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ABSTRACT

Title	Measuring references to statistics in national policy documents
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Session	Use of gender statistics in policymaking and policy monitoring in times of crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the durability of the gender data gap. However, missing data only partially explains why inclusive, gender-sensitive policymaking remains a challenge. Low technical capacity to communicate gender statistics coupled with limited gender data literacy among decision makers contribute to an environment where gender data is not only under-produced, but under used. Now more than ever, addressing gender issues at all stages of the “data value chain” – from strategic planning for data collection to gender data uptake and use – is vital, to accelerate an inclusive recovery and progress toward gender equality.

To monitor and scale up the use of gender statistics in policymaking, PARIS21 has worked in partnership with UN Women to develop a set of tools and resources to guide national statistical offices, policymakers and advocates in the following areas:

- Based on its new text analysis methodology, PARIS21 observes a low usage of gender statistics in the national development policy documents across the globe. This trend points to the gap between the production of gender statistics and their use to inform policies and programmes.
- The gender disparities in health and socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic have highlighted a need to improve communication to ensure gender data can reach both policymakers and the public. To respond to this need, PARIS21 and UN Women developed a set of free online courses on communicating gender statistics for statisticians and journalists. Stories from course participants highlight the role of gender data communication in advancing advocacy and inclusive policymaking.
- Mobilising action to strengthen the gender data value chain calls for better, more inclusive statistical strategies. PARIS21’s new guidance on integrating a gender-focus in strategic planning for statistics is designed to guide NSOs to develop stronger capacities and coordination mechanisms to scale up the production and dissemination of gender statistics.