Session 2: Gender perspective in data sources and intersectional analysis

Strengthening gender statistics through administrative data, citizen data, geospatial information and other non-traditional data sources

International Workshop on Gender Statistics
28-30 July 2026

Presentation outline

1. What does the gender data landscape look like in 2026?
2. Where do opportunities for filling gender data gaps?
3. How is UN Women helping to modernize gender data ecosystems?

1 Gender data landscape as of 2026

Gender data landscape as of 2026

Data availability on SDG 5 indicators in 2025 has improved to 57.4%, up from 47.0% in 2022. However, **progress on gender-related SDGs (that go well beyond Goal 5) is off track**.

5.1	Legal frameworks on gender equality	Marginal progress, and significant acceleration needed
5.2	Violence against women and girls	Insufficient data
5.3	Child marriage	Marginal progress, and significant acceleration needed
5.4	Unpaid care and domestic work	Insufficient data
5.5	Women in leadership	Marginal progress, and significant acceleration needed
5.6	Reproductive health access and rights	Insufficient data
5.a	Equal economic rights for women	Insufficient data
5.b	Technology for women empowerment	Marginal progress, and significant acceleration needed
5.c	Gender-responsive budgeting	Marginal progress, and significant acceleration needed

- On track or target met
- Moderate progress, but acceleration needed
- Marginal progress, and significant acceleration needed
- Stagnation
- Regression
- Insufficient data

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2026). The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2026. New York.

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Gender data landscape as of 2026

The data production itself is under pressure.

68.3%

of NSOs report reduced funding for statistics since Jan 2025

67.9%

already faced funding challenges with their latest DHS survey, before the cuts

50.0%

face capacity gaps in analysing and using DHS data

Source: UN Women / UNSD survey of national statistics offices, 2025

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2

Where do opportunities for filling gender data gaps lie?

Opportunities: Making Every Woman and Girl Count

UN WOMEN'S STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

INCREASING DATA PRODUCTION

IMPROVING DATA ACCESS AND USE

Global presence

- Asia-Pacific
- Africa
- Arab States
- Europe & Central Asia
- Latin America & the Caribbeans

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Opportunities: Making Every Woman and Girl Count

Modernizing the gender data value chain

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

INCREASING DATA PRODUCTION

IMPROVING DATA ACCESS AND USE

New sources to fill gaps

administrative · citizen · geospatial · AI

A response to strain

surveys & donor funding under pressure

Sharper detail

intersectional & subnational disaggregation

Modernized systems

NSS capacity for non-traditional data

From production to use

data into policy & accountability

New partners

private sector · philanthropy · data innovation

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3

How is UN Women helping to modernize gender data ecosystems?

Some common non-conventional data sources

Citizen data

Crowdsourced data, participatory data

Remote sensing

Satellite imagery, drones

Online navigation

Browsing history, cookies

Transport

E-hailing, fleet tracking

Social networks

Posts, user connections

Mobile

Call detail records, GPS traces

Physical sensors

Smart meters, seismometers

Financial

Card transactions, markets

ANALYSED WITH

Machine learning

Text mining

GIS & spatial

Data integration

Infrastructure such as cloud storage and distributed device networks underpins these methods.

Source: UN Women, based on Data-Pop Alliance

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3.1 Citizen data

The Statistical Picture

Gender-specific SDG indicator availability improved

26% in 2016 → 63% in 2025

37% still missing

Did You Know,
If citizen data complements official statistics, it can contribute to

33% of all SDG indicators

29% of SDG5 indicators

Partnerships are key, esp. with State actors to transform grassroots reviews into national statistics.

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Partnering at various stages of data value chain

Enabling Environment

Ethiopia
Capacity building program

Partners: UN Women Ethiopia and International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)

Main Outcomes: Tools development, networking and collaboration

Data Production

Ghana
App to collect GBV data

Partners: NSO co-created through design-thinking with community members, technologists, and local officials

Main Outcomes: addressed under-reporting, Report SDGs 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 11.7.2, 16.2.3; Captured diverse GBV forms

Data Use

Senegal
Gender Index in Mining

Partners: UN Women Senegal, Women in Mining Senegal (WIMS), NSO

Main Outcomes: influenced parliamentary debate, municipal budgeting

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3.2

Geospatial application for filling gender data gaps

SPATIAL INEQUALITY

Age

National capital

Wealth

Sex

Flood-prone zones

Forbidden zones

Indigenous peoples

Spatial inequalities refer to *systematic differences in the distribution of resources, opportunities, services, and exposure to risks across geographic space*.

They occur when ***where*** a person lives (their spatial location) becomes a ***determinant of their life outcomes*** — *independent of* or *in interaction with* their individual or household characteristics.

Highly industrial areas

Outer island

Disability status

Rainforest

Migration status

Protected areas

Wealth

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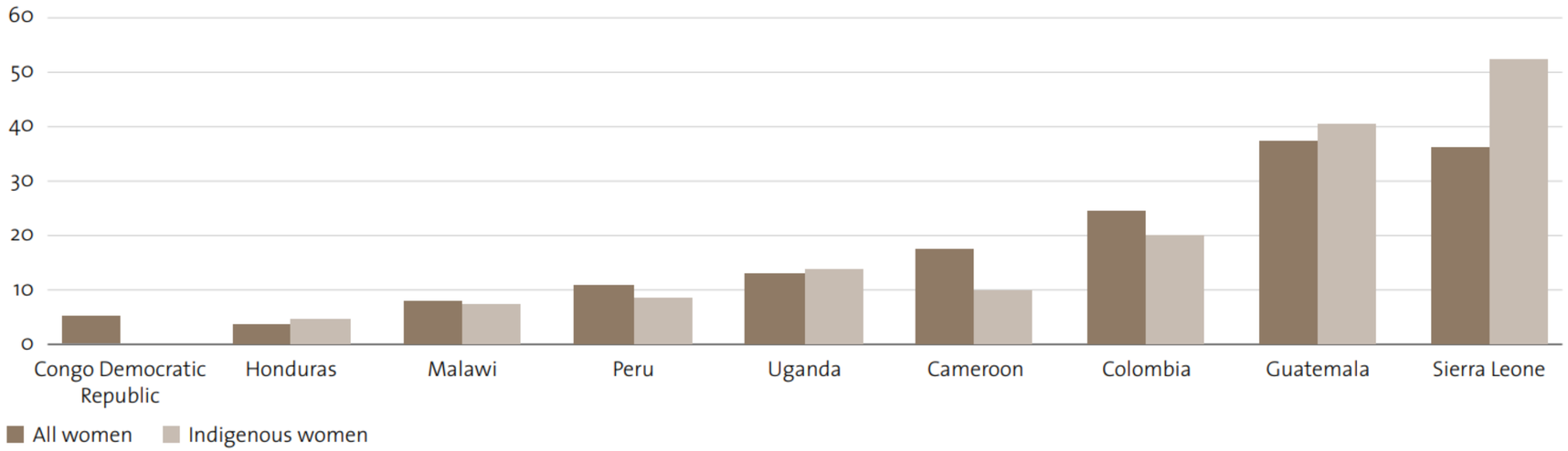
Case study 1: Indigenous population and proximity to protected areas

FIGURE 18. Proportion of women who live close to protected areas (within 10 km distance), by Indigenous status, latest available year (percentage)



Source: UN Women calculations based on the latest round of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Proximity to protected areas is defined as a dwelling's location within a 10-kilometre geodesic distance from the centre of the DHS cluster. Examples of protected places include national parks, national forests and national seashores. The dataset includes both aquatic and terrestrial protected areas.

Note: Only countries with available data regarding ethnicity and proximity to protected areas have been included. The classification of Indigenous groups used for this analysis is based on publicly available sources, as DHS collects information on ethnicity, but it does not explicitly classify groups as having Indigenous status. Therefore, the indigenous categories used for this analysis, may not be comprehensive or reflect the full diversity of Indigenous populations. As such, results must be interpreted with caution. Indigenous groups included in this analysis are: Cameroon (Pygmy), Colombia (Native Colombian), Democratic Republic of the Congo (Pygmy), Guatemala (Maya, Xinca), Honduras (Garifuna, Lenca, Maya Chorti, Misquito, Pech, Tawaka), Malawi (Chewa, Lomwe, Ngoni, Tumbuka, Yao), Peru (Aymara, Quechua, Other Indigenous), Sierra Leone (Limba), and Uganda (Basongora, Ik tueso, Karimojong).

Indigenous women are more likely than other groups of women to live near terrestrial or aquatic protected areas

Because these Indigenous communities live closest to these areas and depend on them for their well-being, traditions, and livelihoods, it is critical to ensure their participation in environmental management and related decisions that will both directly and indirectly affect their lives.

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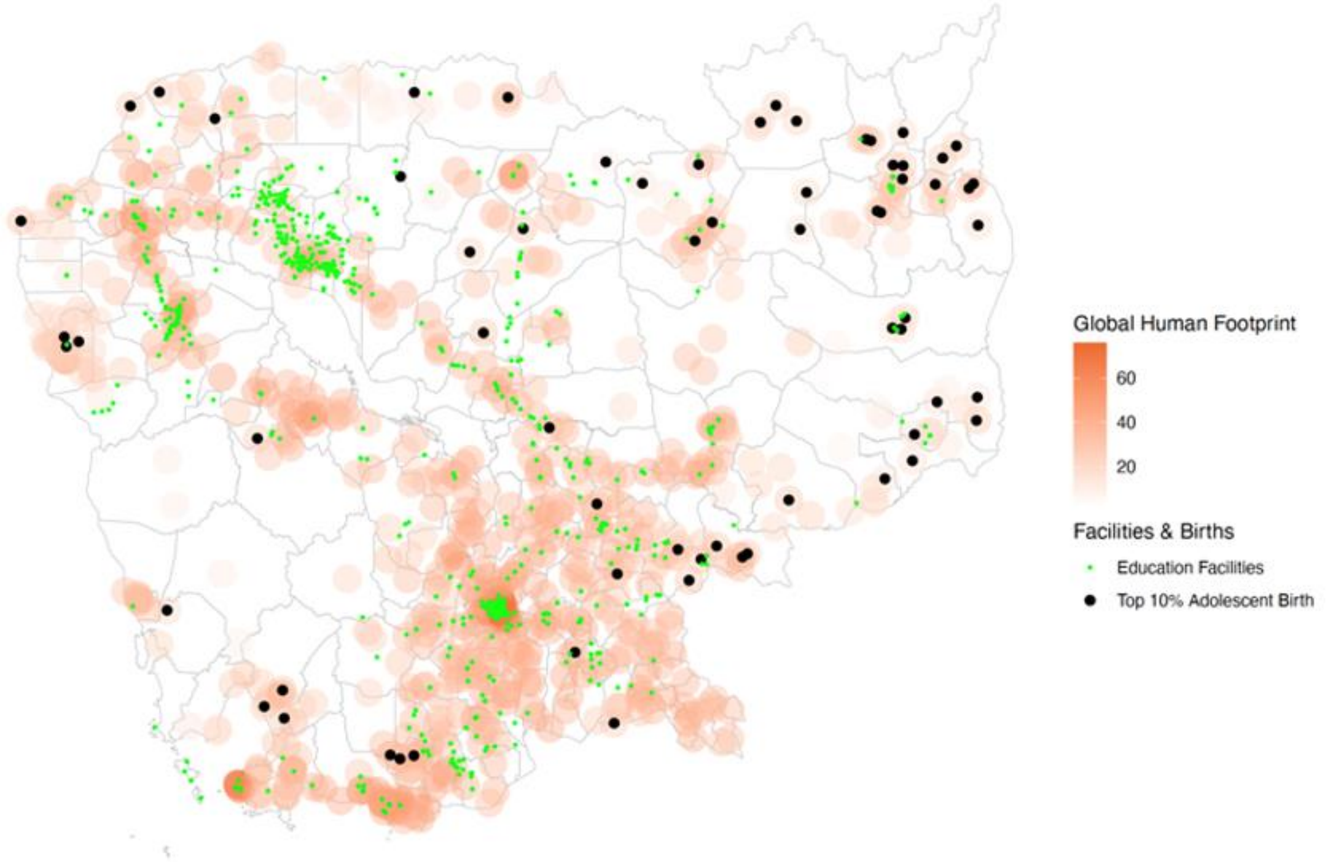
Case study 2: Infrastructure and adolescent birth rates



Observation: The black markers represent clusters with high adolescent birth rates (Top 10% of cluster values). The green markers representing education facilities are scattered across the map.

In Cambodia, the degree of urbanization seems to be negatively correlated with adolescent birth rate. Regions with fewer green markers may indicate inadequate access to education, potentially resulting in elevated rates of adolescent births. Past studies have shown that education is strongly correlated with adolescent birth rates.

Source: UN Women (2024). ASEAN Gender Outlook 2024 based on : Cambodia DHS (2022), NASA Earth data (Global Human Footprint), UN OCHA Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT)

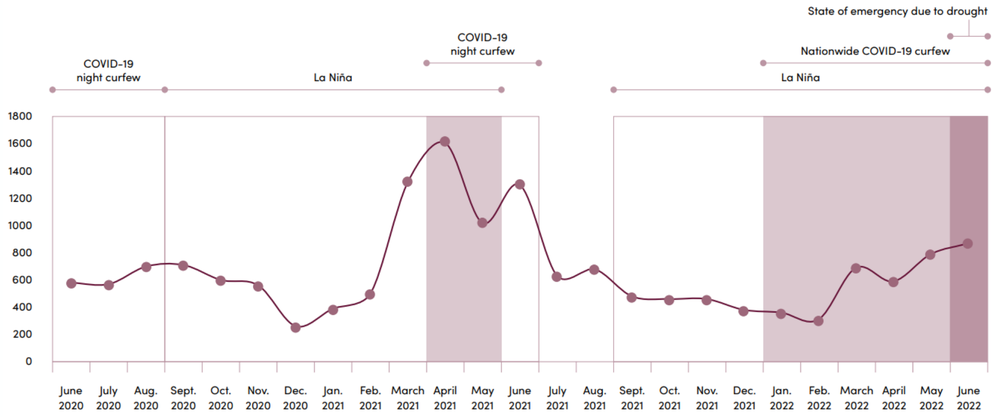
3.3

Social media can reveal perceptions on gender issues

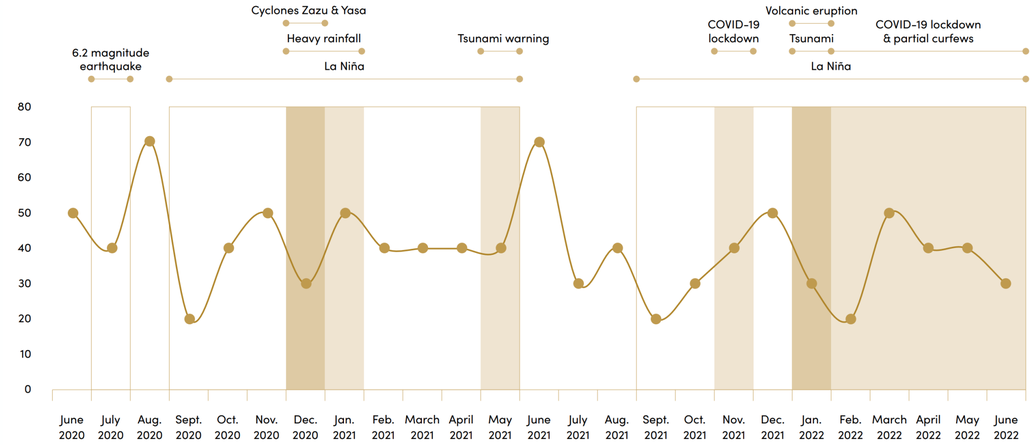
Social media can reveal perceptions on gender issues

What are the linkages between VAW and crisis?

Total VAW-related search volume, Kiribati

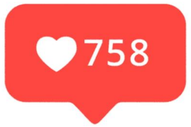


Note: Darker shades of maroon refer to overlapping crises. The darker the shade, the higher the number of overlapping crises.



Note: Darker shades of brown refer to overlapping crises. The darker the shade, the higher the number of overlapping crises.

Social media information can generate real time insights into people's perceptions



Source: UN Women (2023) Disasters, crises and violence against women: evidence from big data analysis

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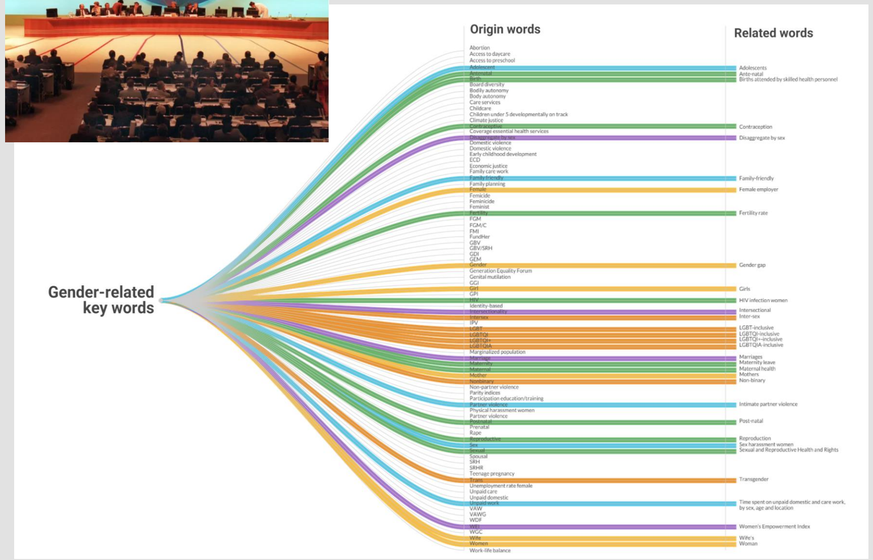
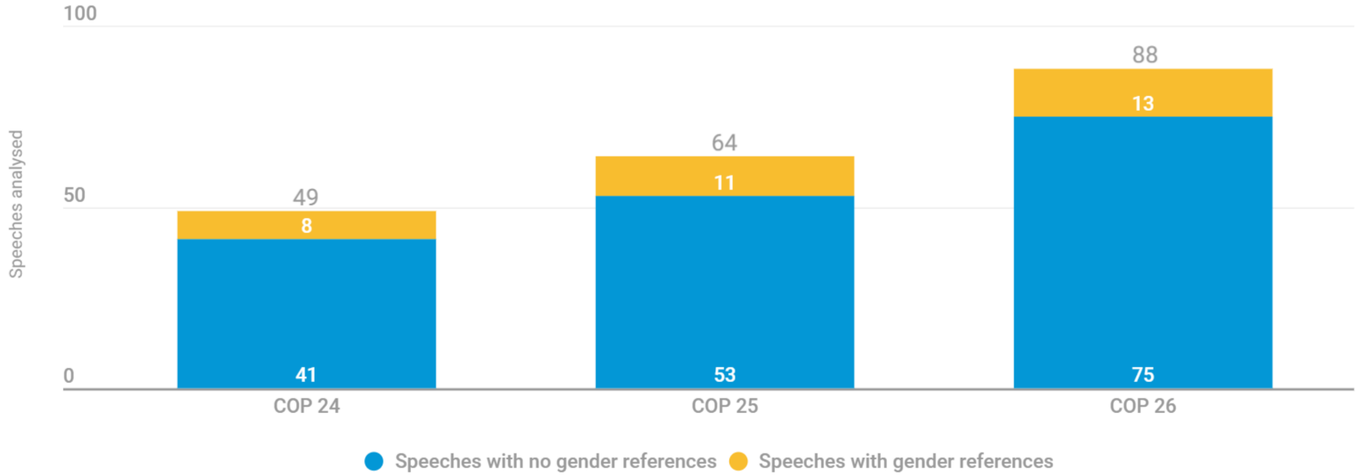
3.4 Text-based data

Text-based big data analysis for gender insights

How are gender perspectives reflected in climate change agendas?



Automated web scraping to extract large volumes of speech transcripts for text-based big data analysis



Source: UN Women (2022) Big data analysis finds little mention of gender in climate speeches

3.5 Administrative data

Administrative data

Several frameworks beyond the SDGs need gender data

THE TOOLKITS UN WOMEN BUILT

Quality Assessment of Administrative Data

Built 2022 with the Collaborative on Administrative Data; revised 2024. Now used by UNSD (Sierra Leone, Indonesia) and a CAD e-learning course.

Linking Administrative Data with Survey & Census

New beta with UNECA & UNSD combines administrative data with surveys and census to fill persistent gaps.

THE REACH

95 government officials trained across the NSOs of Ethiopia, Mozambique & South Sudan (ESARO, 2024)

25 KNBS & ministry officials trained on the new linking toolkit, with UNECA & UNSD (Kenya)

> *"We have introduced checklists for administrative data quality … we are on a reform path."*

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UN Women also works on a wide range of topics...

Time Use Survey

Data integration

Gender & environment

Gender & energy

Satellite account

Unpaid care and domestic work

Indigenous people

Administrative data can make hidden violence visible, while staying honest about what systems are not yet ready to measure.

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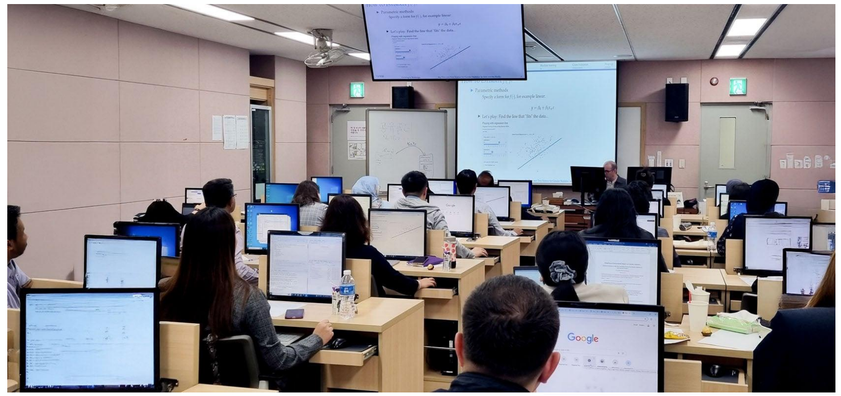
3.7 Capacity building initiatives

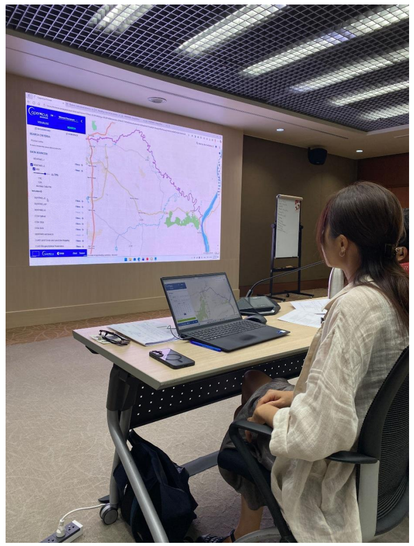
Coordination mechanisms to modernize gender data systems

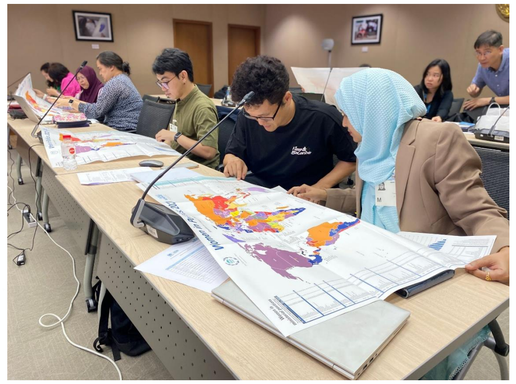
Capacity building on big data and data science for gender applications

UN Women has co-organized and facilitated Regional Trainings on Big Data and Data Science for Gender Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

The trainings have been jointly organized by the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP), UN Women, and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), and brought together mid-level statisticians and technical staff from national statistical offices across countries in the Asia-Pacific region.







Training on Big Data and Data Science for Gender Statistics

Training curriculum development on 2026

CO-DEVELOPED BY:

ESCAP | UNITED NATIONS SIAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific | UN WOMEN

Under the guidance of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the Applications of Big Data and Data Science to fill Gender Data Gaps

TARGETED AT:

- Mid-level statisticians and technical staff from national statistical offices
- Experience handling large-scale datasets, big data, or geospatial data in their professional work
- Prior experience using R, Python, or other statistical software
- Likelihood of working on big data applications to address gender data gaps

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Thank you