

## Success factors of South Africa's experiences in gender statistics

I am going to give some highlights of Stats SA's journey and experiences in gender statistics for the past five years.

As South Africa we have raised our hands to be part of the global movement towards achieving gender equality by 2030, joined in "Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future".

There is no doubt that as Statistics South Africa, we have made significant progress in collecting, producing and disseminating reliable statistics which include gender statistics to inform evidence-based policy formulation and decision making.

**One of our roles is to drive the gender-mainstreaming** of data collection instruments in the organisation, and as of today we are able to report on gender statistics:

- As a result, we're able to know that more women are serving in high-ranking positions in government than ever before. E.g. Recent General Household Survey results show that access to education by young girls and women has improved substantially over time, depicting a balance in gender parity ratios (GPR) amongst those who are functionally literate from 0,95 in 2002, to 0,99 to date, indicating that more women are now literate.
- We produce annually, gender thematic reports and social profiling of other marginalised groups using Stats SA data and administrative data where applicable.

2. Expand Stats SA's outputs to include collaborations with other data producers in the country e.g. administrative data sources and data not produced by the NSO specific to gender-based violence. I'll mention some of the notable collaborative work done in the sector

- One of the things we proud ourselves is that we're one of the few African countries producing vital statistics from the civil registration system and this improved coverage and quality of civil registration data over time.
  - In striving to ensure that no one is excluded from health coverage, schooling, and basic human rights – the government has an indigent children register/database called **ULWAZI NGABANTWANA** (knowing our children) in partnership with DSD and UNICEF.
  - Today we are able to track indigent children from birth to their young adult life in terms of receiving government aid. (Teething issues there and there)
- The undertaking of the 2016 SADHS, which provides information on a variety of gender indicators in the country, for example,

- Sexual and reproductive health
- Household decision making
- Domestic violence

Although Stats SA face challenges in the production of gender sensitive data, there is notable progress in the area of stakeholder engagements and collaborations in addressing GBV in South Africa.

- A Behavioural Insight Study on Gender Based Violence led by UNDP South Africa in partnership with Stats SA and other stakeholders was conducted in 2018. The study aimed to understand reasons behind people's inability to intervene timely and effectively to end intimate partner violence before something bad happens, especially those closest to the victims i.e. "Bystanderism".
- **Femicide Watch** is a database (work in progress) to track reported cases and convictions related to violence against women and children especially deaths that may be related to such incidents. Our role as the gender statistics is to provide statistical support to the committee by availing data and technical advice.
- A national summit on gender-based violence and femicide held in 2018 led to the establishment of the Presidential task team and NSP-GBVF to address the issues. Although GBV data are collected through different surveys (population-based surveys, victims of crime survey, SADHS), there is no consensus among researcher and policy makers on the prevalence of different forms of GBV including IPV and non-partner sexual violence. Hence, a need to conduct a dedicated baseline GBV national household-based survey to address the challenges of not having reliable statistics. Preparations for the survey are underway led by the Human Science Research Council of SA.

3. We participate in national, regional and global projects that aim to promote awareness, use and improve the measurement of gender indicators and statistics in the country.

- Our membership in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) has since 2015 opened acknowledgment and opportunities for us.
  - For example, our involvement in the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) Pilot Survey capacitated us in a lot of areas. The importance of individual level data in gender statistics.
  - Participated in the global revision of the **2016** International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS).
- In the regional space, we are members of the Africa Gender Data Network. Organised by the UNECA in collaboration with Data2X, Paris 21, and other

agencies. The project is aimed at improving the production and use of gender data within African national statistics systems including capacity building initiatives.

- South African National Statistics System (SANSS) branch within Stats SA, has produced the Integrated Indicator framework (IIF), which is a framework that integrated SDG indicators and national development plan indicators for ease tracking. This framework also serves as a minimum set of indicators for the country. We are in the process of engaging with the Ministry of Women and other relevant stakeholders to develop and sift out gender indicators.
- In 2019, we embarked on a disability project sponsored by the World bank. At first glance the research on the harmonisation of disability definitions and classifications in SA might not seem related to gender statistics, however we envisage that the framework will assist us in collecting information on persons with disabilities especially from admin data sources
- Stats SA in partnership with United Nations Women are in the final phases of the assessment of the gender statistics system due to be concluded in December 2021. The aim of the project is to assess gender statistics and integrate a gender perspective in national strategic planning for statistical production, use and dissemination. It is envisaged that the assessment will be the basis for plans to increase the quality, comparability and regularity of gender statistics in order to address national data gaps and meet reporting commitments.