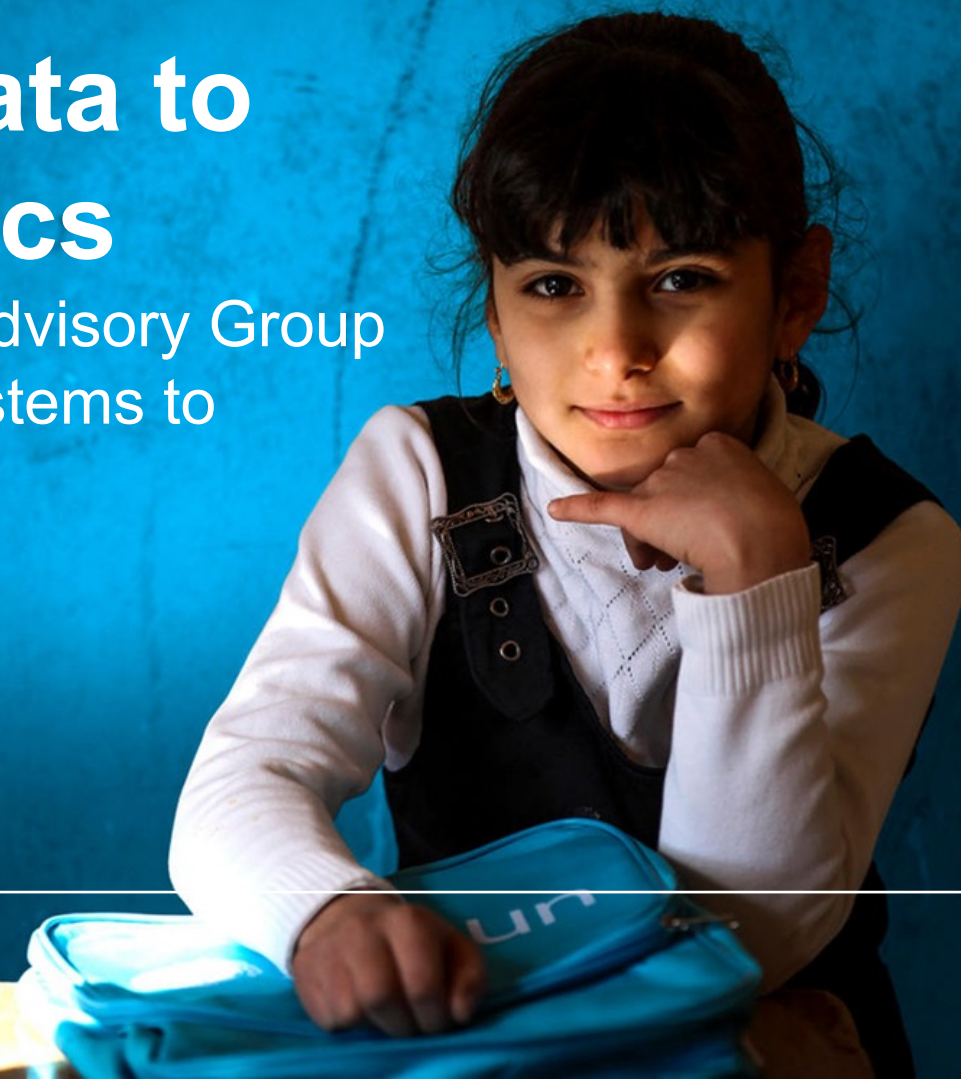# Using administrative data to improve gender statistics

Update on workstream of the IAEG-GS Advisory Group on Strengthening Administrative Data Systems to Close Gender Data Gaps

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IAEG-GS 14th Meeting, 3 Dec. 2020

Overview of the work

– IAEG-GS Advisory Group convened in 2019

  – Members: Brazil, Canada, Ghana, India, Jordan, Morocco, Uganda, Zimbabwe, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ILO, OECD, UNFPA, UNICEF (chair), UNODC, UNSD, UN Women, World Bank

– Objective

  – Build upon limited evidence base of the potential of admin data for gender statistics

  – Provide country guidance on how admin data systems can be maximized to produce gender data for global and (sub)national reporting, with a focus on gender data most relevant to children

– Methodological approach

  – Desk review of previous work

  – Statistical query of Advisory Group countries

  – Case studies (Canada, Ghana - with additional substantive inputs from Brazil & Morocco)
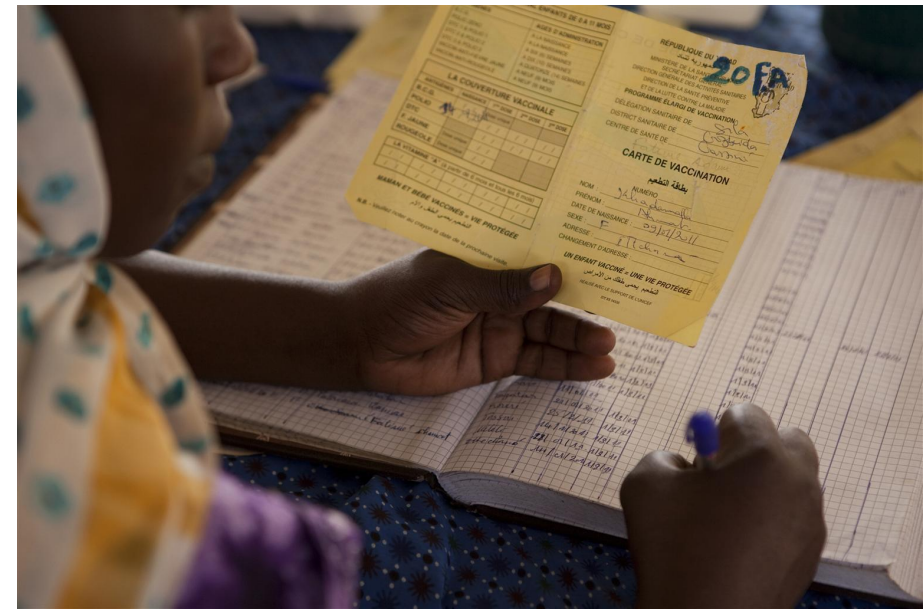
Guidance

- Part one: Data needs, opportunities and challenges

- Part two: Benchmarking the gender components of a mature administrative data landscape

- Part three: Challenges and barriers to the effective use of administrative data for gender statistics

- Part four: Pathways to better gender data

Characteristics of admin data

- Data collected through the routine delivery of a service

  - Most often by government providers but also non-state actors

- Continuous/routine collection

- Multisite, high population coverage

- Base data structured by individuals or events

  - May be aggregated at any point within the system from collection -> final reporting

- Geographic or facility characteristics included

- Collection of data for statistical purposes is <u>not</u> the reason the system exists

Potential of admin data for gender statistics

Gender data of interest

– Sex-disaggregated data as well as data reflecting specific needs of women and girls

– Data capturing gender diverse/non-binary populations

  – Measurement still nascent

  – Unless clearly serving gender diverse populations, most admin systems lack ability to capture them

– Gender-relevant indicators for SDGs & national development

– Program level data

Potential (2)

Admin data can be well-suited to monitor gender equality due to

– Ready availability of pre-existing source of information

– Continuous nature, incl. ability to provide regular updates on those accessing services and types of services being accessed

– Ability to provide longitudinal data needed for tracking trends in gender equality

– Granularity allowing for intersectional analysis of vulnerable subpopulations

– Inclusivity by capturing information on people least likely to take part in traditional research

   – Though potential selective under-coverage by sex

– Capacity for data linkage

Box 2. Defining a mature gender-responsive national administrative data landscape for women and children

Maturity level	Outcome statement
1 **Formation**	Core administrative data systems for women and children exist at the national level, with national coverage
2 **Foundational**	Administrative data are integrated as part of a broader national statistical system
	Systems create and recognise a legal identity for every girl and boy from birth, including provisions for those whose birth was either un-registered or who enter the territory and are unable to provide a legally recognised identity
	Data required to support the realisation and protection of women's and children's rights under international conventions and development commitments are produced and available
	National administrative data systems provide timely data for national planning and accountability
	Systems are inclusive; effectively monitoring that no women or child is 'left behind', as well as providing the data needed for systems to effectively address disparities where they exist
3 **Functional**	Data are actively used in national (and subnational) planning, monitoring and evaluation
	Data are used to identify local needs, and to inform and improve local services and programmes
	Admin data specifically addresses key disaster preparedness and planning needs (at national and broad sub-national level)
4 **Flexibility & form**	Cross-sectoral collaboration supports a holistic approach to data for planning, innovation, and service provision
5 **Engagement**	Data are used to generate broader 'public good', contributing to research and knowledge generation on topics of benefit to the community
6 **Integration**	Administrative data can be integrated effectively with other data sources in decision making processes
	Supports a holistic approach to services and care to support better outcomes through coordination across programs, locations, and sectors

Key challenges – specific to gender data

- Lack of demand for gender data in the absence of national gender policy frameworks/integration of gender into relevant sectoral policies

- Lack of clarity on gender data needs
  - At local level, where there is often limited understanding of importance of admin data for gender-responsive local decision-making
  - Within line ministries, where data are centralized/collated and admin systems are maintained

- Lack of institutional legitimacy for gender statistics

- Limited resource allocation for production of gender stats

- Limited capacity in field of gender statistics across national statistical system

- Difficulties of coordination across sectors and institutions

- Lack of sex-disaggregated data
  - At point of collection or "up the chain"

Key challenges – admin data & systems

- Administrative data is not suitable for all uses
- Lack of correspondence with statistical definitions
- Data quality
- Coverage and inclusion
- System capacity to generate disaggregated data
- Unstable collection processes or frequent system changes
- Limited access to administrative data files
- Lack of capacity and trust in using data from administrative systems

Recommendations

Improving admin data for gender stats requires broad investments in system strengthening, gender-specific investments and investments in sectoral data needs.

Key recommendations:

- Digitalize core systems

- Strengthen legal & governance frameworks stipulating use of admin data for official stats

- Identify scope of gender data needed for local and national use
    - Linked to both gender equality policies and relevant sectoral policies

- Strengthen capacity on gender stats across national statistics infrastructure, with a focus on most relevant line ministries

- Establish a national coordination mechanism to support the production of gender stats across relevant administrative data systems

Products and next steps

- Products include
  - Country case studies
  - Annotated bibliography
  - Guidance document/tool (draft form)
  - Advocacy article (draft form)
- Next steps
  - Solicit additional input from IAEG-GS
  - Revise and finalize guidance and article in Q1 2021

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How do NSOs ensure that gender data needs are incorporated into the design and planning of new administrative data systems or system upgrades?

- Should certain admin data systems be prioritized for investment? Which ones?

- What role should the international community have in defining data needs at sectoral and national levels?

Thank you.

More information:
data.unicef.org/resources/strengthening-administrative-data-systems-to-close-gender-data-gaps/

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