MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

PLANNING PHASE

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME INITIATIVE

UN WOMEN

Acknowledgements:

UN Women would like to thank the Governments of Australia, Ireland, Mexico, the United States and the United Kingdom and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their generous contributions to the Making Every Woman and Girl Count Programme.

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Editor: Christina Johnson
Design: Dammsavage Inc.

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ACRONYMS

APRO	Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
AfDB	African Development Bank
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Women
CEGS	Global Centre of Excellence for Gender Statistics
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
DFID	Department for International Development, United Kingdom
DRF	Development results framework
ECARO	Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
ESARO	East and Southern Africa Regional Office
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FPI	Flagship Programme Initiative
GPSP	Global Policy Support Project
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
INEGI	Instituto Nacional de Estadistica y Geografia, Mexico
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LME	Learning, monitoring and evaluation
MEWGC	Making Every Woman and Girl Count
NSDS	National Strategies for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PwC	Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
RF	Results framework
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TCG	Titchfield City Group
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW data JP	Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data
WCARO	West and Central Africa Regional Office
WHO	World Health Organization

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At a Glance:

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

UN Women/Ryan Brown

THE ISSUE

Data and statistics are indispensable tools for devising evidence-based policies to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, assessing their impact, and promoting accountability.

With 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators (of which 54 are gender-specific), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a historic global compact to achieve gender equality by 2030.

However, the challenges for gender-responsive monitoring of the SDGs are daunting. Currently, out of the 54 gender-specific indicators, only 10 can reliably be monitored at the global level. Established methodologies exist for another 25 indicators but country coverage is insufficient to allow for global monitoring. The remaining 18 indicators still require some level of conceptual elaboration and/or methodological development.

In the 2030 Agenda, localization and adequate monitoring of SDGs targets will be critical to ensure that policies are implemented and progress is monitored. Targets that are not monitored due to lack of data are likely to receive less priority. Given these imperatives the need to produce relevant and quality gender-sensitive indicators to monitor the SDGs is now greater than ever. Without significant technical and financial investments to support National Statistical Systems (NSS) to tackle these challenges, there will be important gaps in our ability to adequately monitor the implementation of the SDGs.

FACTS AND FIGURES:
Gender data gaps are pervasive

- 10 out of 54 gender-specific SDGs indicators can be reliably monitored at the global level.
- 26 per cent of the data needed to monitor the gender-related SDGs targets is currently available.
- 17 per cent of the gender data needed to monitor change over time is currently available.
- 15 per cent of countries have legislation that mandates specialized gender-based surveys.
- 13 per cent of countries have a dedicated gender statistics budget.

Source: UN Women 2018. Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; United Nations. 2013. Report of the UN Secretary- General on Gender Statistics.

UN WOMEN'S STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

Building on UN Women's unique normative, policy, programmatic and coordination mandates, the Making Every Woman and Girl Count Flagship Programme Initiative (FPI) aims to address three inter-related challenges:

- Weak policy space and legal and financial environment to produce gender statistics at national level;
- Technical challenges within NSS that limit the production of gender statistics; and
- Lack of access and limited capacity on the part of users to analyse data to inform policies.

Actions needed to address these challenges will be country specific but fall under three broad categories:

1. **Enabling environment:** Promoting a supportive policy environment to address institutional and financial constraints and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production and use of gender statistics.
2. **Data production:** Supporting efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics, including building the technical capacity of the NSS and providing financial support to collect data to monitor the SDGs and other national commitments.
3. **Data accessibility:** Promoting greater access and analysis of data by users, including open access, providing dissemination tools, supporting user-producer dialogues and strengthening the capacity of all relevant actors to use gender statistics in policy and advocacy.

HOW THE PROGRAMME WORKS

Key to the success of the programme is coordination among international agencies and other actors at all levels, including through joint programming and active knowledge-sharing.

A joined-up approach at national, regional and global levels not only prevents duplication of efforts but also ensures that support is provided where it is needed, when it is needed and in a cost-effective manner. Activities include:

- **Partnerships at the country level:** As a pilot initiative, between 2016 and 2021, the project is being implemented in 12 pathfinder countries through partnerships with national statistical offices and in coordination with other actors.

- **Regional technical support projects:** Projects provide policy and programmatic support to countries to implement the FPI; to advocate for and dismantle barriers to the regular production of gender statistics; to support the implementation of national plans to monitor the SDGs; and to promote South-South cooperation and sharing of best practices.

- **Global policy support and SDGs monitoring:** At global level, the project coordinates all activities under the FPI and links normative and technical work at the global level to the regional and national levels. Activities include: monitoring the SDGs through methodological work, data compilation and dissemination and programmatic work to improve data on key areas including, unpaid care and domestic work.

Additional activities, under the scope of the global MEWGC programme, include partnering with the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) on establishing a Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics and collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO) on a Joint Programme on Violence Against Women Data (VAW data JP).

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

Strengthening statistical capacity to effectively monitor the SDGs requires well-coordinated, well-funded action at national, regional and global levels.

- **Country level:** UN Women is partnering with national statistical offices and other key stakeholders to ensure that participatory plans for monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective are developed, financed and implemented on a regular basis.

- **Regional level:** Inter-regional dialogue will be supported by establishing partnerships with UN Regional Commissions and other relevant regional and sub-regional institutions.

- **Global level:** Work will take place through existing mechanisms, such as the IAEG-SDGs, to improve coordination and strengthen relationships with important players to have gender perspectives reflected in national statistics strategies and other relevant policies.

Figure 1:
An integrated approach at the global, regional and national levels

- Support country level assessments of policies and practices governing the production of gender statistics.
- Provide technical support to and capacity building of national statistical offices to produce gender statistics, including gender-related SDGs indicators.
- Support information exchange platforms, including user-producer dialogues on gender statistics and SDGs.

- Support national teams in implementation and operationalization of the FPI.
- Promote south-south cooperation and sharing of best practices.
- Facilitate regional partnerships to support work on gender statistics.

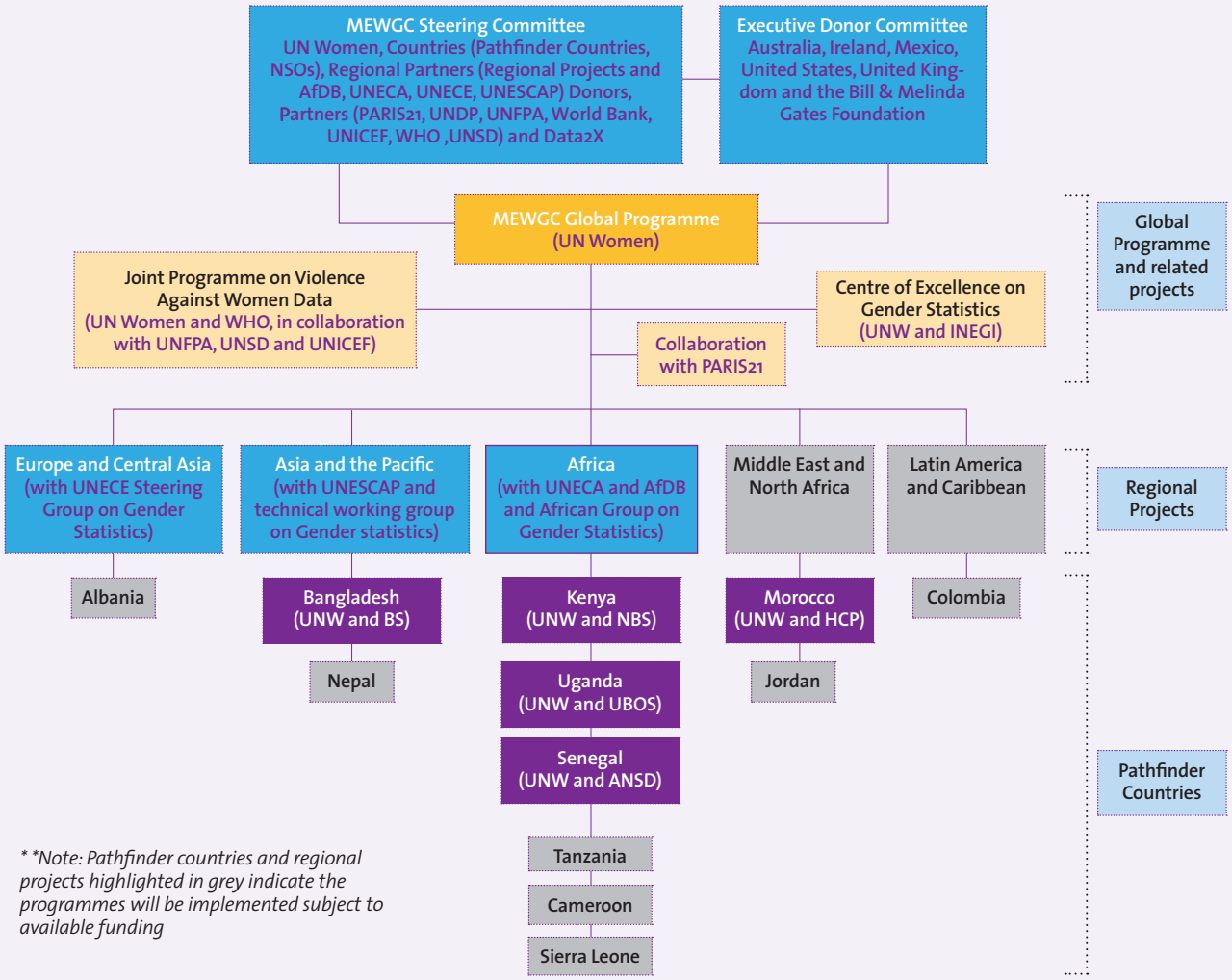
- Support global monitoring of SDG gender-related Goals and Targets.
- Synthesize and disseminate lessons learned from FPI national and regional activities.
- Improve the quality and comparability of gender statistics, including in areas where global standards do not exist (Tier III indicators in SDGs).

Current Donors

MEWGC is a large, US$61 million global programme, with a number of components and projects. As a result, various donors are coming together to help fund different areas. The MEWGC programme is currently generously supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (US$10 million), Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom (£6 million), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia (AUD 6.5 million), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (US$2.5 million), the Government of Mexico (US$1.3 million) and Irish Aid (€ 400,000). Overall, it is currently funded at about 45 per cent of the total, leaving a gap of 55 per cent.

As key partners for the MEWGC programme, each donor is represented in the Executive Donor Committee and the Steering Committee (see figure 2). As the executive mechanism, the Donor Committee reviews and approves budgets, approves all major changes to the programme and helps to promote the programme more broadly to encourage new partners to come on board. As the coordination and monitoring mechanism, the Steering Committee's role is to help review progress, guide implementation of the programme and ensure coordination with other actors. An additional way that UN Women works with current partners is through open lines of communication and cross fertilization with other relevant projects and programmes that they support.

Figure 2:
Governance structure of MEWGC



** Note: Pathfinder countries and regional projects highlighted in grey indicate the programmes will be implemented subject to available funding*

Opportunities for engagement

Interested in how can you get involved? Contact gender.data@unwomen.org or visit www.data.unwomen.org.

TIMELINE

2016

May 2016 MEWGC project document endorsed and signed off by UN Women senior management, marking the official start of the programme.

May 2016 the Government of Australia makes a 3-year, AUD 6.5 million commitment to the MEWGC Programme .

October 2016 First Meeting of the MEWGC Steering Committee was held in Helsinki, Finland where the programme of work was finalized and implementing partners were identified.

May 2016 4th Women Deliver Conference MEWGC made its debut on the global stage at the 4th Women Deliver Conference. UN Women joined the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Data2X and other partners to call for increased investments in gender data.

September 2016 High-Level launch of the MEWGC Programme. The MEWGC programme was launched during UNGA at a high-level side event, co-organized by the government of Australia, UN Women, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Data2X. The event brought together Heads of State, ministers, high-level dignitaries, and over 500 representatives across the UN System, CSOs and private sector in support of the MEWGC programme.

November 2016 IrishAid commits EUR 160,000.

INCEPTION PHASE – ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

The inception phase marked the official start of the MEWGC programme. During this period, the programme was launched and US$ 5.2 million in new financial commitments were secured, the MEWGC Steering Committee was established and convened its first meeting in Helsinki, Finland; methodological research was conducted for the gender-related SDG indicators; advocacy materials including the MEWGC logo, were developed and support was provided to UN Women's country and regional offices to develop new projects based on MEWGC.

2017

January 2017 At the First UN World Data Forum, UN Women organizes an official session where MEWGC is presented.

June 2017 12 Pathfinder Countries were selected. UN Women contracted a firm to conduct a scoping study to inform the selection of the 12 pathfinder countries that will pilot the MEWGC programme. Following the selection process, countries and regions began to develop national and regional level projects.

September 2017 USAID commits US$2.5 million to the MEWGC Programme.

November 2017 Making Every Woman and Girl Count in Africa. UN Women in partnership with the African Development Bank and the UNECA held a joint workshop in Dakar, workshop brought together experts in policy analysis and statistics across Africa to discuss the national and regional priorities and capacities to monitor the SDGs and other commitments from a gender perspective.

March 2017 Second Meeting of the MEWGC Steering Committee was held in New York on the margins of the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

September 2017 During UN Women's Global Business and Philanthropies Forum, Melinda Gates announces US$10 million contribution to the MEWGC programme from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

November 2017 Third Meeting of the MEWGC Steering Committee held in Paris, France on the margins of the OECD-DAC Gender Net Annual Meetings.

December 2017 Government of Mexico signs an MOU with UN Women for US$ 1.3 million in support of the Global Center of Excellence on Gender Statistics.

PLANNING PHASE – ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

Achievements in 2017 include the selection of 12 pathfinder countries, project development and selection of implementing partners; successful completion of methodological work for Tier III indicators and data compilation for SDGs monitoring, contributing to the first edition of UN Women's global gender and SDGs Monitoring Report: Turning Promises into Action, securing US$14 million in new financial commitments, establishment of the Center of Excellence on Gender Statistics and initiating the development of UN Women's SDG gender data portal.

2018

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE – PLANS FOR 2018

The implementation phase in 2018 will focus on implementing the programme in 6 pathfinder countries (Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Morocco and Nepal) and 3 regions (East and Southern Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Europe and Central Asia). Plans and activities at the global level include finalizing recruitment of programme staff; collaboration with PARIS21 to undertake activities to develop NSDS guidelines, methodological work and SDGs monitoring; development of UN Women's gender data portal and data management architecture, and continued advocacy and resource mobilization.

1. INTRODUCTION

Making Every Woman and Girl Count (MEWGC), launched in 2016, is a programme developed and implemented by UN Women in partnership with other actors to help support countries in their efforts to inform policies and monitor the implementation of the gender equality-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other national policy priorities. MEWGC is generously funded by the Governments of Australia, Ireland, Mexico, United Kingdom, and the United States and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The overall objective of MEWGC is to affect a radical shift in the production, availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. Through this Flagship Programme Initiative (FPI), UN Women works with a range of partners to support countries to improve the production, accessibility and use of gender statistics. The four-year investment focuses on four key outcomes:

i- **Outcome 1 – Creating an enabling environment.** Putting in place an enabling environment for a gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of national and international policy commitments;

ii- **Outcome 2 – Increasing data production.** Filling gender data gaps by ensuring that quality and comparable gender statistics are produced regularly;

iii- **Outcome 3 – Improving data availability and use.** Ensuring that gender statistics are accessible and used to inform policy and advocacy; and

iv- **Outcome 4 – Learning, monitoring and evaluation.** Learning through monitoring and evaluation about the most cost-effective ways to support capacity building in gender statistics.

As a collaborative framework, this initiative provides a roadmap for all relevant actors – including recipient countries, donors and implementing partners – to work together to provide coordinated support to address the challenges impeding the production and use of gender statistics to monitor national and international policy commitments, including the SDGs.

This second edition of the Annual Report covers the period from January through December 2017. It provides an overview of the key achievements during this period, including a review of activities and progress across the MEWGC programme's four outcomes. It also provides an update on resource mobilization and advocacy as well as a review of lessons learned from the first year of implementation of the programme. Plans for 2018 at the global, regional and national levels are briefly presented in the last section.

The key achievements in 2017 outlined in the report include: the selection of 12 Pathfinder countries through an independent and transparent process; project development

at global, regional and national levels and selection of implementing partners; successful completion of methodological work for Tier III indicators (for which UN Women is custodian or co-custodian) and data compilation for SDGs monitoring; contribution to the production of the first edition of UN Women's new flagship report: Turning Promises into Action (see box 1); securing US$ 14 million in new financial commitments; establishment of the Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) in collaboration with the Government of Mexico; and initiating the development of UN Women's SDG gender data portal which will be a platform to monitor the gender-related SDG indicators and provide information on progress of MEWGC implementation at the global, regional and national levels.

Future editions of the Annual Report will build on this framework by providing updates on global, regional and national progress on activities and indicators.

1.1 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Statistics as a new key programmatic area for UN Women

In September 2017, UN Women's new Strategic Plan 2018–2021, was presented and subsequently approved by its Executive Board. The new Plan considers the lessons learned from the previous one, highlights the Entity's contribution to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and spells out how UN Women intends to leverage its comparative advantages to accelerate the achievement of results for women and girls.

One of the key innovations of the new Strategic Plan is the inclusion of "improving the production and use of gender statistics" in the Development Results Framework (DRF), as a key strategic programmatic area of work. This new approach, driven in many ways by MEWGC's success, allows UN Women to deepen its work on gender statistics globally by strengthening its own technical capacity, increasing the resources devoted to this area and providing support to countries to fill critical gender data gaps.

A revised Results Framework for better learning and monitoring of progress

Following global, regional and national consultations in 2016 and 2017, several changes were introduced in the MEWGC's outputs and activities, resulting in a substantial revision of the Results Framework (RF). Under the new RF (see Section 2.4), while the overall objective and outcomes have remained the same across global, regional and country projects, most outputs have been revised so that they better reflect the aims of their associated projects. The result is a new RF that adds clarity about the programmatic approach of MEWGC, measures achievements more accurately and ensures accountability at all levels.

UN Women produces the first edition of its new flagship report on gender and the SDGs

UN Women prepared the first edition of its new flagship report called "Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The Report,

published in February 2018, provides a comprehensive and authoritative assessment of progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the SDGs from a gender perspective.

It is funded under a different project by the Government of Germany but has significantly benefitted from contributions by senior programme staff who have led the data analysis and authored three of the chapters (see box 1 for further details).

Box 1:

Turning Promises into Action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In February 2018, two and a half years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UN Women published its first global monitoring report. Through a comprehensive assessment of global trends, the report examines through a gender lens the progress and challenges in the imple-mentation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). New data analysis in the report puts a spotlight on the pervasive nature of discrimination against all women and girls across all 17 SDGs. Using microlevel data, the report shows how across countries, women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often left behind and excluded from progress.

The report provides wide-ranging recommendations for change, including concrete and urgent actions that are needed to close gender data gaps.

To download a copy of the report visit: www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/sdg-report.

2017 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. **12 Pathfinder countries were selected** through a rigourous, independent and transparent process led by Pricewaterhouse Coopers. The following countries were approved by the MEWGC Donor Committee: 5 Tier I countries (Senegal, Morocco, Kenya, Bangladesh and Uganda) to begin implementation in 2018; 7 Tier II countries (Albania, Jordan, United Republic of Tanzania, Nepal, Colombia, Sierra Leone and Cameroon) will implement the programme once more funding becomes available. An additional 6 reserve countries (Thailand, Haiti, Georgia, Egypt, Brazil and Rwanda) were recommended to replace any of the Tier I or Tier II countries as alternatives, if needed.

2. **MEWGC country and regional projects developed** – Five of the selected Pathfinder countries (Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Nepal, and Bangladesh) have conducted national assessments on gender statistics and are developing project documents. Regional technical support projects in Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa and Europe and Central Asia are in the process of finalizing project documents and will begin implementation in 2018.

3. **Successful completion of methodological work** and reclassification from Tier III to Tier II for indicators 5.c.1 (on legal frameworks) and 5.5.1b (local governance) (for which UN Women is custodian or co-custodian) and data compilation for SDGs monitoring.

4. **US$14 million in new financial commitments secured** - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation ($10 million), USAID ($2.5 million), Mexico ($1.3 million) and IrishAid ($300,000), bringing the total funding for the overall programme available to date to US$20 million.

5 ▶ UN Women and the Government of Mexico, through INEGI, **established the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS)**. The Government of Mexico committed US$ 1.3 million to support the establishment of the CEGS based in Mexico City. Plans are underway to define programme of work and activities in 2018.

6 ▶ The **Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data project document was finalized** in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO). The programme of work is expected to begin in 2018.

7 ▶ UN Women **organized and participated in a number of events** including an official session on gender data during the first UN World Data Forum in South Africa and a joint regional workshop on gender statistics in partnership with UNECA and AfDB in Dakar, Senegal.

8 ▶ **Scoping study conducted to inform the development of UN Women's SDG data portal**. The portal aims to improve access to gender data to inform policy and advocacy, specifically on the gender indicators of the SDGs.

9 ▶ **Continued advocacy for gender data** through organising and participating in events to promote gender data, developing new advocacy products including thematic data briefs and SDG data cards and a dedicated website for the MEWGC programme.

2. RESULTS: ACTIVITIES DURING THE PLANNING PHASE

In the period from January to December 2017, UN Women focused on several key activities, including:

i- **Creating an enabling environment (Outcome 1)** through activities such as pathfinder country selection, consulting with partners and working with them to ensure that programme documents, results frameworks and appropriate work plans were elaborated;

ii- **Increasing data production (Outcome 2)** through activities that included methodological work and data compilation on gender-related SDGs indicators under UN Women's responsibility;

iii- **Improving data availability and use (Outcome 3)** through activities such as data compilation and analysis for SDGs monitoring as part of the larger UN Women effort to inform the implementation of the SDGs and promote the use of data by bringing together data users and producers; and

iv- **Learning, monitoring and evaluation (Outcome 4)** through activities such as developing a robust results framework and organizing meetings of the Donor Committee and the Steering Committee. *New! See section 2.4 for more details.*

2.1 OUTCOME 1: CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome 1 aims to help countries put in place a supportive and well-coordinated policy environment, including enabling legal frameworks and institutional arrangements, to ensure that gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs takes place. For UN Women to help support countries, it is important to understand the specific challenges at country and regional levels, and to assess the capacity of UN Women's country and regional offices to provide the requisite support.

Activities during this Planning Phase therefore focused mainly on partner engagement, global consultation and validation of the programmatic approach, selection of implementing countries and partners and project development and recruitment of programme staff. Key results include: an independent selection of 12 pathfinder countries where MEWGC will be implemented; revision of the Results Framework to address comments and reflect new partnerships (see section 3); recruitment of qualified programme staff and work with PARIS21 to develop a project to produce guidelines to integrate gender in National Statistics Development Strategies (NSDS).

2.1.1 Programme staff recruited

Recruiting qualified personnel at the global, regional and national levels is a necessary condition for the successful implementation of MEWGC. In 2017, long-term staff members were recruited, including a Chief Statistician and Global Programme Manager (P-5), a Programme Management Specialist (P-4), Statistics Specialist (P-3) and a Programme Analyst (P-2) (see Annex 2). In addition, a Research and Data Spe-cialist (P-4) and a Human Rights Data Specialist (P-3) were recruited on shorter term contracts (about one year) to support SDGs monitoring, including leading the data analysis for the global monitoring report (see box 1) and the methodological development for SDG indicator 5.1.1 (see section 2.2.1). Recruitments for a Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (P-3), an Outreach and Advocacy Specialist (P-3) as well as an Administrative Assistant (G-6) are also underway and will be completed in 2018.[1]

At the regional level, recruitments for regional statistics specialists in charge of overseeing the implementation of the projects are underway in Asia and the Pacific (P-4) and in Europe and Central Asia (P-4).

At country level, recruitment will take place in 2018, once the national needs assessments have been completed.

2.1.2 Pathfinder countries selected

The selection of a suitable set of countries that are committed to improving gender statistics is a prerequisite for the programme's success. The selection of a diverse set of countries can also provide an important opportunity to learn about approaches that work in particular contexts and enable the scaling-up of those approaches to include more countries in future (see definition of pathfinder countries in box 2).

Following the first Steering Committee meeting held in 2016, a decision was reached to recruit a third-party consulting firm to lead the selection process. The aim was to have clear selection criteria and a transparent and independent process based on objectively verifiable results. UN Women initiated this process over the course of several months to identify a suitable vendor. Through a competitive bidding process, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) was selected as the consulting firm to lead the country selection process.

To ensure an independent selection, a two-step process was followed by PwC. Their recommendations were submitted to the Donor Committee for review and approval in July 2017, subsequently leading to the selection of the final list of countries.

The following steps were taken:

(1) **Quantitative:**

- Assess countries by applying quantitative methods using publicly available data.
- Select **long list of 35 countries** – 5 from each region that present best fit to implement MEWGC.

1 Job descriptions for the LME specialist, Outreach Specialist and Administrative Assistant can be found here: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=76114; https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=76478 and https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=74838

(2) **Qualitative:**

- Qualitative analysis using key informant interviews (KIIs) and desk research.
- Analyses resulted in a narrowed list of **18 countries** for further consideration.
- Country KIIs with NSOs of the **18 countries** to assess willingness and ability to implement MEWGC.

For both quantitative and qualitative analyses, the countries were assessed based on four categories:

- ✓ **Commitment to gender equality and women's rights**
- ✓ **Commitment to high statistical quality standards and to gender data production, accessibility, availability, and use**
- ✓ **Broader enabling social/ political environment**
- ✓ **Income classification and an emphasis on geographic and language diversity**

After completing the analysis the output was a recommended list of five Tier I countries for immediate implementation; seven Tier II countries to be selected as more funding becomes available; and five additional reserve countries that may be selected as an alternative should any of the above countries not be ultimately selected. Following the selection process, UN Women initiated a consultation with the donors. Table 1 shows the following list of countries that were agreed:

Table 1:
Selected pathfinder countries, by region

Asia and the Pacific	*Middle East/ North Africa*	*Europe and Central Asia*	*Latin America and the Carribbean*	*East & Southern Africa*	*West & Central Africa*
5 Top tier countries for engagement as a first step to initiating the implementation process					
Bangladesh	Morocco			Kenya Uganda	Senegal
7 Additional countries to be selected as more funding becomes available					
Nepal	Jordan	Albania	Colombia	Tanzania	Cameroon Sierra Leone
6 Reserve countries that may be selected as an alternatice					
Thailand	Egypt	Georgia	Haiti Brazil	Rwanda	

The selection process has raised the programme's profile within UN Women by generating demand from countries that were not selected. Several UN Women offices, including Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kuwait, Malawi, Mozambique and Rwanda have requested technical support to develop similar projects based on the MEWGC approach. Furthermore, the country level information documented in the assessment is being used by UN Women's regional offices to identify non-pathfinder countries in need of technical and/or financial support.

Box 2:

What is a pathfinder country and what does success at country level look like?

UN Women defines a pathfinder country as a country where projects will be developed with the principle objective to provide technical support to improve the production and use of gender statistics to support the monitoring of SDGs and other national commitments. These projects will advance specific elements of MEWGC, depending on national circumstances, policy priorities, statistical capacities and financial resources available. There are several considerations that determine a country's eligibility to be a pathfinder country:

1. The country must have a strong commitment to women's and girls' rights and gender equality, as well as high statistical standards, all supported by an enabling political and social environment;

2. There must be country level demand, including a demonstrable institutional commitment by the National Statistical Office (NSO) to strengthen the production and use of gender statistics but with limited technical or financial capacity to deliver; and

3. The country's motivation to be part of a global and inclusive learning process, and a commitment to be a global and regional advocate for improved gender statistics.

Although achievements will differ across countries, based on their initial capacity level in gender statistics, success means that all pathfinder countries will receive the tools and support necessary to integrate gender statistics into their long-term national statistics development plans and will increasingly prioritize gender indicators in efforts to adapt the SDGs to national contexts. Countries will adopt gender indicators to monitor national plans, including SDG targets that are nationally relevant and aligned with the globally agreed SDG indicators. The national production of quality gender statistics will increase, in line with internationally agreed standards. Finally, by facilitating access to gender data, supporting primary and secondary analysis by NSOs and other stakeholders, providing training to users and promoting regular dialogue between users and producers, the use of gender data in policy formulation will significantly improve.

2.1.3 Country projects set up

Following the selection of pathfinder countries, the official list of the 12 selected pathfinder countries was announced by UN Women's Executive Director during the 72nd session of the General Assembly.[2] Several countries, including Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda began to develop country level projects. In order to set up the country projects, the following activities were conducted in each country: conducting national needs assessments, developing project documents and recruiting programme staff.

National assessments aim to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities in gender statistics and inform the development of national project documents based on MEWGC. In each of the countries, the needs assessments and national project formulation are led by the UN Women country office, with guidance from UN Women HQ, in close collaboration with the NSO. The process involves the following steps:

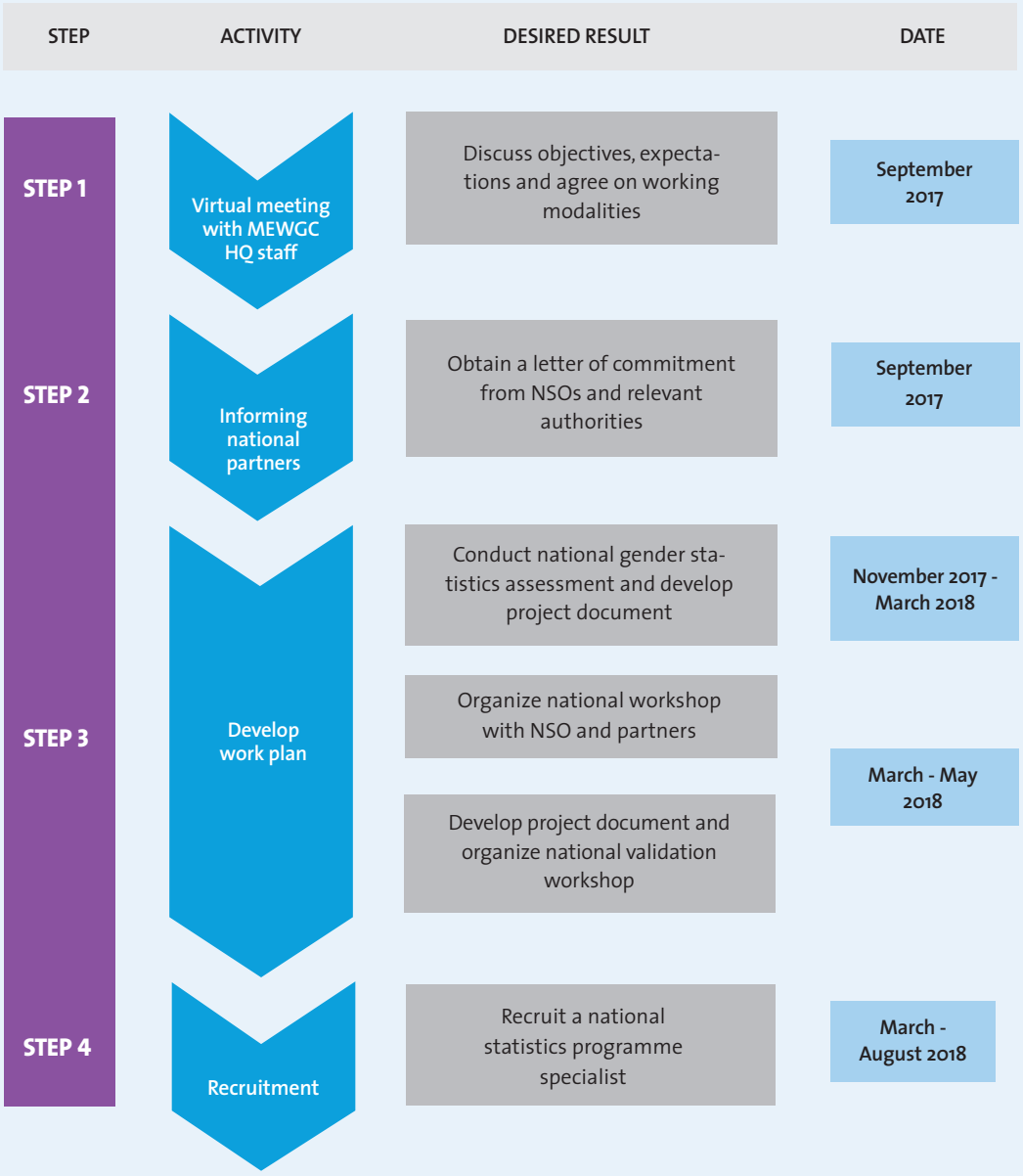
- ✓ Recruitment of a qualified consultant(s) to lead the work;
- ✓ Comprehensive desk review of relevant materials including statistics laws and policy documents (e.g. existing national development plans and NSDS) as well as a detailed evaluation of institutional mechanisms and their capacity – both human and financial – to produce and use gender statistics;
- ✓ An inventory of available data sources and assessment of the areas where there are critical gender data gaps;
- ✓ Key informant interviews with producers and users of gender statistics to assess challenges and determine opportunities at country level; and
- ✓ Consultation with all relevant partners to test and validate the programmatic approach.

In each country, the final output, of this activity, will be a report that identifies the key gaps and challenges in producing and using gender statistics as well as the proposed strategy and entry points for the MEWGC projects (expected in early 2018). The final assessment report will inform the development of the country project documents.[3] Figure 3 presents an overview of the steps taken to set up the country projects.

2 http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/9/speech-by-ed-phumzile-mlambo-ngcuka-at-hlp-roundtable-ga-72.

3 See the following link for an example of the terms of reference and deliverables for the assessments and project documents in Nepal and Bangladesh https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=75584

Figure 3:
Timeline of activities for setting up country projects



2.1.4 Regional programmes developed

At the regional level, UN Women's regional offices for Asia and the Pacific (APRO), Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) and East and Southern Africa (ESARO) have taken initial steps to implement regional projects.[4] During the reporting period, the assessment and project documents for ECARO[5] was finalized. In APRO, a draft assessment and project document were produced and are expected to be finalized in early 2018, once the regional statistical specialist is recruited. In Africa, a regional assessment was conducted and a draft project document covering both regional offices was produced. The results were presented and validated during a joint workshop on gender statistics held in Dakar, Senegal, by UN Women, in partnership with the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (see section 2.3.2). In each region, MEWGC projects are being developed in collaboration with the respective UN Regional Commissions.

In Eastern and Central Asia, programme priorities include:

- Providing country level technical and financial support for Albania, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan;
- Facilitating South-South cooperation to support regional and national processes, including through the establishment of a roster of thematic consultants and experts on gender statistics;
- Building regional partnerships through UN Women ECARO participation in the Regional - United Nations Development Group (R-UNDG) and Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCM), including Gender Theme Groups at national level, to identify opportunities to implement and align the activities in this project with the work of other agencies;
- Collecting and sharing best practices, tools and resources for localizing gender-related SDGs targets and indicators and codifying lessons learned in monitoring the SDGs, drawing on country experiences;
- Participating in the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Group on Gender Statistics and support the annual Work Sessions on Gender Statistics, including the participation of representatives from the data user community (e.g. national women's machinery, the media, parliamentarians, civil society organizations and academia);
- Establishing clearer links and alignment in the work being done on gender statistics and SDGs between the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics, the Issues Based Coalition on Gender Equality and SDG coordination mechanisms.

4 As highlighted in the 2016 Annual Report, due to funding constraints, the MEWGC programme will initially be implemented in these three regions. As funds become available, other regional offices in Latin America and the Caribbean (LACRO), Middle East and North Africa (MENARO) and West and Central Africa (WCARO) will implement regional projects.

5 http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/02/assessment-of-opportunities-for-un-women-to-support-the-development-of-gender-statistics-in-eca

In Asia and the Pacific, programme priorities include:

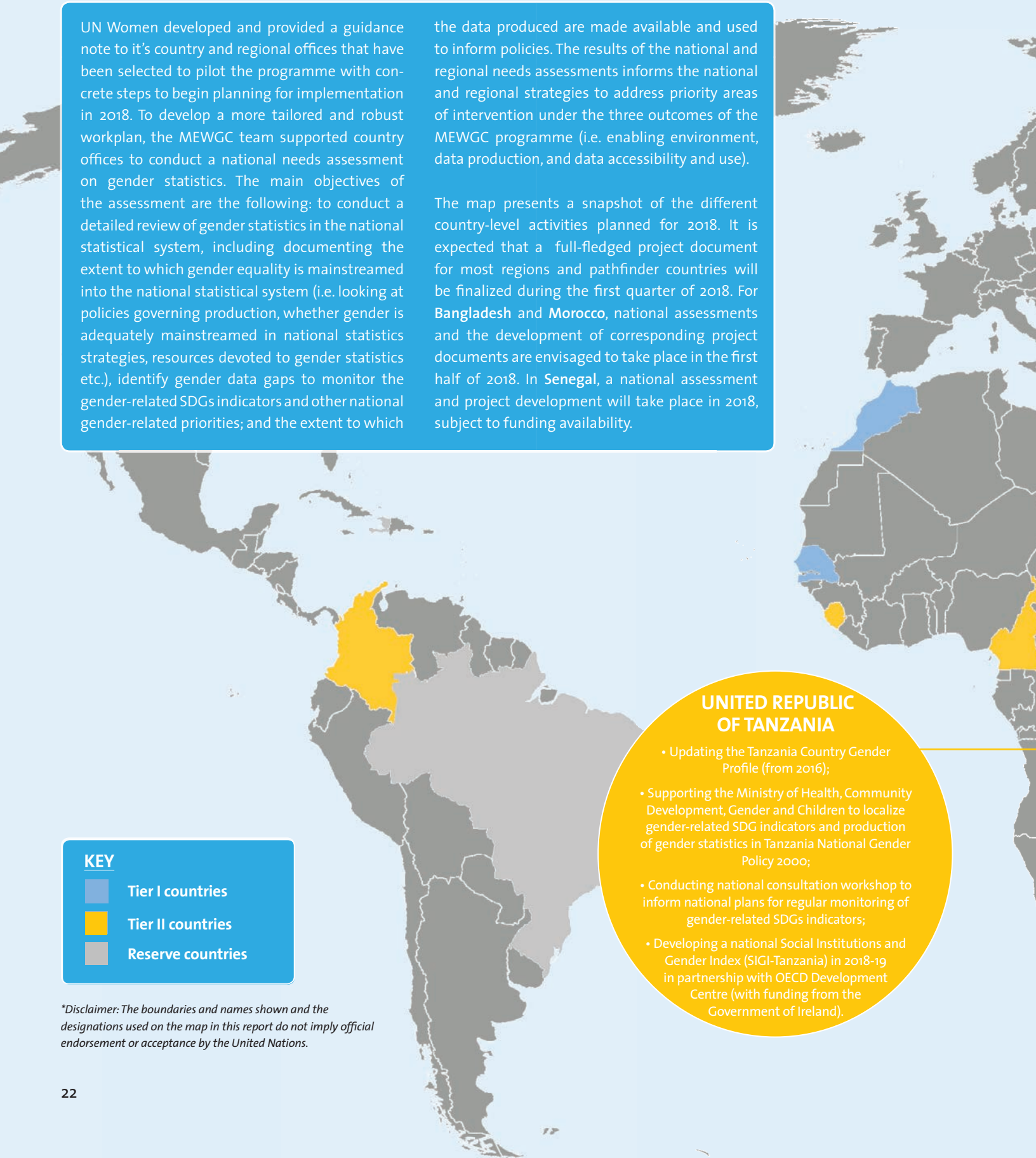
- Working with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to support Pacific Island countries to improve gender statistics;
- Providing technical and financial support to pathfinder countries (i.e. Bangladesh and Nepal) and non-pathfinder countries (e.g. Afghanistan);
- Working with the "Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific" to identify priorities for developing, coordinating and implementing gender-relevant statistical training among training providers in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Conducting a bi-annual regional expert meeting/retreat to disseminate global methodologies and produce regional guidance notes on gender-responsive data collection methodologies; to mainstream gender and diversity in existing surveys conducted regularly (census, household surveys etc.), and assess the value added of special surveys (e.g. how often they should be conducted?);
- Establishing and supporting a regional forum for the Asia-Pacific to share good practices, ensuring regular review, analysis and dissemination of good practices in gender statistics as well as gender responsive monitoring of the SDGs, and reporting to the ESCAP Committee on Statistics for further guidance.

In Africa, the regional programme, initially implemented in 2018 by ESARO, will provide technical assistance and support to three pathfinder countries (Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) and non-pathfinder countries including self-starters (e.g. Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Rwanda). The regional office will also lead in facilitating an assessment of the quality of administrative data sources and the value of project and programme data that exist in the region to support the production of gender statistics. The aim of this work is to assess the quality of such data and establish minimum requirements for project and programme data collection drawing on existing best practices at global level. With additional funding, from 2019 onwards, activities will focus on training and capacity building with a primary focus on time use and violence against women, improving administrative data sources, organizing user-producer dialogues and exploring the use of alternative data sources, including citizen-generated data and programme data to complement existing sources.

PATHFINDER COUNTRY PLANS FOR 2018

UN Women developed and provided a guidance note to it's country and regional offices that have been selected to pilot the programme with concrete steps to begin planning for implementation in 2018. To develop a more tailored and robust workplan, the MEWGC team supported country offices to conduct a national needs assessment on gender statistics. The main objectives of the assessment are the following: to conduct a detailed review of gender statistics in the national statistical system, including documenting the extent to which gender equality is mainstreamed into the national statistical system (i.e. looking at policies governing production, whether gender is adequately mainstreamed in national statistics strategies, resources devoted to gender statistics etc.), identify gender data gaps to monitor the gender-related SDGs indicators and other national gender-related priorities; and the extent to which the data produced are made available and used to inform policies. The results of the national and regional needs assessments informs the national and regional strategies to address priority areas of intervention under the three outcomes of the MEWGC programme (i.e. enabling environment, data production, and data accessibility and use).

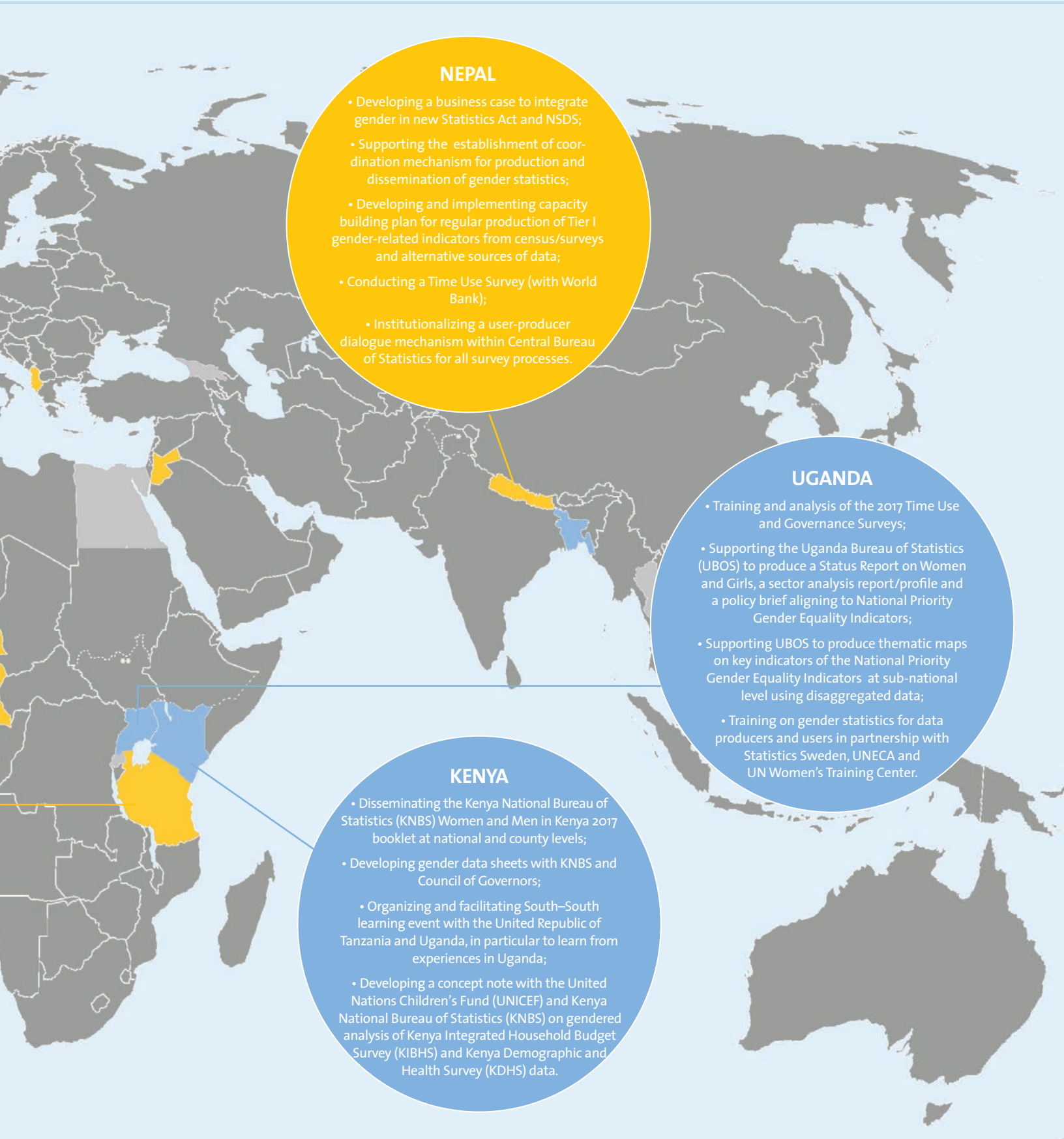
The map presents a snapshot of the different country-level activities planned for 2018. It is expected that a full-fledged project document for most regions and pathfinder countries will be finalized during the first quarter of 2018. For **Bangladesh** and **Morocco**, national assessments and the development of corresponding project documents are envisaged to take place in the first half of 2018. In **Senegal**, a national assessment and project development will take place in 2018, subject to funding availability.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- Updating the Tanzania Country Gender Profile (from 2016);
- Supporting the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender and Children to localize gender-related SDG indicators and production of gender statistics in Tanzania National Gender Policy 2000;
- Conducting national consultation workshop to inform national plans for regular monitoring of gender-related SDGs indicators;
- Developing a national Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI-Tanzania) in 2018-19 in partnership with OECD Development Centre (with funding from the Government of Ireland).

**Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map in this report do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*



NEPAL

- Developing a business case to integrate gender in new Statistics Act and NSDS;
- Supporting the establishment of coordination mechanism for production and dissemination of gender statistics;
- Developing and implementing capacity building plan for regular production of Tier I gender-related indicators from census/surveys and alternative sources of data;
- Conducting a Time Use Survey (with World Bank);
- Institutionalizing a user-producer dialogue mechanism within Central Bureau of Statistics for all survey processes.

UGANDA

- Training and analysis of the 2017 Time Use and Governance Surveys;
- Supporting the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) to produce a Status Report on Women and Girls, a sector analysis report/profile and a policy brief aligning to National Priority Gender Equality Indicators;
- Supporting UBOS to produce thematic maps on key indicators of the National Priority Gender Equality Indicators at sub-national level using disaggregated data;
- Training on gender statistics for data producers and users in partnership with Statistics Sweden, UNECA and UN Women's Training Center.

KENYA

- Disseminating the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Women and Men in Kenya 2017 booklet at national and county levels;
- Developing gender data sheets with KNBS and Council of Governors;
- Organizing and facilitating South–South learning event with the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, in particular to learn from experiences in Uganda;
- Developing a concept note with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) on gendered analysis of Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIBHS) and Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) data.

2.1.5 Workplan developed with PARIS21 to mainstream gender in national strategies for producing statistics

During the reporting period, UN Women and PARIS21 developed plans to work together on a number of activities to help support countries to mainstream gender into their National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Activities will include the following (expected to be implemented between Q2 2018 and Q4 2020):

1. Develop an assessment framework and its guidelines to identify gaps in gender statistics (including SDG gender indicators) using PARIS21 tools such as the Statistical Evaluation and Progress Tool (STEP) and the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT);

2. Organize and convene a Task Team to provide guidance/input in the development of an assessment framework to identify gaps in gender statistics, and gender module in the NSDS Guidelines;

3. Conduct gender statistics assessment to identify data gaps employing PARIS21 tools and through national consultation meetings;

4. Formulate a National Strategy for the Development of Gender Statistics (NSDGS) that is integrated into NSDS;

5. Organize a Cross-Regional Forum to present the findings/results of gender statistics assessments and discuss the development of NSDS, and conduct a regional training to main-stream gender perspectives in the NSDS;

6. Publish a synthesis report of the findings of the gender statistics assessments conducted in countries, highlighting best practices and lessons learned;

7. Develop a gender statistics module in the NSDS Guidelines.

As part of the development of the project, UN Women was invited to participate in PARIS21's 2017 Board meeting on 5-6 April. At that meeting, the project was presented and approved by the Board for inclusion in PARIS21's programme of work for 2018. As a result, UN Women was invited to formally join the Board of PARIS21.

Table 2:
Timeline of activities with PARIS21

Activity	2018				2019				2020			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												

2.2 OUTCOME 2: INCREASING DATA PRODUCTION

Outcome 2 aims to increase the production of quality, and comparable gender statistics to address gender data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the SDGs, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action.

Activities during the reporting period focused on finalizing methodological research for the gender-related Tier III SDGs indicators for which UN Women was identified as either a custodian or co-custodian by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), data compilation to monitor Tier II indicators, supporting the establishment of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-Disaggregated Data and collaboration with the World Bank on new data analysis looking at the gender dimensions of extreme poverty.

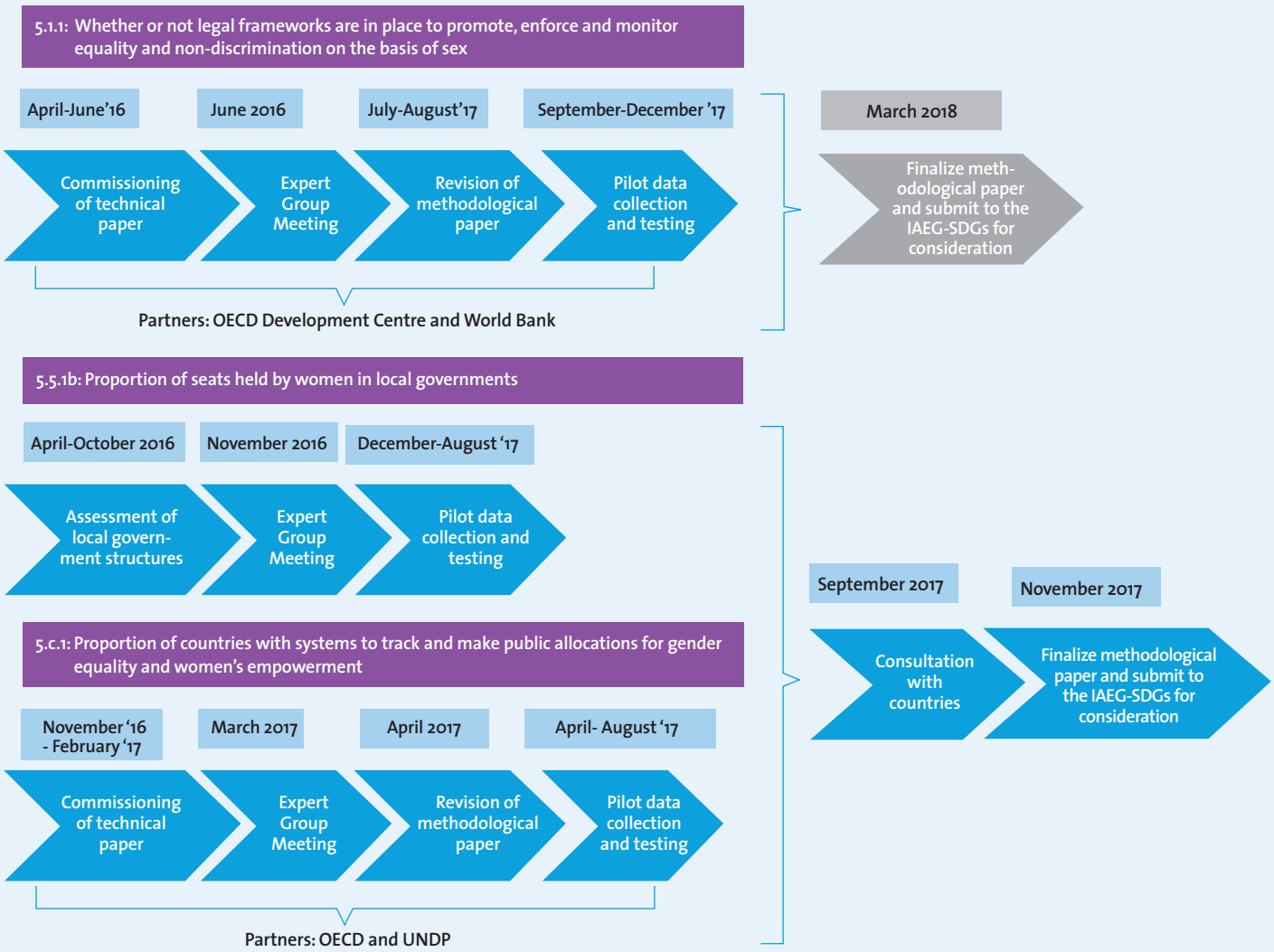
2.2.1 Strengthening the capacity of countries to produce Tier III SDGs indicators

Building on the activities last year, UN Women finalized the methodological work for indicators 5.5.1b[6] and 5.c.1 (in collaboration with UNDP and OECD). The development of both indicators was finalized in October 2017 and submitted to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) for approval. At its sixth meeting in Manama, Bahrain, the IAEG-SDGs reviewed the methodologies and metadata for both indicators and approved their reclassification from Tier III to Tier II, meaning that data collection and official monitoring of both indicators can start in 2018. An update was also provided to the IAEG-SDGs regarding indicator 5.1.1 which is currently undergoing pilot testing, following the completion of the methodological work in September 2017 (see figure 4).[7]

6 The methodological work for indicator 5.5.1b is funded through a different project but with technical support provided by the MEWGC team.

7 The methodology and pilot testing results of indicator 5.1.1 was presented to the IAEG-SDGs during its 7th meeting in April 2018 in Vienna and was subsequently approved for reclassification. Data collection will also start in 2018. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-06/5.UN-Women.5.1.1.pdf

Figure 4:
Methodological development and testing for Tier III indicators- Updated



2.2.2 Continued data compilation for SDG monitoring

Global monitoring of SDG indicator 5.4.1

The measurement of women's unpaid work, especially their care work, is a vital input for developing strategies towards gender equality and women's empowerment. Target 5.4 of the SDGs calls for Member States to "recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate".

To support global monitoring of indicator 5.4.1, UN Women hired a consultant to conduct an assessment of the availability and comparability of time-use statistics around the world.[8] In collating the database, a mapping of time-use surveys around the world spanning 2001–2016 was done and data disaggregated by various characteristics, including for example the 'presence of children', was compiled. In addition, the paper highlights the challenges posed by methodological difference in time-use data collection and how they impact data comparability and global reporting.

The findings of the report were presented during the 15th International Expert Meeting on Time Use and Unpaid Work, held in June 2017 in Mexico.[9] Data compiled from this exercise was used to inform the UN Secretary-General's Progress Report (2017) and The Sustainable Development Report (2017).

8 This activity was started in 2016.
9 For an advanced copy of the report please contact UN Women.

Analysing the interlinkages between SDG 1 and SDG 5

The 2030 Agenda identified ending poverty in all its forms everywhere as the greatest global challenge: poverty curtails people's right to live a life of dignity and puts severe constraints on their ability to make meaningful choices. Women's weaker attachment to labour markets, their lower earnings and weaker access to social protection programmes, such as pensions, compared to men, can lead to gender differences in poverty. The inequitable distribution of resources such as assets within households by gender also contribute to women's lower earning capacity, which can make them financially dependent, increasing their vulnerability to poverty. Until now there have been no credible global estimates of the number of people living in extreme poverty by sex.

In 2017, UN Women partnered with the World Bank to conduct a detailed analysis on the interlinkages between SDG 1 (poverty) and SDG 5 (gender equality). Using the World Bank's Global Micro Database (GMD), the analysis for almost 90 countries looks at individual poverty rates by sex, age groups, and additional characteristics such as marital status and education attainment and by different household compositions based on the presence of earners and dependents as well as the gender profiles of the poor.

The analysis shows that, at the global level, there a total of 330 million poor women and girls compared to 325 million poor men and boys, and when adjusted for the fact that men outnumber women in the population, the results indicate that globally there are four per cent more women than men living in extreme poverty. When disaggregated by age and sex, poverty rates are higher for children across the board and decline relatively rapidly until age 24. After age 24, which generally corresponds

with women's and men's reproductive ages and household formation, poverty rates for women are significantly higher than for men. Globally, there are 122 women aged 25-34 for every 100 men of the same age group living in extreme poor households, and the figure rises to 132 women for every 100 men in Latin America and the Caribbean. The analysis strongly suggests that for women the struggle to combine paid work and caring for children or other dependents, can contribute to extreme poverty.

The results of this analysis were presented before the Second Committee during the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in October 2017 and informs UN Women's global monitoring report on gender and the SDGs (see box 1). A policy brief and research paper showcasing the findings are scheduled to be published in March 2018, coinciding with International Women's Day.

Establishment of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data

In addition to the technical work, MEWGC continued to advocate for better data, with UN Women playing a strong role in the establishment of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data. The establishment of this group, under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission and under the leadership of the United Kingdom's Office of National Statistics (ONS), will contribute to the development of methodologies for standardizing age and gender-related data as well as to fill critical data gaps on the status of older women (see box 3).

Box 3:

Advocating for age-disaggregated data: establishment of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data

As the proportion of the world's population in the older ages continues to increase, the need for improved information and analysis of population ageing also increases. More gran-ular knowledge is essential to assist policy makers to define, formulate and evaluate goals and programmes, and to raise public awareness and support for necessary policy changes addressing the specific needs of overlooked population groups and vulnerable sub-groups. This is particularly important in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global pledge made by the international community to 'leave no one behind'.

There is an urgent need to bolster the collection, analysis and use of good quality data on age and ageing to effectively evidence the equitable delivery of the SDGs.

In this regard, under the leadership of the U.K. Office of National Statistics, UN Women has worked with a number of partners, including DFID, HelpAge International and other UN Agencies including UNDESA, UNDP, UNFPA and WHO to help establish **the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data**. The overall objective of the Titchfield City Group (TCG) is to develop standardized tools and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related data, and to encourage countries to do so, by playing a leading role in the devel-opment and communication of new standards and methodologies. The TCG will also address existing issues and deficits in data on ageing. The TCG will initially operate for a five-year period, from 2018 to 2023. A formal proposal was submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission to establish the City Group, which will be considered during the next session of the UNSC in 2018.

2.3 OUTCOME 3:
IMPROVING DATA AVAILABILITY AND USE

The objective of Outcome 3 is to make gender statistics increasingly accessible and to promote their use by governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to inform research, advocacy, policies and programmes and to promote accountability. Activities in 2017 include initiating the development of UN Women's Gender Data Portal and organizing events to promote better dialogue between gender data users and producers.

2.3.1 Developing UN Women's Gender Data Portal

As part of UN Women's role as the lead monitoring agency for a number of gender-related SDGs targets and indicators, one key area of implementation is the development of an online portal for international data and metadata compilation and dissemination.

Box 4:

Key findings and recommendations from the scoping study

Concern: "Not another gender data portal!"

The scoping study revealed a general concern regarding a potential overlap of a UN Women portal with existing and planned gender and SDG data portals, including initiatives led by the World Bank, Equal Measures 2030, the United Nations Statistics Division etc. To address the high risk of duplication, it was recommended for UN Women to closely coordinate with other key actors during the development of the Gender Data Portal, including its design.

The gap: Current portals do not provide gender data "in context"

Despite initial concern about the possible proliferation of gender data portals, the scoping study noted a significant gap regarding the provision of gender and SDG data in context and a possible strong role that UN Women can play. In this regard, case studies related to gender, statistics, and the SDGs were recommended as well as easy to use search functions that can provide accurate data as well as contextual information.

UN Women's added value: *A highly visual, user-friendly portal that provides gender relevant data alongside critical analysis and context, with a focus on country-level profiles.*

Key informants considered UN Women well suited to fill unmet needs in the gender data and information landscape. Many noted that analytical pieces produced by UN Women demonstrate clear expertise in "putting data into context," and providing useful and relevant analysis. Many also observed a strong alignment between the objectives of MEWGC, and unmet needs around country level data and contextual information. UN Women's mandate to track SDG5 indicators offers the organization an opportunity to build deeper data expertise, in addition to its continued policy analysis, advocacy, communications, and convening power.

Based on these recommendations, UN Women has taken steps to identify and contract a vendor to develop the portal in early 2018.

The overarching goal of the portal is to improve access to and use of gender data to inform policy and advocacy, specifically on the gender indicators of the SDGs. In order to accomplish this goal, it has a three-fold objective:

- Provide a one-stop-shop for monitoring all the gender-related indicators of the 2030 Agenda.
- Serve as a dymamic advocacy outlet and data visualization tool, particularly for UN Women's flagship reports, including the gender and SDGs monitoring report and *Progress of the World's Women*.
- Serve as a critical communications tool for the MEWGC Programme, with a dashboard to showcase progress at the global, regional and national levels, and highlight the implementation of the programme in the pathfinder countries.

To inform the development of the portal, UN Women contracted Development Gateway to conduct a scoping study looking at the strengths and limitations of different models and to assess how a data portal can best meet the needs of specific audiences. Following desk research and key informant interviews with over 40 gender data users a number of recommendations were made on how UN Women could build a distinct product that can meet its objectives (see box 4).

2.3.2 User-producer dialogues organized to increase the demand for better gender data

During the reporting period, UN Women staff actively led in the organization of and participated in user-producer dialogues at the global, regional and national levels.

Putting a spotlight on gender data at the first UN World Data Forum

To mark the first ever UN World Data Forum –held in Cape Town, South Africa on 15-18 January 2017 – UN Women together with Data2X co-hosted a panel discussion on *Gender Data for Decision-Making: Strengthening the links*. With a diverse group of speakers and participants including national statisticians, government officials, academics and civil society, there was a lively dialogue on what

Panelists stressed the importance of strengthening the linkages between gender data users and producers at the UN World Data Forum.

is needed to strengthen the links between producers and users of gender data for more effective data production and use. Some of the key takeaways from the discussions included the following:

(i) The diversity of the panel put into sharp relief the fact that the **different communities that work in fields of data production and use sometimes speak a different language**, making effective communication difficult. Efforts are needed to break the siloes and find a common purpose;

(ii) **The challenge to implement and monitor the SDGs is significant and therefore calls for a different paradigm** that can accommodate different views, sources and methods. Qualitative methods and information, as well as alternative data sources including non-official data, provided they are of sufficient quality, have to be given a similar level of importance, calling for the involvement of a diverse set of stakeholders; and

(iii) The ultimate purpose of improving data production for SDGs must is to improve the information base so that the right policy and programmatic decisions are made, lives are improved and sustainable development is achieved. Therefore, **high impact advocacy by high profile champions, coupled with significant investments to improve data use, need to take centre stage in any efforts to improve gender data.**

Making Every Woman and Girl Count in Africa

UN Women, in partnership with AfDB and UNECA organized a regional workshop on gender statistics from 29-30 November at the Open Society Initiative for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal. The objectives of the workshop were to review Africa's policy commitments to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment and to to discuss how the new regional initiatives to monitor the 2030 and 2063 agendas from a gender perspective, including MEWGC, fit together. The workshop brought together over 80 experts in statistics and policy analysis across Africa. It provided an opportunity for UN Women to discuss the results of the recent regional assessment of gender statistics in Africa and to present and discuss the draft of the MEWGC Africa regional programme.

Policy experts and statisticians from across Africa gather for the first regional workshop on gender statistics to discuss priorities for monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective and the MEWGC Africa regional programme.

Key takeaways from the workshops included: (i) **Leadership:** Success at the regional level will require bringing leaders together, including chief statisticians and policy-makers about raising the importance of gender statistics; (ii) **Resources:** As resource constraints are a crippling factor at regional and national levels, it was recommended that UN Women should work with regional partners to mobilize resources to support countries; (iii) **A regional platform to improve the sharing of information and technical resources is urgently needed.** Such platform

could also contribute to improving regional coordination; (iv) **Regional coordination and partnerships:** regional coordination mechanisms, including the Africa Group on Gender Statistics (AGGES) should be revived and partnerships strengthened, particularly between international agencies, in order to reduce the reporting burden of countries. At the national level, partnerships between NSOs and line ministries can significantly improve data flows and data quality.

The results of the workshop, among other objectives, have informed the revision of the MEWGC-Africa programme.

As a follow-up to this meeting, UN Women, AfDB and UNECA will convene a technical work planning meeting in early 2018 to agree on activities and the modalities of collaboration between agencies in order to better support the implementation of MEWGC-Africa and improve gender statistics at the regional level more generally.

2.4 OUTCOME 4: LEARNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The aim of Outcome 4 is to support learning through monitoring and evaluation about the most-cost-effective ways to increase capacity in gender statistics. The programme's Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation (LME) framework is guided by three overarching objectives:

(i) **Measuring the effectiveness of MEWGC's results chain:** this approach helps to measure the extent to which the programme is achieving concrete results that lead to improved production, availability and use of gender statistics.

(ii) **Learning through diversity of experiences**: this approach allows learning from the diversity of regional and national experiences and contexts, and aims for greater coordination among actors and reduced fragmentation.

(iii) **Monitoring sustainability**: this approach aims to monitor the extent to which global, regional and national demand for gender statistics is increased and resources are allocated toward producing and using gender statistics.

In order to achieve these objectives, the programme has allocated a budget of three per cent of the total cost towards LME activities, which include: a mid-term assessment to review the programme's achievements; progress towards the stated results; and lessons learned. A final external and independent evaluation will take place at the end of the project in 2021. The final evaluation will be conducted by a third party and will be managed by UN Women, with guidance from the Steering Committee, UN Women's Evaluation Office and implementation partners. Periodic semi-annual data collection to monitor the programme will also be conducted.

2.4.1 Revising the Results Framework

In 2016 and 2017, UN Women held various consultations whose main objectives were to make any necessary adjustments, validate the programmatic approach and select implementing partners. Following those consultations, key

changes to the programme were introduced in 2017, including a revision of the MEWGC Results Framework (RF).

The main criticism of the previous iteration of the RF was that while outputs and activities were clear and relevant at the country level, the structure did not address the global and regional components of the programme, which would make monitoring results and clear accountability challenging. The revised RF is meant to address this weakness. While Outcomes which are common across global, regional and country projects, have generally stayed the same, several outputs have been revised so that they are more tailored to the different projects.

In addition, the following adjustments have been made:

- Some outputs deemed too ambitious were rephrased, resulting in a clearer causal relationship between outputs and outcomes. For example, in the old RF, output 2.1 under Outcome 2 aimed to increase the use of standardized methodological tools to produce gender-related Tier I and Tier II indicators. Under the new RF, "increased used of standardized tools" is reflected at the outcome level, while the development of those tools is included at output level.
- Language was harmonized across outputs and outcomes, meaning using "change" oriented language for outputs and outcomes which describes changes in the conditions of systems and "action" oriented language which is best suited for activities (e.g., organize, participate, develop).
- Indicators have been broken down to make reporting clearer. For example, the training to users and producers on data collection, dissemination and use will now be measured separately.
- Another key change was also the addition of a new Outcome on "Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation."

In 2018, plans will include developing a fully fledged Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation framework, including methodological notes or metadata for each indicator, baselines, targets, means of verification and data sources, computation methods, and frequency of data collection.

Members of the Making Every Woman and Girl Count Steering Committee gather for its 3rd meeting in Paris, France to review progress and plans for 2018.

2.4.2 Biannual meetings of the Steering Committee and Executive Donor Committee held

The governance mechanism of MEWGC is composed of an Executive Donor Committee and a Steering Committee. As the executive mechanism, the Donor Committee reviews and approves changes in the budget, approves all major changes to the programme, reviews and approves budgets and helps to promote the programme more broadly to encourage new partners to come on board. The broader Steering Committee, which in addition to donors includes UN Agencies (e.g. UNSD, UNICEF, WHO, etc), PARIS21, the World Bank and Data2X helps to periodically review progress, guides implementation of the programme and ensures coordination with all relevant actors.

The Donor Committee and Steering Committee convened two meetings in 2017, one in March on the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York and one in October held on the margins of the OECD-DAC meeting in Paris, France. During the meetings, the programme's current level of funding (see section 3) and strategies for filling the funding gap were discussed, and key activities for 2017 as well as plans for 2018 were presented. The Steering Committee meeting also provided an opportunity to review in detail the new results framework, which will be revised following comments by the group. Pathfinder countries, including Kenya, Morocco and Uganda were also invited to present their plans.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA

UN Women/Martin Jaramillo

OBJECTIVES

UN Women and WHO have developed a global joint programme on violence against women data (VAW data JP). The Joint Programme "Strengthening Methodologies and Measurement and Building National Capacities for Violence against Women Data" brings together the distinct and complementary experience and expertise of UN Women and WHO and will be implemented in close collaboration and coordination with UNFPA, UNSD and UNICEF, which will be technical partners.

The VAW data JP will be implemented during a period of four years and the goal is to ensure that quality, comparable data on different forms of violence against women are available and collected over time to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the SDGs, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action (in line with Outcome 2 of MEWGC). Close coordination between this joint programme and the broader MEWGC will be maintained to ensure strong linkages.

To support the achievement of this goal, there are three expected outcomes:

1. Measurement and methodologies for VAW data collection and use are strengthened and disseminated, including for national, regional and global monitoring and reporting requirements for SDG target 5.2 indicators;

2. Capacity of national institutions to collect violence against women data in line with globally agreed standards is increased;

3. National data on VAW are collected, made accessible and used for advocacy, policy and programming to end violence against women and girls.

Areas of work

The expected outputs are as follows:

1. Selected methods and standards for data collection and analysis are reviewed or developed, including for measurement of psychological violence, elder abuse and disability status, and disseminated to ensure improved coherence and harmonization to produce prevalence data on VAW, including for the SDGs global monitoring indicators; *[outcome 1]*

2. National, regional and global VAW prevalence data are presented in a consistent way by different agencies and are used for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators; *[outcome 1]*

3. A long-term training programme for implementing VAW prevalence surveys in alignment with agreed global standards is developed and implemented initially in at least one institution in three different regions (total of three institutions); *[outcome 2]*

4. A network of experts from different disciplines and regions is established to support the implementation of VAW prevalence surveys; *[outcome 2]*

5. Increased advocacy and awareness-raising at global, regional and country level among governments, non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, academia and other relevant stakeholders, of the relevance of VAW data and the available methods and standards; *[outcome 3]*

6. National VAW data are collected, disseminated and used for advocacy, policy and programming to end violence against women and girls. *[outcome 3]*

Methodological work is currently underway under the leadership of WHO. In terms of global monitoring of EVAW-related SDGs, a data set of comparable data for 87 countries on indicator 5.2.1 under SDG target 5.2 on "eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation," was agreed and jointly submitted to UNSD for the 2017 Secretary-General's report "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals" by all custodian agencies, which include the partners of this joint programme. The dataset refers to the prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months.

Budget

The total budget for the VAW data JP is about US $8.1 million over 5 years (2018 – 2022). Starting in 2018, the VAW data JP will benefit from significant DFID funding (about US$5.5 million) to begin implementing activities.

GLOBAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON GENDER STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) with headquarters in Mexico, is an innovative, first of its kind initiative, that contributes to the strategic efforts of UN Women and INEGI to strengthen the production, availability, analysis and use of internationally comparable data and statistics in key and emerging aspects of gender equality and women empowerment. The CEGS aims to strengthen gender statistics through collaboration, knowledge sharing, research and innovation.

In particular, the CEGS will:

- **Promote global collaboration on gender statistics** by serving as a marketplace to match the supply and demand for cooperation for the development, strengthening, harmonization, comparability and dissemination of gender statistics, particularly in emerging areas/techniques for gender statistics but also in some more traditional areas where measurement and data quality challenges persist.

- **Lead methodological innovations, knowledge and best practices** at the global level to give timely solutions to some of the emerging needs of national statistical systems. Work will initially focus on the measurement of unpaid care and domestic work and extreme forms of violence against women.

- By **developing training materials and tools** in its areas of work (e.g. geospatial, application of big data analytical techniques to gender equality, unpaid care and domestic work and violence against women initially), contribute to the training component of MEWGC.

Areas of work

For the first three years, the CEGS will work in the following areas:

- **Development of tools for the measurement of unpaid care and domestic work and extreme forms of violence against women**, including:
  - Experimental surveys to develop correspondence tables for the main time use classification method such as International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS), Harmonised European Time Use Survey (HETUS) and Classification of Time Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL).
  - Satellite accounts for the valuation of unpaid care and domestic work.
- **Measurement of femicide** – the killing of a woman or girl, in particular by a man and on account of her gender – which would

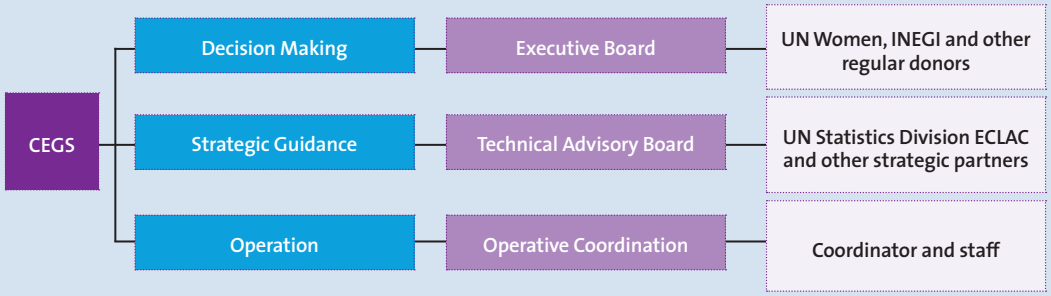
complement the current EU-UN Spotlight Initiative[10] for which Mexico is one of the countries chosen for implementation.

- Use of **geospatial data** for gender analysis.
- Use of **information technology** for gender data collection, research and analysis.
- **Establishment of a global marketplace** to improve collaboration in key areas of gender statistics and promote cooperation amongst NSOs with different levels of technical and institutional capacity.

During the planning phase in 2017, UN Women and the Government of Mexico reached an agreement to establish the Centre. In 2018, recruitment of staff will start and its governance mechanism will be established. The CEGS will have a flexible governance structure under three coordinating bodies (see figure 5):

- **Executive Board:** is the decision-making body that leads the CEGS. It consists of representatives of UN Women, INEGI and other donors. It meets at least once a year and among other tasks determines the strategic orientation of the CEGS, reviews progress and approves the work programme, budget and projects.
- **Technical Advisory Group:** consists of experts in gender statistics of international, regional or national institutions, as well as from other institutions at the forefront of generation, analysis and use of gender statistics. This body advises, provides feedback and occasionally contributes to CEGS Work Program. It meets physically at least once a year and virtually as needed.
- **Operation:** UN Women staff responsible for the day to day operation of the CEGS as well as implementation of the work programme.

Figure 5:
CEGS Governance mechanism



Budget

The CEGS requires a minimum regular funding of US$2.4 million over three years to operate and implement its work program. The Government of Mexico, through INEGI, has committed a seed contribution of US$1.3 million (US$1 million in cash and US$300,000 in-kind) for the first three years of operation (February 2018-February 2021). Therefore, the CEGS needs to mobilize at least and additional US$1.1 million or about US$375,000 per year to be fully operational.

10 http://www.un.org/en/spotlight-initiative/index.shtml

3. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, AND ADVOCACY

3.1 LEVEL OF FUNDING

The MEWGC programme has experienced continuous growth over the past year with many new donors, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation ($10 million), USAID ($2.5 million) and the Government of Mexico ($1.3 million) making significant commitments in 2017 and existing ones such as IrishAid increasing their contributions ($300,000). As a result, in 2017, new contributions totaling $14.1 million were committed by donors, bringing the total contributions to $19.3 million as of 31 December 2017. Furthermore, DFID has recently announced that it will contribute £6 million (about US $8.3 million) over four years to the MEWGC programme, with 65 per cent allocated to the VAW data JP. The agreement will be finalized in early 2018. Similarly, two other grants from the Alwaleed Philanthropies and the Chaudhary Foundation are currently being negotiated (see tables 3 and 4).

Nevertheless, with an overall cost of US$ 61 million, there is a funding gap of $33 million. These funding challenges have resulted in a less than optimal implementation strategy for the programme, with some Tier I pathfinder countries (e.g., Morocco and Senegal) lacking resources to begin implementation and other countries, including most Tier I countries needing to focus on resource mobilization to close funding gaps. Similar challenges exist at the regional level where limited resources are currently available for Africa, where there is greater need for resources.

At the global level, although there are fewer funding constraints, critical capacity building activities such as training have yet to be funded. And despite significant contributions from DFID[11] and Mexico, to the VAW data JP and CEGS, respectively, significant funding gaps persist for those two projects (see figure 6 for a project-by-project summary of funding gaps).

11 Expected to materialize in early 2018

Table 3:

Summary of contributions received, by donor per year (as of 31st December 2017)

Donors	Value contributions as per agreement	Contributions received in 2016	Contributions received in 2017	Total amount received (as of 31st December 2017)	Main area of work supported
Australia	5,005,000	2,120,755	1,566,584	3,687,340	Some focus on Asia-Pacific but generally flexible
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	10,000,728	-	3,000,000	3,000,000	Global Policy Support project (GPSP), Kenya, Tanzania and Nepal projects
Ireland	459,252	163,043	296,209	459,252	Eastern and Southern Africa regional project, and the Global Policy Support Project (GPSP)
Mexico	1,300,000	-	339,992	339,992	Center of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS)
United States	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	2,500,000	Global Policy Support Project (GPSP)
TOTAL	19,264,980	2,283,799	7,702,785	9,986,584	

*Amounts in USD

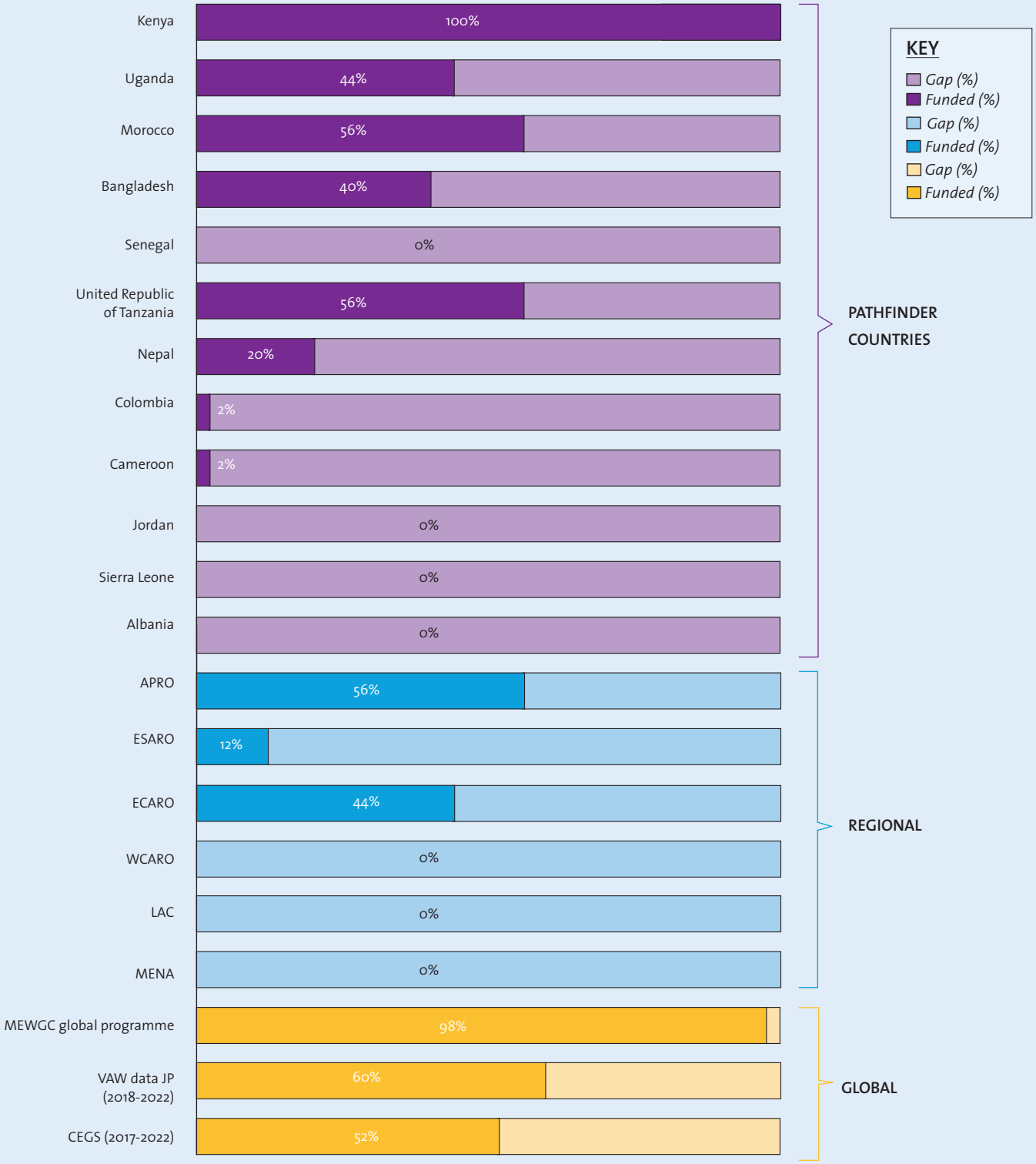
Table 4:

Grants under consideration and/or being negotiated (as of 31 December 2017)

Prospective donors	Value of contributions	Status of contribution	Main area of work supported
Alwaleed Philanthropies	5,000,000	Under consideration	Jordan project and Middle East and North Africa regional project.
Chaudhary Foundation	2,500,000	Under consideration	Nepal project.
United Kingdom	8,300,000	Being finalized	VAW data Joint programme and two or three pathfinder countries.
TOTAL	15,800,000		

*Amounts in USD

Figure 6:
Current level of funding per project



Note: The graph depicts the level of funding per country and regional programme based on an indicative budget of $2.5 million over a course of four years for each programme. The total budget for each country and regional programme may vary once national assessments are conducted and work plans are finalized. The level of funding for the global MEWGC programme is based on an indicative budget of $10 million over a course of five years.

3.2

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY

To address the programmes' funding gaps a well-defined resource mobilization and advocacy strategy was developed in 2017. The strategy aims to provide strategic guidance on how UN Women's country and regional offices can fundraise and advocate for MEWGC. The strategy serves as an information and knowledge-sharing tool that could also serve UN Women offices in non-pathfinder countries interested in implementing a similar programme.

The strategy resting on the following three pillars:

i) **A global engagement strategy** for existing and potential new partners in gender statistics, from both the public and private sector, to ensure sustainable investment in the lifecycle of the programme from current donors as well as to reach other stakeholders already investing in the broader area of gender equality and women's empowerment. This approach hinges on effective measurement and reporting of results, actively engaging with giving visibility to our existing donors and effectively communicating the benefit of having adequate gender data;

ii) **Actively exploring global and local funding opportunities and** supporting UN Women's regional and country offices implementing the MEWGC programme to identify funding opportunities. This approach focuses on technical support to UN Women's offices to develop clear and compelling project funding proposals to better harmonize resource mobilization efforts across global, regional and national levels; and

iii) **A robust advocacy and communications strategy** aimed at increasing visibility of the MEWGC programme and its partners.

Engaging new donors

UN Women continued to seek new opportunities for further collaboration and has engaged with several donors including the governments of Germany, Sweden, Canada, Republic of Korea and Alwaleed Philanthropies and the Chaudhary Foundation. Continued discussions with DFID at HQ level has resulted in a pledge to support the programme for a total amount of £6 million (US$ 8.3 million) to be finalized in 2018. At the national level, since 2016, UN Women Uganda, with support from the MEWGC HQ staff at global level, has been implementing a project based on the MEWGC approach, resulting in an overall contribution of £1,598,660 from DFID, including £898,660 (US$ 1,144,528) in 2017. UN Women also organized fundraising activities in Senegal, engaging in discussions with the Governments of Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the Republic of Korea to address shortfalls in funding for the country project in Senegal.

3.3
ADVOCATING FOR BETTER GENDER DATA

During the reporting period, UN Women developed advocacy materials such as infographics and promotional materials for MEWGC and organized and participated in events and roundtable discussions such as during the UN General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the High-Level Political Forum, Women Deliver and the UN World Data Forum (see table 5); produced branding and advocacy materials for MEWGC and strengthened digital communications through the development of a stand-alone website and greater social media engagement.

Advocacy products produced

To support gender data advocacy efforts, the MEWGC team has published several products in 2017:

Spotlight on Gender Data: This thematic spotlight, in the form of data cards, is part of a series showcasing where women and girls stand on select gender-related SDG targets. The featured topics depend on the theme of the annual High-Level Political Forum. In 2017, the first edition focused on nine targets of SDG 5. The spotlight cards and thematic data brief series were disseminated online and also in hard copy at a number of key events. USB flash drives branded with MEWGC logo were also produced as a promotional tool to store and more disseminate programme documents and related materials (see example of the card on page 44).

Thematic data briefs: UN Women also embarked on a new thematic data brief series featuring one on "Making the SDGs Count for Women and Girls with Disabilities." The brief argues that in order for the 2030 Agenda to live up to its commitment to leave no one behind, it is indispensable to make women and girls count disabilities count by closing data gaps and ensuring their full and equal participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of all efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Communications tools

MEWGC temporary website and webpage: UN Women developed a stand-alone website for the MEWGC programme, to be merged with the forthcoming gender data portal. This new website connects with and complements the standalone webpage on UN Women website featuring the MEWGC programme. Access the website at www.data.unwomen.org.

Social media campaign: #Counted, #Visible, #Valued: To support the announcement of the pathfinder countries during the 72nd UN General Assembly, UN Women developed gifs (or animated graphics) and infographic social media posts cross promoted on UN Women's corporate Twitter and Facebook pages. The MEWGC team developed social media content to generate awareness around the programme and increase visibility of its partners (see examples of social media posts on page 44).

As part of the programmes social media engagement strategy, UN Women issued over 16 tweets and facebook posts using the hashtag **#genderdata** to generate greater visibility of the MEWGC programme on the margins of key events. UN Women's tweets using the hashtag **#genderdata**, on average received over 100,000 views from Twitter

users. Furthermore, social media posts using the hashtag **#genderdata** when paired with an infographic and/or data received, on average, more views by Twitter users. To this end, a more tailored approach for developing informative and actionable social media content around gender data and the MEWGC programme will be taken to inform the programme's social media engagement strategy.

Raising the profile of MEWGC at Events

As part of its role in advocating for filling the gender data gap, UN Women has actively participated in and organized a number of events in the effort to raise the profile of gender statistics, give visibility to the MEWGC programme and its partners and facilitate user-producer dialogues. Table 5 summarises the events, meetings UN Women organized and or participated in during the reporting period.

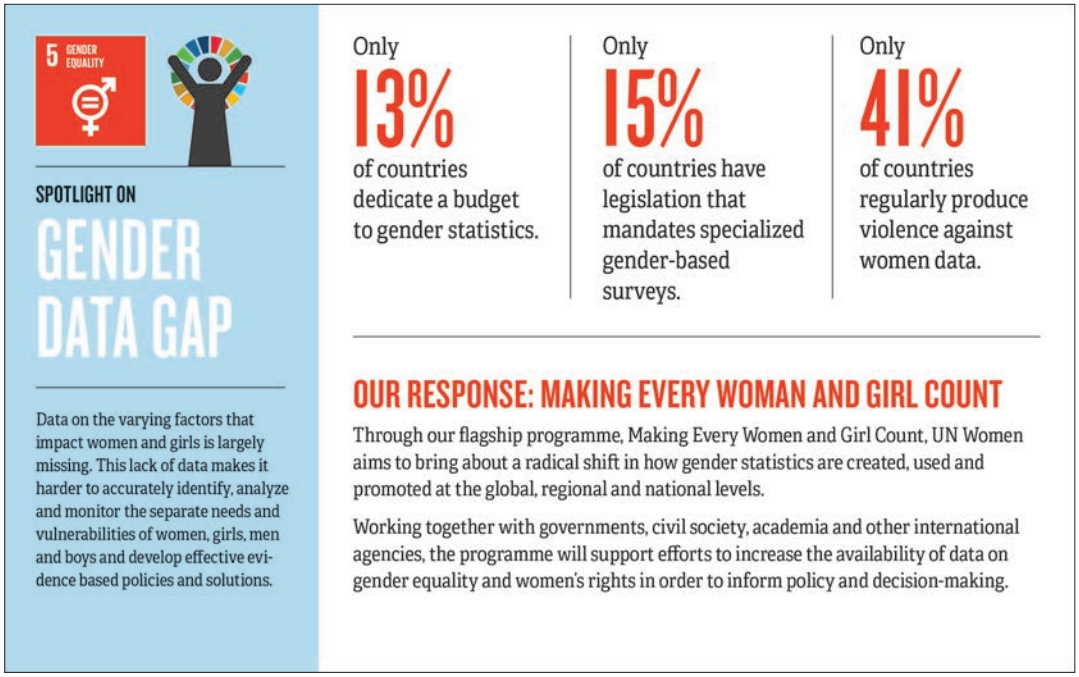


Table 5:
List of events organized and/or MEWGC team participated in 2017

Event	Name	Organizers	UN Women's Role	Location	Date
UN World Data Forum	"Gender Data for Decision-Making: Strengthening the links"	**UN Women**, Data2X	Lead organizer and panellist. Presented the MEWGC programme and its objectives	South Africa	January
47th Session of the Statistical Commission	Side event "Exploring the case for a City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data"	U.K. Office of National Statistics, the National Statistical Office of Malawi, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, with the support of the UN Focal Point on Ageing (UN-DESA), UNDP, **UN-Women**, DFID and HelpAge	Panellist, discussed the need for gender, ageing and age disaggregated data and why it is important to establish the Titchfield City Group	New York	March
61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women	Interactive Expert Panel "Enhancing the availability and use of data and gender statistics to support accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"	**UN Women** (as Secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women)	Secretariat role, including organization and preparing official Chair's summary report	New York	March
	Side event "Monitoring legal frameworks that address non-discrimination on the basis of sex: SDG indicator 5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex"	World Bank Group, **UN Women**, OECD Development Centre	Lead organizer, panellist, presented the methodological work to monitor SDG indicator 5.1.1.		
	Side event "Closing the gender data gap: measuring poverty, disability and multi-dimen-sional deprivation"	Government of Australia, UNFPA and **UN Women**	Panellist, presented MEWGC programme		
IAEG-SDGs Annual meetings	5th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs	UNSD	Presented an update of methodological work on Tier III indicators	Ottawa	March-April
PARIS 21 Annual Meetings	Revisiting Capacity Development to deliver on the SDGs	PARIS21	Presented proposed MEWGC project with to the PARIS21 Board for approval	Paris	April

Event	Name	Organizers	UN Women's Role	Location	Date
High-Level Political Forum	Side event "Closing the gender data gap: measuring poverty, disability and multi-dimen-sional deprivation"	DFAT Australia	Panellist, discussed the MEWGC pro-gramme and linkages to closing gender data gaps on poverty etc.	New York	July
	Side event "Why Gender Data is Critical for Achieving the Sus-tainable Development Goals"	Data2X	Panellist, discussed how MEWGC is encouraging gender statistics production and use specifically at the national and regional levels		
Technical workshop	Workshop in support of the establishment of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data	UK National Statistical Office	Panellist, discussed the need for gender, ageing and age disaggregated data, how UN Women aims to support the TCG and contribute to UN Statistical Commis-sion report	Win-chester, U.K.	August
Annual gen-der statistics meeting	XVIII International Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascali-entes, Mexico	INEGI, INMUJERES, UN Women Mexico, ECLAC	Panellist, presented MEWGC programme and an update of methodological work on Tier III indicators	Aguas-calientes, Mexico	Septem-ber
UN General Assembly	Global Business Leaders and philanthropies forum	**UN Women**, Lead organizer, moderator and panellist,	Organizer, supported in organizing the forum.	New York	Septem-ber
Annual meeting	11th meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert group on Gender Statistics	UNSD	Panellist, presented MEWGC programme and an update of methodological work on Tier III indicators	Rome	October
OECD DAC-Gen-derNet	Annual meeting of the OECD DAC-GenderNet	OECD	Panellist, presented MEWGC programme and an update of methodological work on Tier III indicators	Paris	October
Workshop	Joint AfDB-UN Women-UNECA Regional Workshop on Gender Statistics	**UN Women**, AfDB and UNECA	Panellist, presented the Africa regional assessment, Africa prodoc and prepared final workshop report	Dakar	Senegal

4. REFLECTIONS ON CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

As described in Section 3.1, the large funding gap continues to be one of the main challenges affecting the implementation of MEWGC. Besides the funding gap, the different timing of receipt of contributions from different donors makes efficient resource allocation and adequate planning difficult, particularly for countries and regions with large funding gaps. The different timing also means that implementation is likely to move at a different pace across projects. For example, as a result of funding from DFID received in 2016, Uganda is well ahead of other countries such as Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, which have just started or others that have yet to start due to funding constraints such as Morocco and Senegal. Although this means that these countries can benefit from the Ugandan experience, the three-year timeframe needed for each project also means that the different timing of setting up and implementing country projects could ultimately affect the overall programme's closure, scheduled in early 2021.

Another related challenge for MEWGC is hiring qualified staff to support the implementation of the programme. In a number of cases, including the recruitment of a statistics specialist (P-3) and regional statistics specialist (P-4), an initial weak pool of applicants led to vacancies being re-advertised and targeted recruitment conducted. As pathfinder countries start to recruit technical staff in 2018, a similarly proactive targeted recruitment is being put in place to avoid lengthy delays. However, more broadly, as each of the national and regional assessments conducted to date have shown, lack of technical capacity is a challenge for gender data in general and for national statistical systems in particular. Addressing this challenge requires a scaling up of training and capacity building efforts at all levels. In 2018, the MEWGC team will define plans to scale-up capacity-building efforts and by recalibrating projects to put more emphasis on addressing training needs.

Finally, a clear conclusion that emerged from the needs assessments and related discussions that UN Women was a part of, is that it is important for the programme to address sources of data other than surveys and census. With the SDGs, the data needs are different and the broader ecosystem of data production and use, particular at the country level, are undergoing profound changes. This also means that initiatives such as MEWGC need to adapt to this new reality. For example, the usefulness of administrative data sources – particularly Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) – and other data sources such as project and programme data to improve the production of gender statistics needs to be examined. However, given UN Women's limited knowledge in this area, our approach will be gradual, starting with a modest learning agenda to be defined in 2018.

5. PLANNING FOR 2018

Building on the initial work undertaken in 2017, activities in 2018 will focus on implementation.

At **global level**, in addition to regular technical support for countries and regional offices, activities include finalizing recruitment of programme staff, collaboration with PARIS21 to undertake activities to develop NSDS guidelines, methodological work and SDGs monitoring, development of UN Women's data portal, advocacy and resource mobilization and monitoring and reporting of programme implmentation (see the report of the third Steering Committee meeting in Annex E for a detailed timeline of all activities).

At **regional level**, recruitment of regional statistics specialists initiated in 2017 will be finalized for APRO and ECARO. For ESARO, the project document will be finalized and a regional consultant recruited. Examples of key activities will include finalizing the development of projects and providing direct technical and financial support to pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries, working with the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific to identify priorities for developing, coordinating and implementing gender relevant statistical training among training providers in the Asia-Pacific region, supporting strengthening of administrative records needed to produce Tier II indicators by conducting an assessment of existing guidance and best practice examples on mainstreaming gender in administrative data and working with regional commissions and relevant agencies to improve coordination and organizing regional gender statistics forum.

At **country level**, national assessments will be finalized and project documents developed in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Tanzania and Morocco. Based on the identified priorities, national workplans will be elaborated. In these countries, recruitment will also get under way once the national assessments are finalized. Most activities in 2018 will likely focus on Outcome 1 (enabling environment), through work on the NSDS, SDGs localization and advocacy and Outcome 2 (increased data production), including training and capacity building, reprocessing existing data and data collection for select Tier II SDGs indicators.[12]

12 The detailed list of activities and associated timelines at global, regional and national levels was subsequently shared in May 2018, as part of the first quarter updates to donors.

ANNEX 1:
Detailed Budget 2017 - Global

Global Policy Support Project (GPSP)	2017 Total	Percentage (%) Direct costs
Budget by Outcome		
Creating an enabling environment	$ 728,557	43%
Increasing data production	$ 474,727	28%
Improving data availability and use	$ 405,686	24%
Learning, monitoring and evaluation	$ 68,748	4%
Total Direct Costs	$ 1,677,719	100%
Total Support Costs	$ 365,088	
Total	**$ 2,042,807**	

Budget by category		
61200 - Salaries Costs - GS Staff	$ 6,000	0%
61300 - Int'l Professional (IP) Staff	$ 453,062	27%
71200 - International Consultants	$ 58,000	3%
71300 - Local Consultants	$ 75,535	5%
71400 - Contractual Services - Individuals	$ 34,735	2%
71600 - Travel	$ 155,088	9%
72600 - Grants	$ -	0%
72800 - IT Equipment	$ 15,000	1%
74100 - Professional Services	$ 233,500	14%
74200 - Audio Visual and Printing	$ 26,375	2%
75100 - Facilities and Administration	$ 365,088	22%
75700 - Training/workshop/conference	$ 393,449	23%
Other Costs (63500, 72400, 72700, 73100, 73500)	$ 226,975	14%
Total	**$ 2,042,807**	

MEET THE MEWGC TEAM

Papa Seck
Chief Statistician, Global Programme Manager

Papa led the development of MEWGC and currently oversees its implementation. He is responsible for the implementation of the global project and provides strategic direction and technical support to pathfinder countries and regional projects. As UN Women's chief statistician, he manages the statistics team, including overseeing SDGs monitoring, the development of annual workplans and represents UN Women in relevant interagency mechanisms. Prior to joining UN Women in 2009, Papa worked for UNDP as a statistics specialist, contributing to three global Human Development Reports. He is the co-editor of a book on the consequences of risk and vulnerability for human development. He holds a Master's degree in Economics from Hunter College.

Silvia Pina Juste
Programme Management Specialist

Silvia joined the MEWGC team as the Programme Manager in November 2017. She is a dedicated international development professional and passionate human rights advocate supporting over 10 years the efforts of Governments, NGOs and the UN in advancing women's and children's rights across Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. She has previously worked with UNFPA, UNICEF and the Danish Refugee Council and has focused on planning and strategy design, managing and administering large-scale programmes, M&E and Information Management, both in development and humanitarian contexts. Silvia holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from University of Barcelona and received her Master's in International Development, Humanitarian Aid, Migration and Refugee studies at University Carlos III of Madrid.

Lauren Billi
Programme Analyst

Lauren joined the MEWGC team in May 2017 as a Programme Analyst. She is responsible for leading the programme's work on advocacy and providing overall operational and coordination support for the implementation of the programme. Prior to joining the MEWGC team, she served as a Research Assistant for the Research and Data Section at UN Women, supporting the production, outreach and dissemination of UN Women's flagship reports and knowledge products. Lauren has also previously worked for the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs office of ECOSOC support and coordination team organizing high-level meetings of the Economic and Social Council. She holds a Master's degree in Global Affairs with specializations in International Law and Human Rights from New York University. She also has a working knowledge of Mandarin Chinese.

Jessamyn Encarnacion
Statistics Specialist

Jessa is the statistics specialist of the MEWGC global programme. She is responsible for providing technical guidance and support in the preparation of programme strategy documents and gender statistics assessments to MEWGC pathfinder countries as well as to the regional programmes. Previously, she led the data analysis work for the 8th Edition of the UN Women flagship publication "Progress of the World's Women". Prior to joining UN Women, she was a government statistician serving as Director of Social Statistics Office of the Philippines National Statistical Coordination Board; then as interim Assistant National Statistician of the Philippines Statistics Authority during its formative years. She has also served as Regional Advisor on Statistics of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Statistics from the University of the Philippines and a Master's degree in Economics from Hitotsubashi University.

Ginette Azcona
Research and Data Specialist

Ginette has supported the MEWGC programme in leading UN Women's technical work on SDGs monitoring from a gender perspective, including coordinating UN Women's work on Tier III indicator development. She is also one of the lead author of the three data chapters in UN Women's flagship report on gender and the SDGs: "Turning Promises into Action" and is currently leading the data and statistical work for UN Women's flagship reports. Prior to joining UN Women, she was part of the research and writing team for UNDP's 2009 Human Development Report: Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

UN WOMEN

Planet 50-50 by 2030
Step It Up for Gender Equality

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