

Bridging the Gap: GHANA COUNTRY PROFILE

Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa

Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa traces the availability and quality of data for 104 gender-relevant indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic empowerment, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers 15 African countries.

Strong support for gender data exists in Ghana, particularly through the efforts of the Ghana Statistical Service. In addition to helping ministries build capacity for sex-disaggregated data collection, the launch of their SDG national reporting platform will improve access to gender data.

Like other countries in this study, Ghana lacks comprehensive gender data. Despite a large number of surveys, there is low availability of timely data at the national level. Sex disaggregation of existing data is another concern.

Ghana lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2018 in international databases and in national databases maintained by the Ghana Statistical Service and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.



AVAILABILITY

Ghana's national databases include **81 out of the 104 gender indicators**.



DISAGGREGATION

17 gender indicators lack sex disaggregation in Ghana's national databases.



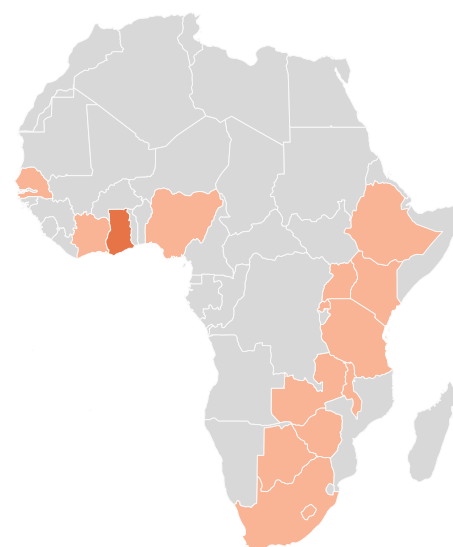
ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS

27 published gender indicators in Ghana's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.



TIMELINESS

65 gender indicators in Ghana's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



The 15 African countries included in this study.

Opportunities to improve gender data in Ghana

Closing gender data gaps requires time, resources, and capacity. But there is a path to an improved gender data ecosystem:



Include more recent data in national databases. Few indicators have observations available since 2015, despite the many surveys that have been conducted since then. The microdata from these surveys must be processed to provide recent data for existing indicators.



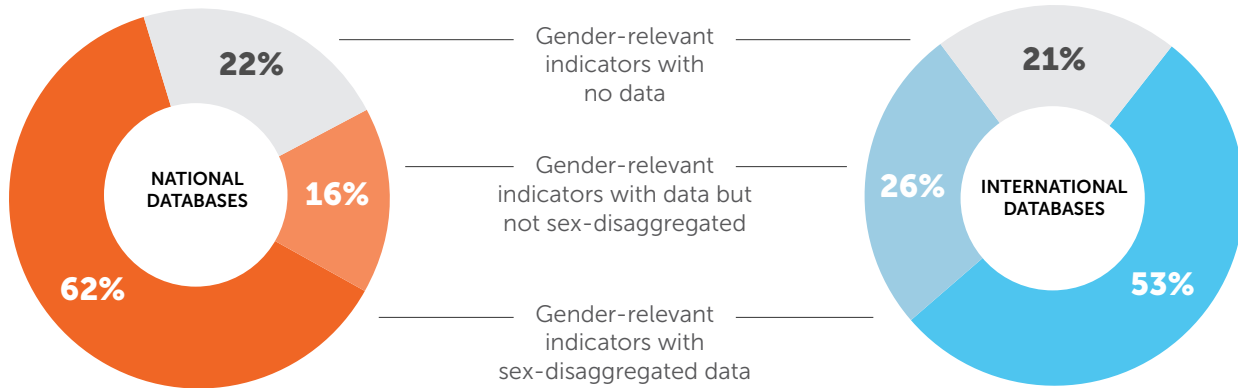
Produce more indicators for health and economic opportunity, particularly in international databases, according to international standards and with the appropriate disaggregations.



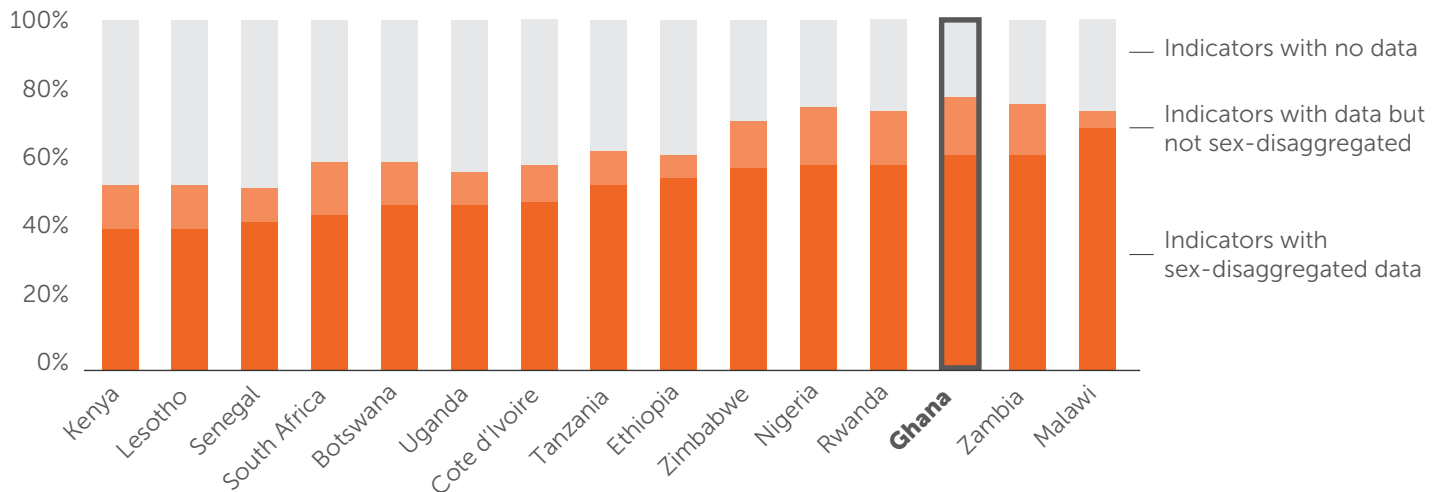
Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems to increase the proportion of children under five with registered births and increase the availability of gender indicators derived from CRVS data.

A closer look at gender data gaps

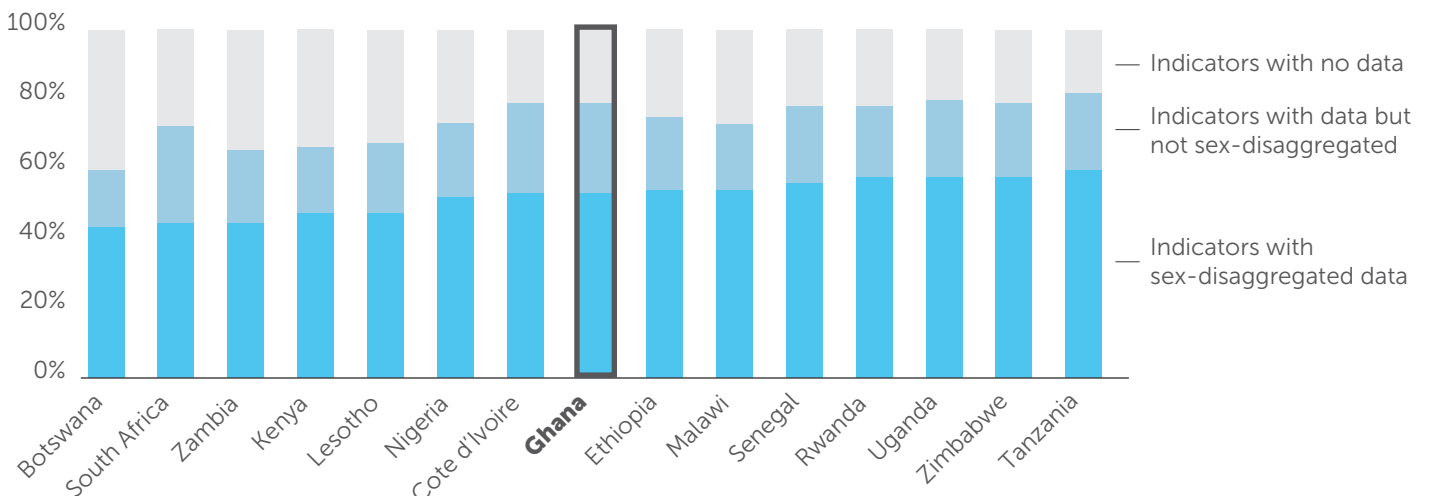
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. Ghana's national databases lack data for 22 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations have slightly higher coverage of Ghana's gender indicators, but 21 percent are still missing.



Ghana publishes a relatively high number of gender indicators in **national databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

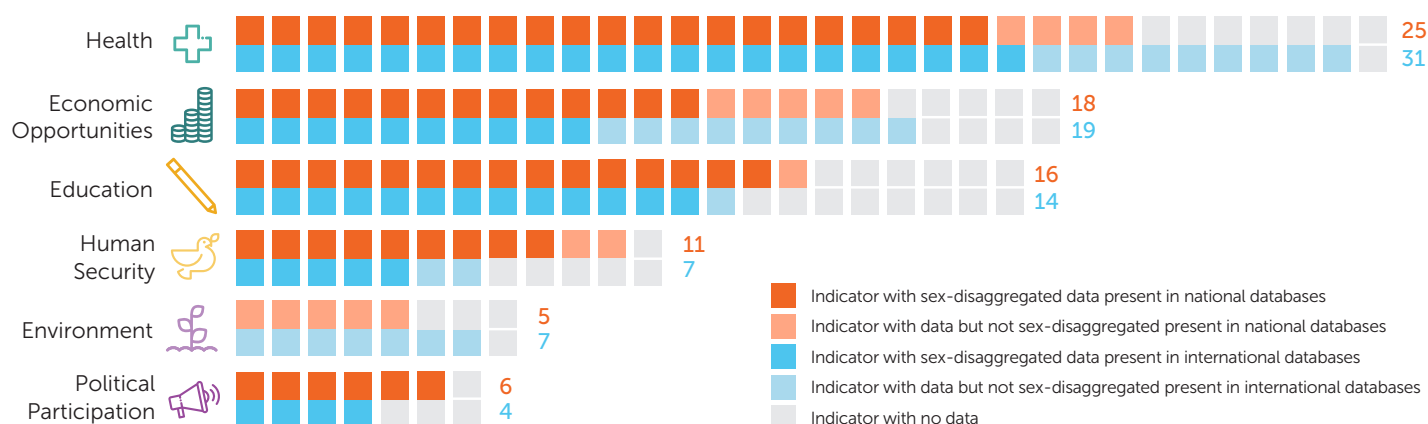


Ghana publishes an average number of gender indicators in **international databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

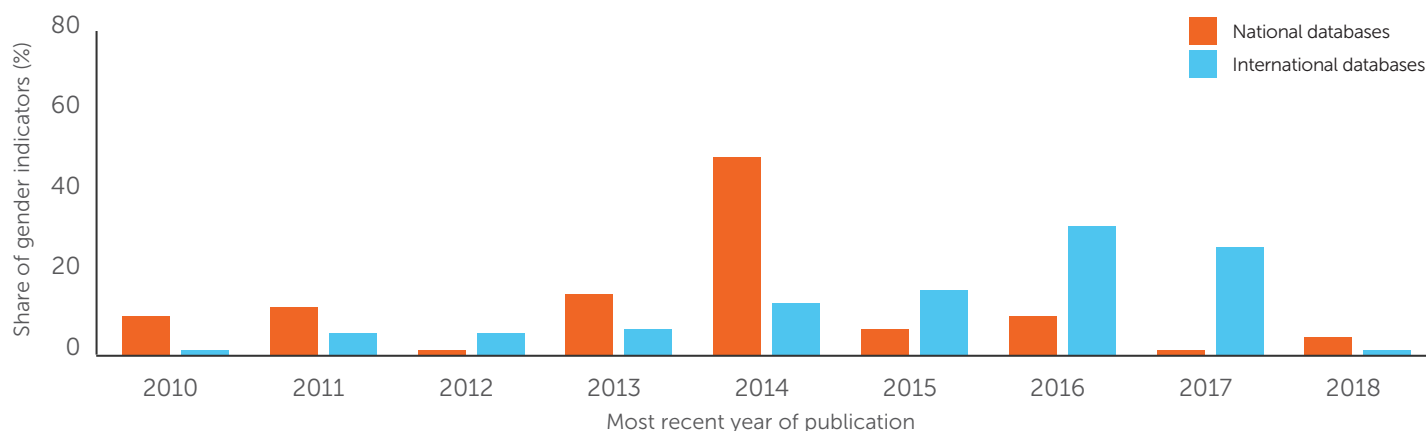


Data availability and timeliness

Health indicators have the highest availability of data in Ghana, though many indicators lack sex disaggregation in international databases. Gaps exist in education indicators, and there is no sex disaggregation for any environmental indicator.

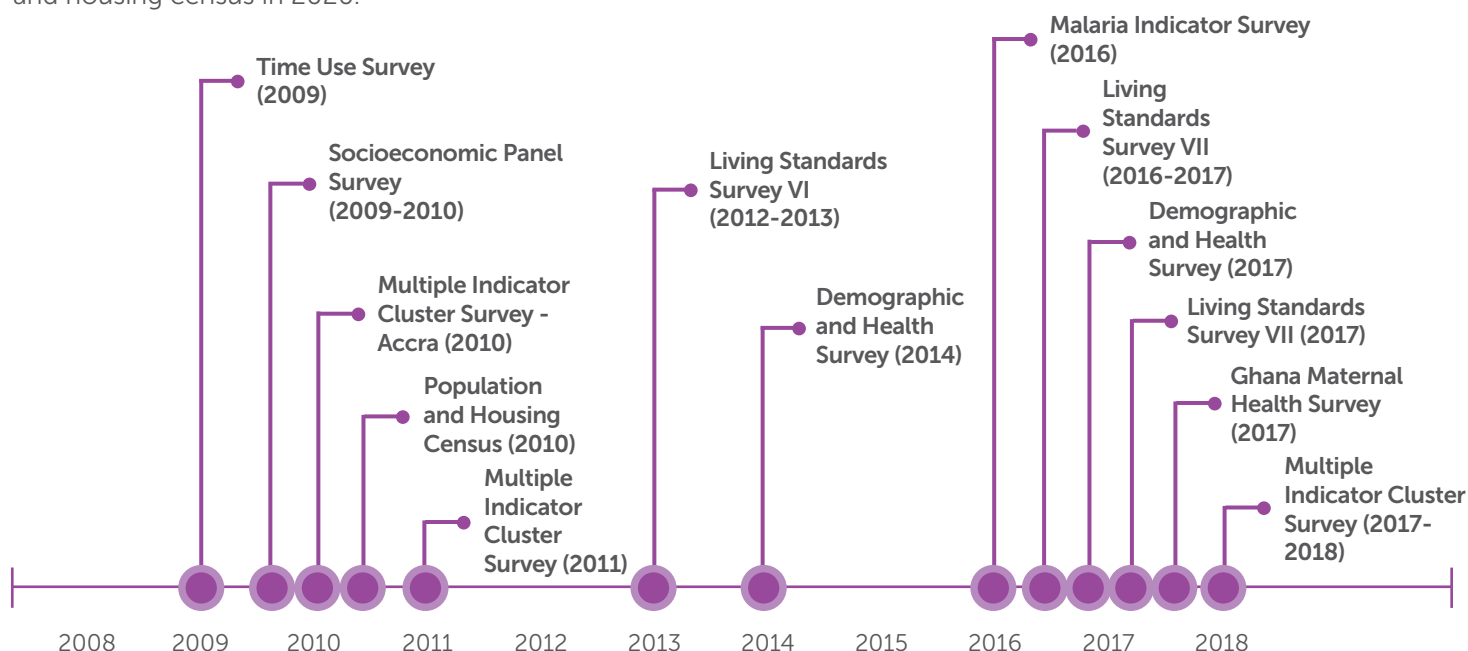


Eighty percent of gender indicators in Ghana's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Core systems to produce gender data

Many of the gender indicators in Ghana are produced through surveys. Although Ghana has conducted a number of surveys from which gender indicators can be derived, few have been published. Ghana will conduct its next population and housing census in 2020.



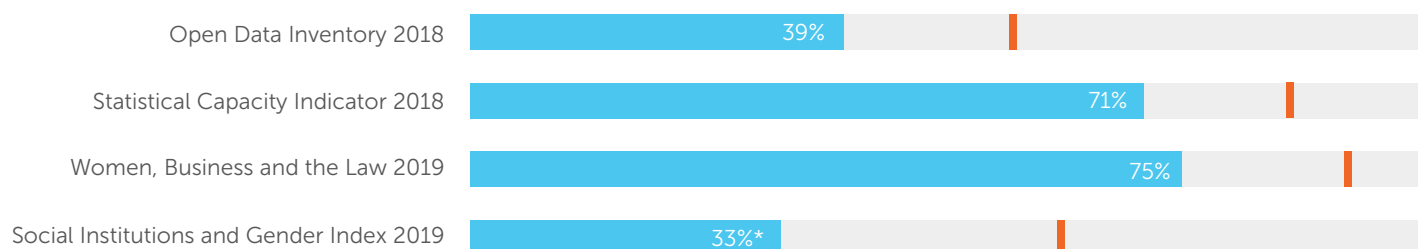
Civil registration and vital statistics provide basic demographic and health information. This is especially important for women and children as the data are foundational and help to unleash opportunities and combat discrimination and exclusion. Birth registration rates in Ghana remain below the sustainable development goal (SDG) target of universal registration.

- 71%** Children aged 0 to 4 years in Ghana whose **births were registered**, of which
- 15%** Children aged 0 to 4 years were **registered without a birth certificate**
- 56%** Children aged 0 to 4 years were **registered with a birth certificate**

Source: 2014 DHS. The DHS Program STATcompiler. <http://www.statcompiler.com>.

Assessments of Ghana's data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a more complete picture of Ghana's statistical and legislative environment.



* Percentile rank among 120 countries worldwide with scores.

Vertical line: Highest score for a Sub-Saharan African country

Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

Ghana is taking steps to improve data availability by mainstreaming gender data into national plans, engaging in partnerships, and mobilizing finances.

- Ghana's **2019 Voluntary National Review** outlines the country's challenges about access to reliable and timely sex-disaggregated data across all sectors. The Ghana Statistical Service is playing a key role in helping ministries, departments, and agencies build capacity and revise data collection templates to improve the availability of sex-disaggregated data and address concerns.
- The Ghana Statistical Service launched a **SDG national reporting platform** as a step toward making disaggregated data easily accessible. This open-source platform can be used to inform evidence-based policies and support initiatives that advance gender equality.
- The **Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (2017-2024)** identifies the need to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems to increase the availability of relevant and timely demographic data.
- Ghana has received support for health data through the **Strengthening Health Outcomes for Women and Children (SHOW)** gender-transformative project from Plan International. With support from Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian public, health care staff have received training to improve data collection.

To access the full report, please visit bit.ly/BridgingtheGapTechnicalReport



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