics are not only facts about the differences between men and

women. That's only step one. To get the relevant evidence for efficient gender policy and politics we need to eliminate bias in collection and communication to increase the power of statistics.

Ms Francesca Grum suggests that this bias cannot be avoided simply by asking better questions, since even the interviewer's attitude can influence results.

– When interviewing a man and a woman in a family business it can easily be assumed that the man is the business leader and the woman his employee. But when one asks more relevant questions they may answer that they are both working together in an equal partnership or that the woman is the business owner. This is often easier to grasp through examples.

How can Statistics Sweden help in developing statistical tools for sustainable development?

– By being a role model. We can all learn from your use of administrative records, which can be a benefit for both developed and developing countries where there is a tradition of using surveys. And the ITP training model is also helpful. I hope there will be the funds to continue with this programme.

What is your impression of the ITP after meeting the programme participants?

– It has been very positive. It is an advantage that the participants are only from five countries. They can work together on concerns in their respective countries. But they can also learn from discussing their challenges with participants from different countries.

Looking forward, what do you see as the most challenging of the Sustainable Development Goals?

– Statistics are not only a tool for developmental change, but can also change social norms, which



Ms Francesca Grum.

takes time, and may be the hardest development goal of all. In numbers, women's power and role in decision making has grown but that is from a very, very low level. For example, the number of ministers who are women has tripled but the total number of female ministers is still only about 18 percent. Often even women themselves promote traditional female roles in family and society, which enables an environment where stereotypes hinder the development goals. To keep advocating for change we need evidence that there is positive change. Here statistics can be used to reinforce and give feedback to women as agents of change.

Learn more about women in the world:
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/worldswomen.html>

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"I must stress that gender statistics are not only facts about the differences between men and women. That's only step one. To get the relevant evidence for efficient gender policy and politics we need to eliminate bias in collection and communication to increase the power of statistics."

Interest in gender statistics on the rise in Kenya

Gender issues have long been an integral part of the government agenda in Kenya, and the government statistical office, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, has played an important role. One of the Senior Officers working on gender statistics is **Ms Rosemary Kongani**.

How did the work with gender statistics begin in Kenya?

– The work started in the 1970s when a Women's Bureau was set up by the government to focus on improving the situation of women in Kenya. The women's international conference was held in Nairobi in 1985 where strategies to improve the status of women and girls were set. UNFPA in particular took the initiative and supported the development of gender database to take stock of sex-disaggregated data from both public and private organisations. The project was managed by the Women's Bureau which was later elevated to Gender Directorate. KNBS supported the initiative by seconding two officers to work on the project. They assisted in developing the first Gender Data Sheet and Women and Men Booklet. Despite the challenges the Gender Directorate has encountered, KNBS has continued to support the directorate in production of gender statistics.

Has anything affected the work with gender statistics?

– Interest in gender issues has increased over the years.

There is a need to have a strong advocacy strategy within government, to emphasise the importance of gender issues. One of the strategies is the introduction of Gender Mainstreaming in all ministries as a performance contract.

How do you work with stakeholders and government on developing gender statistics?

– KNBS works closely with the Gender Directorate within government, and also with stakeholders, like the National Gender and Equality Commission, UNFPA, UNICEF and Civil Society. We have also carried out training on production of gender statistics for officers handling data in ministries and other institutions. Recently we launched a Gender Statistics Technical Committee in order to help us identify indicators and validate data in all sectors of the economy.

How do you disseminate gender statistics?

– With a dissemination plan in place, products like Gender Data Sheet are launched at national level then rolled out at county levels with the assistance of our officers on



Ms Rosemary Kongani.

the ground. The booklet on Women and Men in Kenya is being prepared with the support of Statistics Sweden. SCB is a key resource in this area, as this document should be accessible to everybody, not just statisticians and national stakeholders.

What is next on the agenda for gender statistics in Kenya? What are you working on now?

– We are preparing to validate the gender data sheet, have it printed and launched.

Plans to revive the development of Gender Status Index are at advance stage. Gender Status Index has three components namely social, economic and political.

We would also like to carry out a Time Use Survey to really highlight how the circumstances for men and women differ in all levels of society in Kenya.

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“Today the statistics are much more widespread”

Ms Sanije Uka is the Head of Population Sector at Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) and is in charge for gender statistics.

How did the process of gender statistics in Kosovo start?

– It started in 2002, and in the beginning UNMIK played a main role, and in 2003 they started a working group on gender statistics. This was before KAS started producing gender statistics. Cooperation between Kosovo and Sweden started in this field in 2006. One difficulty we faced was that gender statistics were not well known and it was difficult to collect data.

What is happening right now and what happens next?

– Since 2006 KAS has been producing a publication on women and men in Kosovo every second year, that covers various aspects of social statistics with a gender perspective. Data from KAS is used to the greatest extent, but data is also used from various administrative sources, the police, military etc. The next publication is planned to be published in December this year, and a working group for the publication has been appointed consisting of KAS staff members from social statistics, agriculture and economic statistics.

What are your experiences before the next publication of Women and men in Kosovo?

– In February Swedish experts visited us, and were able to provide information and we received suggestions about how to improve the next publication.

How widespread are gender statistics in Kosovo?

– Today the statistics are much more widespread. The main users are the Gender Equality Office (governmental organisation), an umbrella organisation called Kosovo Woman Network (KWN) and the University of Pristina.

Do you cooperate with other producers and users of gender statistics?

– Yes, to increase the information on gender we cooperate with the Kosovo Police, UN Women and Kosovo Woman Network, which has made some short surveys. We also cooperate with the Agency for Gender Statistics at the Prime Minister's Office.

Are there any particular circumstances in Kosovo that influence the work of gender statistics?

– This sector is very limited regarding staff despite the working group active with the next publication, the main work is done by one person.

Is there a demand for gender statistics among decision makers?

– The decision makers always stress the importance of gender statistics, but we do not know to what extent they actually use the figures. We have regular meetings with decision makers and there seems to be a good understanding of the need and importance of more gender statistics.

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Ms Sanije Uka.

International training in gender statistics

The International Training Program in gender statistics (ITP) is implemented by Statistics Sweden with financing from Sida. It is targeted at countries wishing to carry out changes regarding their statistics on women and men. "We need as much sex-disaggregated data as possible to help policy making", says **Ms Salma Hasnayen** at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Gender equality has long been a priority in Swedish development cooperation. Gender equality is a goal in itself, as well as a prerequisite for long-term democratic development, equitable and sustainable global development and thus also a means for reducing poverty. Reliable statistics broken down by sex highlight the conditions for both women and men.

In the first round, 25 participants from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Palestine and Bangladesh were trained during three intensive weeks in Stockholm. One of the participants was *Ms Salma*

Hasnayen at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

– I am amazed that Statistics Sweden has so many fields for sex-disaggregated data. I'm going back to Bangladesh and I will try to create more sex-disaggregated data. More surveys in different sectors will give more information on women's situation in unpaid work and men's participation in the family. It will help us a lot in the development of the social economic context of our country, says Ms Hasnayen.

Mr Aimable Mwananawe at IMRO, a civil society organisation in Rwanda, says that the big gender issue in Rwanda is poverty.

– Women are working but it is unpaid work. We need to empower them economically, especially those in rural areas, says Mr Mwananawe.

Another big challenge is the presentation of statistics.

– We have to make it easy for the users to get the data. One way is to produce a booklet with all the gender data. When you are presenting statistics you need to make sure that people who are not statisticians can interpret the data.

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Mr. Aimable Mwananawe.



Ms Salma Hasnayen.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN BURKINA FASO

Since 2014 the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) of Burkina Faso has been working on a process to establish a continuous and modular Multi Purpose Household Survey with the technical support of Statistics Sweden. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has facilitated financing for the survey and the capacity development. In February INSD officially published the final results of the annual survey during a ceremony presided by the Ministry of economy, finance and development. The EMC provides the Government in Burkina Faso and a variety of users of statistics with data on poverty and inequality, education, health, labour market and ICT.

The survey reports with comprehensive information are available on INSD's website www.insd.bf



NEW INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION IN STATISTICS

In 1992 the long term statistics expert from Statistics Sweden left Mogadishu and the partnership in statistics between Sweden and Somalia was halted. 22 years later preparations for a renewed cooperation were made possible thanks to Swedish Sida. After two years of preparatory work, a long term institutional cooperation project in statistics started in late 2015. The cooperation project together with Statistics Sweden aims at developing capacity in statistics for and within the system and in particular within the fields of economic and social statistics, management and statistical methodology. Due to the security situation, the major part of activities will take place in neighbouring countries. Training and "on the job training" will also be conducted in partnerships with other statistical institutes in Africa, such as Statistics South Africa.

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Mohammad Moalim, Director General, Statistical Department of the Federal Government of Somalia, Pali Lehola, Director General, Statistics South Africa and Stefan Lundgren, Director General, Statistics Sweden, at the UNSC.

SDGS, STATISTICS AND FRAGILE STATES

Together with Statistics South Africa and the Statistical Department of the Federal Government of Somalia, Statistics Sweden organised a side-meeting during the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York in March. Around 60 participants gathered in the early morning hours of 8 March to discuss how the statistical community can foster change and innovative approaches to capacity development in fragile states. The discussion also included descriptions of the challenges and opportunities we face and how the statistical community with combined efforts can strengthen official statistics in conflict and post-conflict countries. Among the panellists were Yusuf Murangwa, DG of the National Statistical Institute of Rwanda, Albina Chuwa, DG of National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania, Ahmed Muhumad, former DG of the Statistical Department of the Federal Government of Somalia and Jean-Pierre Ntezimana, Senior Advisor at Statistics Sweden. The meeting was moderated by Pernilla Trägårdh from Statistics Sweden.

At the meeting it was pointed out that staff, including those in fragile states, need to have time to focus on the production of statistics. It was also concluded that support from partners ought to recognise that capacity in statistics needs to be built consistently over a long period of time, and the same goes for the links to SDGs. Support in statistics also needs to be handled differently during reconstruction and development phases of capacity building. Ms Chuwa's remarks about "obtaining data is not a technocratic exercise but rather one of building institutions in fragile states" in many ways summarise the interesting discussions held.

SCB

YOU ARE IMPORTANT

NEEDS

DECISION-MAKERS
NEED KNOWLEDGE

YOUR ANSWERS

YOU PROVIDE INFORMATION IN
A SURVEY FROM STATISTICS
SWEDEN

CHANGE

YOU SEE CHANGES THAT ARE
BASED ON YOUR ANSWERS

COMPILATION

STATISTICS SWEDEN PRODUCES
THE STATISTICS

DECISIONS

THE STATISTICS HELP YOU TO SEE HOW SOCIETY
LOOKS AND DECISION-MAKERS CAN DECIDE ON
MATTERS LIKE NEW ROADS, BETTER HEALTHCARE
AND MORE EDUCATION

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A NEW CONCEPT TO REACH NEW USERS

Sweden in Figures is a new concept from Statistics Sweden that uses modern graphics as well as digital and social media to spread statistics to new users. The success has been immediate.

WHEN THE DECISION was made to discontinue the printed Statistical Yearbook of Sweden, resources were freed for new projects. One result was Sweden in Figures, an innovative way to show a more inviting yearly snapshot of Sweden.

– The expectations from the public regarding the presentation of statistics have changed, says *Sara Brinkberg*, communications specialist and project manager behind the new concept. The Statistical Database and reports are still important, but with the increasing flow of information, users need to get a fast picture of the information – is this interesting for me or not? – before digging deeper into reports. We also see a growing problem with collecting data from younger people who have never heard of Statistics Sweden. Therefore, we need to find strategies to let younger people know about us, explain why it is important to contribute to official statistics, and how they can benefit from using our data.

SWEDEN IN FIGURES was launched in October 2015. The concept was created in close cooperation with teachers and their pupils and is based on a continuously updated website which presents



Ms Sara Brinkberg.

statistical data about Sweden and Swedes in an accessible, modern and interesting way. The graphic interface gives the material a uniform and easily recognisable look. The statistics are chosen based on the social science curriculum for 10-18 year olds. The concept also includes a teacher's guide that exemplifies how to use the material in class, a printed booklet as well as a new concept for study visits at Statistics Sweden.

– We have worked very closely with the users during the development stage, says Sara Brinkberg. We now know what they want and how they use it. Another important part of the concept is how we worked with many different skills in the development team. Statisticians, communicators and designers have had their say which has built new ways to cooperate within the organisation.

SWEDEN IN FIGURES has been an immediate success, with 450 000 internet visits since the launching. 20 000 copies of the booklet have been ordered, as well as 1 000 copies of the teacher's guide.

– We've also noticed that colleagues at Statistics Sweden are keen to use the material; for instance the posters that we have produced to present the concept are quite popular, says Sara Brinkberg. Now the challenge is to keep developing Sweden in Figures. Not only through updating the site and the booklet but also by broadening the concept so that there is new material for our users to discover to keep them returning.

Explore Sweden in figures
www.sverigeisiffror.scb.se

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“Gender equality includes both women and men”

1. Mr Torbjörn Lindström

What is your role in relation to gender equality at Statistics Sweden?

– As Head of Personnel Department I am responsible for all matters concerning human resources at Statistics Sweden. In our instruction and our annual letter of appropriation from the Government we are mandated to work with gender statistics and have several staff that are experts in this field. We are also mandated to produce statistics that cover how the situation for gender equality is evolving in Swedish society.

– At Statistics Sweden we have enhanced our work on integration of gender issues, so-called gender integration, in all of our work, as part of instructions from the Government. This will put more focus on the work we already pursue – and very actively so – in the field of gender equality. One example is raising awareness among our staff and to continue to develop our internal gender equality plan, with concrete and realistic goals to achieve and to annually follow-up on its progress.

2. Ms Anna-Karin Nylin

1. What is your main area of expertise?

– I am a demographer and I also work with gender statistics together with our colleagues in other countries.

2. What causes gender inequality?

– I would say that gender inequality arises from differences in socially constructed gender roles.

3. What is the role of statistics when it comes to gender equality?

– Statistics can clearly show where gender equality and gender inequality exists. With statistics you can identify gender issues and use the statistics as a base for decision making as well as to monitor development.

4. Do you have any inspiring examples from your work with other countries?

– Yes, the Georgian publication “Women and Men” that Geostat did last year was a real success. The statistics are presented in a user friendly way making it easy for everybody to see what gender issues the country has. The publication was very well received and the Director General was interviewed by media and television.



3. Ms Lena Bernhardt

1. What is your main area of expertise?

– Gender statistics.

2. Why is gender equality important?

– Gender equality is above all a human right that includes both women and men. Women and men should have the same rights to shape society and their own lives. Gender equality also contributes to economic efficiency and the achievement of other key development outcomes. It is important that women and men equally contribute to the development of a country as well as the upbringing of children.

3. How does Sweden work with gender statistics?

– The Swedish Parliament has decided that gender statistics are to be part of the official statistics. All official statistics concerning individuals must be disaggregated by sex, which is a prerequisite for producing gender statistics.

Since 1984 Statistics Sweden publishes the booklet *Women and men in Sweden*, which presents gender statistics in an easy and accessible way.

On its website Statistics Sweden also publishes indicators in a thematic area on gender equality where the main purpose is to enable the Government to follow up their gender equality policies.

4. Do you have any recommendations on how to communicate gender statistics to users?

– We need to make sure that gender statistics are easy to understand. The statistics should reflect the gender issues of the specific country as well as the underlying causes and the consequences of the issues.

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