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)
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

Guidance
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 not 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
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

Potential (2)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maturity level</th>
<th>Outcome statement</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 Formation</strong></td>
<td>Core administrative data systems for women and children exist at the national level, with national coverage</td>
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<td>Administrative data are integrated as part of a broader national statistical system</td>
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<td>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</td>
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<td>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</td>
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<td>National administrative data systems provide timely data for national planning and accountability</td>
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<td>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</td>
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<td><strong>2 Foundational</strong></td>
<td>Data are actively used in national (and subnational) planning, monitoring and evaluation</td>
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<td>Data are used to identify local needs, and to inform and improve local services and programmes</td>
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<td>Admin data specifically addresses key disaster preparedness and planning needs (at national and broad sub-national level)</td>
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<td><strong>3 Functional</strong></td>
<td>Cross-sectoral collaboration supports a holistic approach to data for planning, innovation, and service provision</td>
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<td><strong>4 Flexibility &amp; form</strong></td>
<td>Data are used to generate broader ‘public good’, contributing to research and knowledge generation on topics of benefit to the community</td>
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<td><strong>5 Engagement</strong></td>
<td>Administrative data can be integrated effectively with other data sources in decision making processes</td>
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<td><strong>6 Integration</strong></td>
<td>Supports a holistic approach to services and care to support better outcomes through coordination across programs, locations, and sectors</td>
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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/