Gender Counts: An update on UNICEF's gender statistics initiatives

12th Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, Tokyo, 13 November 2018

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OVERVIEW

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UNICEF'S APPROACH TO GENDER STATISTICS

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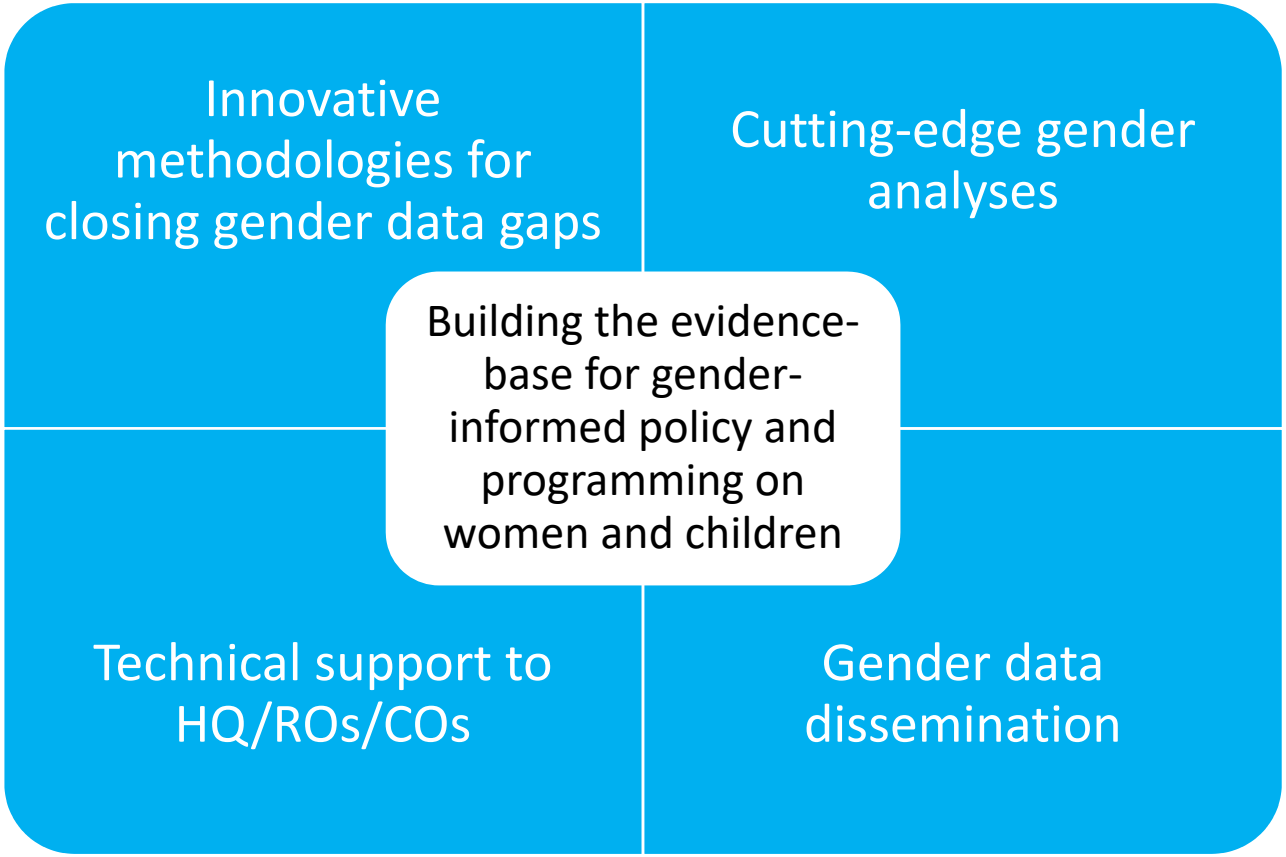
MOVING FORWARD

UNICEF's Approach to Gender Statistics



Innovative Methodologies for Closing Gender Data Gaps

- Guidelines on the collection of data on violence against children, incl. gender-based violence
- Measurement of:
  - Mental ill health among adolescents
  - Children's time use
  - Adolescent civic participation, incl. adolescent girls' and boys' empowerment

UNICEF Gender Analyses (2018)

- **The practice of child marriage among boys**
- **Analysis of HIV among adolescent girls and associated behavioural indicators**
- ***GirlForce: Skills, training and education for girls now* (w/ ILO)**
- ***Gender Counts: A review of gender inequality among children and adolescents in Asia and the Pacific* (w/ UNFPA, UN Women, UNESCAP, WFP)**

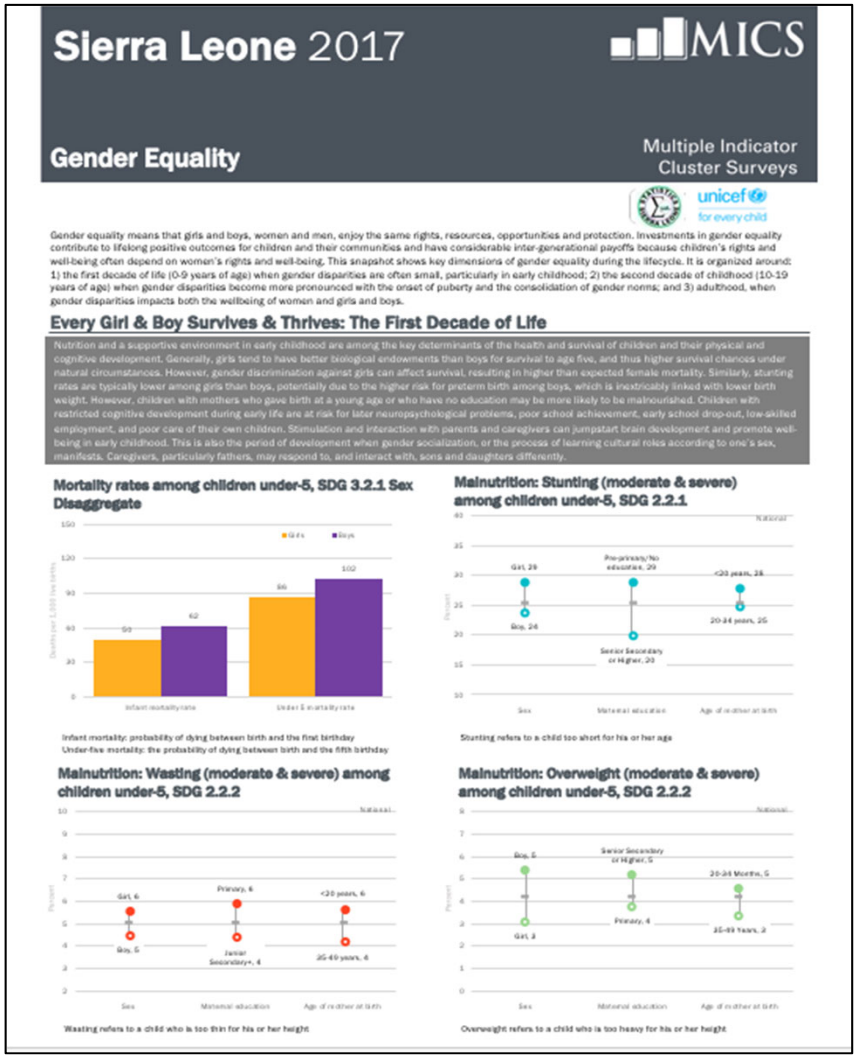
Gender Counts review…

Main objectives:

- Define core set of gender indicators for children in the region
- Map available national-level data against defined indicators and identify key data gaps
- Describe extent of gender inequality affecting children and adolescents in the region

Gender data gaps identified:

- Sexual and reproductive health of adolescent boys & unmarried adolescent girls
- Well-being of children with disabilities, by sex & age
- Well-being of children w/ diverse sexual orientation & gender identity
- Individual-level indicators related to urbanisation, disaster/conflict, & climate change



Sierra Leone 2017

MICS

Gender Equality

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

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Gender equality means that girls and boys, women and men, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protection. Investments in gender equality contribute to lifelong positive outcomes for children and their communities and have considerable inter-generational payoffs because children's rights and well-being often depend on women's rights and well-being. This snapshot shows key dimensions of gender equality during the lifecycle. It is organized around: 1) the first decade of life (0-9 years of age) when gender disparities are often small, particularly in early childhood; 2) the second decade of childhood (10-19 years of age) when gender disparities become more pronounced with the onset of puberty and the consolidation of gender norms; and 3) adulthood, when gender disparities impacts both the wellbeing of women and girls and boys.

Every Girl & Boy Survives & Thrives: The First Decade of Life

Nutrition and a supportive environment in early childhood are among the key determinants of the health and survival of children and their physical and cognitive development. Generally, girls tend to have better biological endowments than boys for survival to age five, and thus higher survival chances under natural circumstances. However, gender discrimination against girls can affect survival, resulting in higher than expected female mortality. Similarly, stunting rates are typically lower among girls than boys, potentially due to the higher risk for preterm birth among boys, which is inextricably linked with lower birth weight. However, children with mothers who gave birth at a young age or who have no education may be more likely to be malnourished. Children with restricted cognitive development during early life are at risk for later neuropsychological problems, poor school achievement, early school drop-out, low-skilled employment, and poor care of their own children. Stimulation and interaction with parents and caregivers can jumpstart brain development and promote well-being in early childhood. This is also the period of development when gender socialization, or the process of learning cultural roles according to one's sex, manifests. Caregivers, particularly fathers, may respond to, and interact with, sons and daughters differently.

Mortality rates among children under-5, SDG 3.2.1 Sex Disaggregate

Infant mortality: probability of dying between birth and the first birthday
Under-five mortality: the probability of dying between birth and the fifth birthday

Malnutrition: Stunting (moderate & severe) among children under-5, SDG 2.2.1

Stunting refers to a child too short for his or her age

Malnutrition: Wasting (moderate & severe) among children under-5, SDG 2.2.2

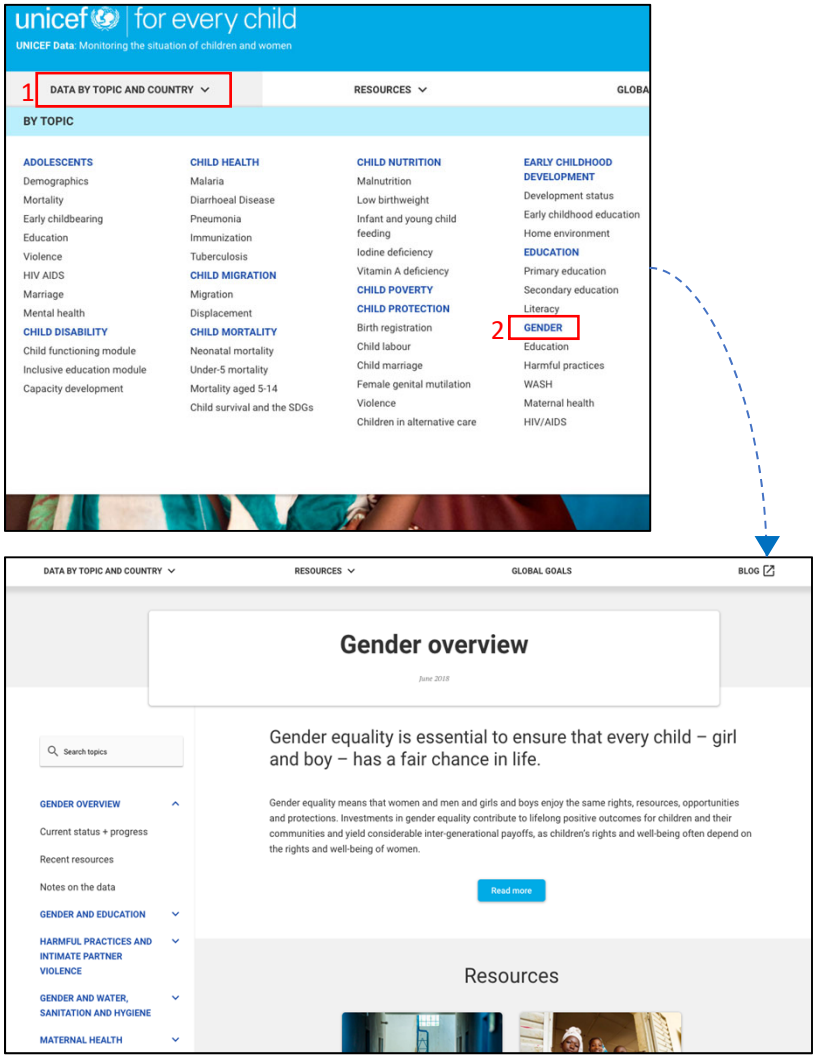
Wasting refers to a child who is too thin for his or her height

Malnutrition: Overweight (moderate & severe) among children under-5, SDG 2.2.2

Overweight refers to a child who is too heavy for his or her height

Gender data dissemination

- **MICS6 Statistical Snapshot on Gender Equality**
- **List of MICS6 sex-disaggregated and gender-specific indicators**



Gender data dissemination

- **New gender landing page at data.unicef.org**
- **New adolescent data portal with sex disaggregated data**
- **18 indicator databases released on nutrition with sex and age disaggregation**

Moving Forward

- Development of interactive Gender Data Portal
- Methodological work on:
  - Strengthening administrative data sources to close gender data gaps
    - UNICEF Nicaragua CO & Legal Forensic Institute
  - Gender and migration among children
  - Gender-responsive social protection for children
  - Gendered measures of children's multidimensional poverty
  - Gender norms & socialization

THANK YOU

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