Why are gender statistics important?

Sara Duerto Valero
Regional Gender Statistics Specialist
12 February 2019
Nadi, Fiji
What is gender data?

- Gender Statistics capture the specific realities in the lives of women and men

- Gender statistics go well beyond sex-disaggregation

- Gender statistics comprise:
  - Sex-disaggregated data
  - Data pertaining specifically to women or to men
  - Data that captures specific gender issues

- Aggregated statistics fail to capture differences in:
  - Use of time
  - Exposure to violence
  - Intra-household inequalities
  - Use of natural resources
  - Specific health concerns
  - Etc.

- Gender data is key to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other commitments
LNOB

- Achieve sustainable development for women and men
- Utilize gendered indicators throughout
- Go beyond national aggregates
Monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective

1) Targeted gender-specific indicators

- Have to do with women or men specifically
- Currently only present in some goals
- Many available from surveys
Monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective

2) Explicitly sex-disaggregated indicators

- Official indicator name explicitly indicates “by sex”
- Currently only present in some goals
- Available from surveys, census, CRVS
3) Gender-relevant indicators

- Official indicator name does not make explicit mention of sex BUT sex disaggregation is possible
- Could be found across many goals
- Many available from surveys
Monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective

4) Additional indicators that capture a gender angle

- Official indicator name does not make explicit mention, but the issue is relevant to women/men specifically
- Could be found across many goals
- Many available from surveys
Why is gender data important?

Without gender data, we are missing out on half of the world’s population.
Why is gender data important?

- Policy making
- Accountability
- Advocacy
- Analysis/Academic research
Is sex-disaggregation enough?

It might be necessary to further disaggregate gender data to LNOB

- Need to chose based on relevance/context
  - Sex (and gender identity)
  - Age (older/younger population)
  - Location (beyond urban/rural)
  - Migratory status (how recent, proxy variables)
  - Ethnicity (group’s sample size)
  - Wealth Quintile (income or wealth index?)
  - Religion (only relevant for some indicators and countries)
  - Marital status (combined with having children)
  - Managerial level (beyond senior/not)
  - Others
Monitoring the SDGs from an LNOB perspective

Disaggregating by more than one dimension

- E.g. by sex and age, (official indicator indicates many disaggregation variables but not necessarily simultaneous)
- Disaggregation at multiple levels show groups that are lagging behind

**Figure 3.2**

Proportion of people living in extreme poverty, by sex and age, 2009-2013

- **Percentage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Male (Percentage)</th>
<th>Female (Percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Data refer to the most recent available during the period specified for 89 developing countries.
Monitoring the SDGs from an LNOB perspective

FIGURE 3.7

ILLITERACY RATE AMONG POPULATION AGED 15–49, BY SEX AND WEALTH QUINTILES, 2005–2016
To LNOB we need to look at specific groups of women

Proportion of women (20-24) who were married or in a union before 18, India

- Rural Poorest 42
- National Avg 27.3
- Urban Richest 8.3

Proportion of women (18-49) who were married or in a union before 18, Pakistan

- Rural Poorest Saraiki 62.7
- Rural Poorest 58.5
- Rural 44.8
- Urban Richest Punjabi 17.9
- Urban Richest 23.9
An LNOB perspective: the same groups lag behind across many indicators.
FIGURE 4.24

INEQUALITIES IN SDG-RELATED OUTCOMES BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS OF WOMEN, UNITED STATES, 2015

Source: Based on UN Women calculations using the intra American Community Survey microdata (C.U. Census Bureau 2015).

Notes: Different scales are used on each of the 8 axes, each corresponding to the minimum and maximum values for each given indicator. The color for average income/worker income is inverted to a higher salary explanation: less desirable. Different groups are shown given data limitations. For full group disaggregation, see Annex Table 3.
### Gender data availability for SDG indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Any data available (since 2000)</th>
<th>Recent data available (at least 1 data point since 2010)</th>
<th>Trend data (at least 2 data points since 2000 onward)</th>
<th>Trend data (at least 3 data points since 2000 onward)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia and New Zealand</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and Southern Asia</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and South-Eastern Asia</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Northern America</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Africa and Western Asia</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportion of gender-specific indicators with data available since 2000
Gender data availability in Asia-Pacific

Key gaps:

- Pacific lags behind
- Hard to reach population groups (multilevel disaggregation, refugees, migrants)
- New/emerging areas (environment, governance, from a gender perspective)
- Emergency/disasters (from a gender perspective)
- Methodologically challenging areas, sensitive topics or financially demanding (individual level poverty, violence, reproductive health, time use)

Proportion of gender related indicators (85 relevant) by data availability level in Asia-Pacific, 2018

- Widely available: 26%
- Moderately available: 41%
- Somewhat available: 21%
- No data: 12%

Widely (at least 2/3 of the region), Moderately (at least 1/3) and Somewhat (Less than 1/3)
CHALLENGES TO GENDER DATA PRODUCTION/USE

- Lack of political will
- Inadequate resources
- Limited coordination among NSS actors
- Limited technical capacity in key areas
- Limited awareness
- Insufficient dissemination
- User-producer disconnect

OUR SOLUTION: MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

- Strategies/Laws prioritize gender data
- Localization support
- Intergovernmental work
- TUS, Violence surveys, CRVS
- Reprocessing existing data
- Communicating data
- SDMX
- User-producer dialogues