

FILLING DATA GAPS TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY: HOW TO USE A MAPPING OF GENDER DATA AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS AS A TOOL FOR ADVOCACY

Girls and women must be included in the generation and collection of data that informs advocacy, accountability, policy, and programmatic efforts to advance gender equality around the world.

In the working paper, ***Advocating for a Stronger Evidence Base for Gender Equality: An Analysis of Gender Data and Knowledge Gaps***, Women Deliver conducted a desk review and found over 150 gender data and knowledge gaps across nine thematic areas. These gaps identify where the collection of new data are necessary to advance gender equality efforts.

What comes next?

Everyone can help fill gender data and knowledge gaps — by advocating for gender data generation, funding efforts to shine a light on the lived realities of girls and women, or collecting gender data themselves. We invite advocates, academic and research organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), donor organizations, the private sector, and governments to join our call to fill these gender data and knowledge gaps to advance gender equality. Together, efforts to fill gender data and knowledge gaps can be leveraged to make bigger and bolder commitments to improve the lives of girls and women.

Here's how to incorporate our findings into your gender equality advocacy efforts:



Using Women Deliver's working paper, review the thematic area and the issues you are focused on and deepen your understanding of what information is missing. Search for key words and review the tables for intersections between topics. Try refining the gaps that interest you by looking at the evidence available for your specific population and context. You may find key data and knowledge gaps that impact your target population that you may not have considered initially.



Assess which gaps, if filled, would most propel your gender equality efforts. Think about what filling this data and knowledge gap would help you accomplish. Consider what your role is in filling the gap. What can you contribute? Advocacy? Financing? Partnerships?



Take action to advocate for the need to fill your selected data gaps! See the table on the next page for some examples. We've outlined advocacy actions that support the collection of gender data and fill gender data and knowledge gaps:

ACTION	EXAMPLE (WHAT)	WHO (MOST APPLICABLE FOR)	HOW (TACTICS)
<p>Advocate for the prioritization and collection of gender data</p>	<p>You are a champion for improving access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services for all. From the working paper, you find that there is a lack of data collected on the SRHR of girls under the age of 15, indicating their sexual and reproductive health needs are unknown and possibly go unaddressed.</p>	<p>Advocates & CSOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize networks, petitions, and communications campaigns to request governments collect data on the SRHR needs of young girls in national statistics efforts. Hold bilateral meetings with research organizations, the private sector, and governments to persuade them to act to fill gender data gaps. Approach research organizations to work together on a research study that collects this data.
<p>Review data collection tools to better capture the lived realities of girls and women</p>	<p>Annual reports and indexes are great sources of global data. The working paper highlights gender data that are currently missing across multiple areas that could be included in these reports and indexes. For example, there is lack of data on unmarried women's decision making over cash earnings across Demographic and Health Surveys.</p>	<p>Advocates & CSOs</p> <hr/> <p>Academic and research organizations, the private sector, & governments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform an independent analysis of project methodologies, including indexes, with a gender lens. Submit recommendations to the authors of reports and indexes outlining what changes can be made to collect missing gender data. Update project methodologies, indexes, and data collection questionnaires (such as the census and other national surveys) with a gender lens, including creating new tools and sections to fill these gaps.
<p>Develop a research agenda based on global priorities for gender equality</p>	<p>Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is a harmful practice affecting many girls and women worldwide. However, efforts to convince legislators to ban the practice have been challenging. The working paper suggests multiple opportunities for new data that could help develop new narratives and promote advocacy efforts.</p>	<p>Advocates, CSOs, & academic and research organizations</p> <hr/> <p>Donors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a roundtable discussion with experts in the field of FGM/C to review the various gender data gaps in this area. Together, identify which gaps are the most important to fill, and generate an action plan for collecting this evidence. Looking at global priorities and advocates' calls to action, allocate a portion of funding for efforts that specifically fill these gaps through research, program evaluation, or setting up systems for better gender data collection.

Build the evidence base to strengthen advocacy objectives and program development	<p>Population Health and Environment (PHE) programs have the potential to both improve women's health and address environmental issues. The working paper identifies a need to evaluate more PHE programs and research the links between women's health, leadership, and climate change in depth.</p>	CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of a needs assessment, embark on a research project to identify the impact of climate change on women's health outcomes.
		Academic and research organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a rigorous impact evaluation of an ongoing program that disaggregates data by gender and other equity stratifiers. Apply a gender lens to research proposals related to climate change and publish a scientific paper that fills one of the gender knowledge gaps in this area.
		Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for monitoring, evaluation, and capacity strengthening efforts that value the collection and use of robust gender data to effect change.
Conduct large-scale gender data collection efforts to drive national policy development and accountability efforts	<p>National numbers indicate that maternal mortality is decreasing on average, yet available data hide sub-national disparities. The working paper notes a need for maternal health data demographically disaggregated by age, race, ethnicity, and other socio-demographic factors.</p>	Private sector & governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish public-private partnerships to combine and leverage big data using innovative collection and analysis methodologies to generate new insights into the lives of girls and women that have not been adequately captured to date.
		Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a gender statistics budget and strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics system to regularly collect, analyze, and use gender data.

Information and data are the driving forces behind meaningful and sustainable change. By advocating for more data on the lived realities of girls and women, we can take a step forward in the effort to make a gender-equal world a reality. For more in-depth information on the data and knowledge gaps outlined above, please refer to the full working paper, [**Advocating for a Stronger Evidence Base for Gender Equality: An Analysis of Gender Data and Knowledge Gaps.**](#)