AFRICA GENDER AND CHILD STATISTICS FORUM

1ST AFRICA GENDER AND CHILD STATISTICS FORUM | AGCSF 2026

Statistics that Matter:

Advancing Rights, Justice, and Opportunities for All

6–10 July 2026 • Hilton Hotel, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Consideration and adoption of meeting outcome document including recommendations and draft resolutions.

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Background & Rationale

What the Forum is

Africa's flagship annual gender statistics platform, now formally uniting the gender and child statistics communities under one Forum. It supports two existing regional frameworks: the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2) and the African Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS).

Why 2026 is a milestone

This inaugural edition is the first time gender and child statistics communities have been formally brought together at this Forum — a deliberate move to strengthen collaboration between what were previously two separate statistical communities.

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Background & Rationale

The underlying problem
Rising demand for quality, disaggregated data to track progress for several regional and international frameworks— with persistent gaps in VAW/child violence, justice, migration, climate, leadership, digital tech, legal identity, and admin data.

Timing and framing
Convened 30 years after Beijing Declaration, over a decade into the SDGs/Agenda 2063/ Agenda 2040for children — progress uneven, especially on rights and justice. Theme aligned with IWD 2026: **"Statistics that Matter: Advancing Rights, Justice, and Opportunities for All.“**

Four pillars of the theme
Rights · Justice · Action · For ALL (with a deliberate focus on marginalized groups)

Bottom line
Major data gaps remain on rights, justice, and lived experience for women and children — this Forum builds on 9 years of prior gender statistics forums (2017–2025), now expanded to include children for the first time.

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Aim

To strengthen the production, harmonization, accessibility and use of gender and child statistics in Africa to advance rights, justice, equality and opportunities for all women, girls and boys through evidence-based policymaking, accountability and action.

4

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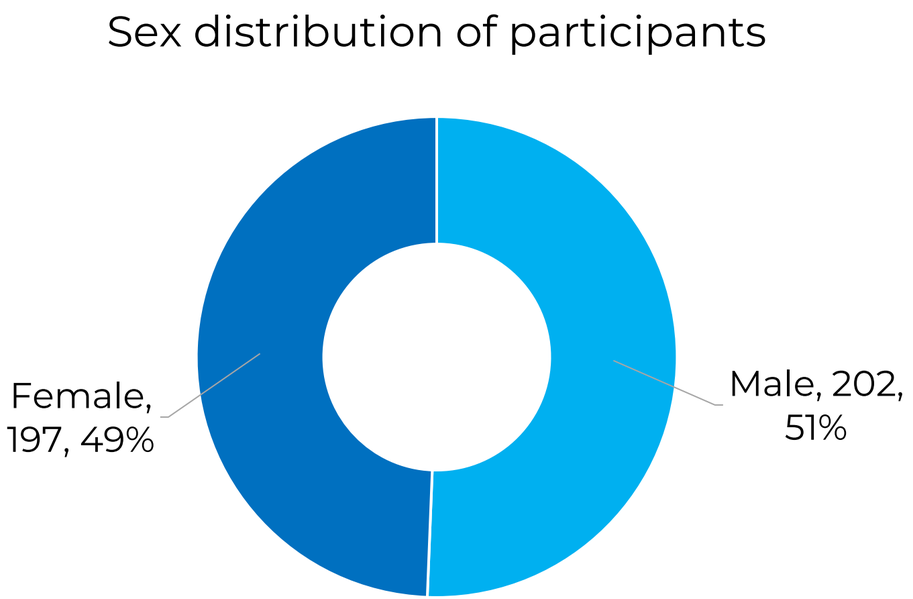
Participation

- **91** in person +
- **259** online
- **47** African Countries



5

*The Forum brings together stakeholders involved in the **production** and **use** of gender and child statistics to address emerging data needs, strengthen statistical systems, promote harmonized methodologies, and advance evidence-informed policymaking.*

Topics covered

Regional Frameworks	APGS III	70th CSW	58th UNSC	10th STATCOM-Africa	AU StatAfric & Regional bodies
Monitoring & reporting	Gender and youth observatory	Reporting on ACERWC	Africa Gender index	Africa Child index	Gender Statistics guidelines
Rights	Civil registration & vital statistics	Climate	Welfare	Migration	
Emerging areas	Technology-facilitated violence	Femicide statistics	Citizen data	Child wellbeing	
Justice	Justice statistics	Legal identity	Leadership		
Data issues	Gender mainstreaming in NSS	Multiple disaggregation	Gender data use		

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Conclusions/ Outputs – gender statistics

- Encouraged to **produce and disseminate annual vital statistics** reports and use CRVS data to monitor SDGs, Agenda 2063 and other commitments to accelerate CRVS for Child Rights in Africa.
- Appreciated that **Citizen data** is not intended to replace official statistics, but to strengthen statistical systems. It can help address persistent gender and child data gaps and support more inclusive decision-making in Africa.
- Emphasized the need to continue to **modernize statistical practices** on the continent and **digitize administrative data systems** to improve quality and enhance use for statistical purposes
- Strengthen international statistical standards for measuring **people - centred access to justice** .
- Prioritize and increase **national investment in governance statistics** to monitor progress in improving governance, human rights and SDG 16.

Conclusions/ Outputs – gender statistics

- Continue to **expand** the testing and adaptation of the UN statistical framework on femicide across the continent
- UN Women and partners are currently developing a set of generic **training materials** on i) Gender in Migration Statistics as well as ii) Gender in Humanitarian Statistics.
- Systematically invest in building build capacity for the **communication, Interpretation and use of statistics** in NSO and other producers and users of statistics.
- **Leverage statistics** to bring about policy and programmatic changes that will improve the lives of women and girls

Provisional Recommendations

Provisional

- **Formalize** an Africa IAEG on gender:
  - To draft the structure and TORs
  - to annually collect, produce a publication on Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa
  - implement the gender statistics guidelines at the continental level
- Call upon all partners to **mobilize financial resources** for the next AGCSF and make the event sustainable.
- Prioritize **financial investments** in statistical capacity building and the disaggregation of data and foster technical interoperability between sectoral data systems.

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Provisional Recommendations

Provisional

- **Strengthen collaboration** between NSOs, civil society and other data producers to identify opportunities for responsible use of citizen data. Use clear governance principles to **assess citizen data** . Engage with the Collaborative on Citizen Data.
- **Consider data use need to be integrated into every step** of the data cycle.
- Strengthen the **link between statistics and decision - making** by ensuring that gender data are translated into actionable evidence.
- Strengthen **partnerships** and continuous engagement to ensure that gender statistics respond to policy priorities and are effectively used.

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Conclusions/Outputs – Child statistics

- Committed to **strengthen national data and statistical systems for children.**
- Support country-led implementation of the Minimum Data Package for Children, Adolescents and Youth as a practical approach to strengthening child statistics within NSSs.
- **Stronger engagement with NSOs** for timely reporting on the status of implementation of the Charter by States with relevant data on children – strengthened child protection statistics and children on the move.
- Further **strengthening of data on WASH in health facilities and schools.** Building on the SDGs and relevant statistical frameworks, Regional communities of practice.
- Bridge the **gap** between **data generation and data use** .

Provisional Recommendations

Provisional

- **Accelerate** country - led implementation of **the Minimum Data Package for Children , Adolescents and Youth** as a practical approach to strengthening child statistics within national statistical systems.
- **Mobilize Africa Expert group on child and adolescent related statistics** to convene and guide the development of child statistics systems in Africa and spearhead the consultations on Africa Child Index.
- **Increased NSOs' engagement on state party reports** on the implementation of African charter on rights and welfare of the child.
- Given the youth as change agents across the board and their natural fit with gender and children's agenda - there is a need to consider to explicitly **adopt youth** as part of the AGCSF agenda going forward.

Provisional Recommendations

Provisional

- **Assess Administrative Data Systems on Justice for Children** to evaluate the capacity of statistical systems to collect, collate, analyse and disseminate administrative data on justice for children at subnational and national levels.
- Countries are encouraged to reach out for support on **utilization of ICare to ensure a standardized approach** to collecting and classifying statistical data regarding the **alternative care of children** .
- **Ensure multidimensional child poverty measures** are based on child - centric principles and use relevant child level data (such as MICS).

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THANK YOU | MERCI | OBRIGADO

Statistics that Matter: Advancing Rights, Justice, and Opportunities for All

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