



SOLUTIONS IN SCARCITY: SMART FINANCING FOR GENDER DATA

Delivering on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Generation Equality Forum in the Decade of Action requires robust gender data systems that can only be established through smarter and more sustainable investments. The importance of gender data has never been clearer, but resources remain limited even as the financing landscape comes under further strain.

The time is now to seek solutions in scarcity.

Moving from Problems to Solutions

Closing the gender data financing gap requires more than just an increase in spending. It requires a larger strategic effort to make dollars go further and put gender data at the heart of national, regional, and international action for gender equality and sustainable development.

PARIS21, Data2X, UN Women, and Open Data Watch are working together to identify best practices to guide the data investments of national governments, bilateral donors, and international agencies to achieve gender equality. Three categories of solutions have emerged.

Five Reasons to Invest in Gender Data

1. More and better gender data lead to more equitable, gender-informed policy—and more effective policy produces better results for countries, economies, and individuals.
2. Gender equality is a cross-cutting issue with critical interlinkages with all 17 SDGs. Gender data are needed not only to measure and monitor progress towards SDG 5 but to develop new policies and programs to meet the broader SDG commitments.
3. Better gender data will be the first line of defense against future crises by supporting community resilience and enabling more targeted and inclusive responses.
4. The climate crisis is not gender neutral. Gender data can help policymakers more effectively respond to protect communities, especially women and girls, from the consequences of climate change.
5. Investments in gender data are investments in the broader statistical system and like the positive benefits created when gender equality is prioritized, strong gender data systems are a tide that can lift all boats.





SOLUTION 1 **Rethink Financing Models**

Bringing official development assistance and domestic resource mobilization together under a country-owned strategy is an important way to amplify the coherence and collective impact of scarce resources. Ensuring gender data is built into national strategies for the development of statistics and linked to national development plans is key, not only for mobilizing adequate domestic resources, but also for identifying gaps external sources can fill.



SOLUTION 2 **Refocus on System-wide Investments**

To build strong and sustainable gender data systems, it is imperative that investments go towards projects that strengthen the overall system rather than one-off interventions and siloed activities. For long lasting effect, a system-wide approach to financing gender statistics is needed to mainstream gender in statistics, encourage strong donor coordination and increased transparency through the Clearinghouse, and build political support for gender data—inside and outside the national statistical system.



SOLUTION 3 **Reveal the Business Case**

Gender data is needed now more than ever to prepare for the future and should be used to anticipate, prevent, and respond to forthcoming crises. Showcasing examples of how gender data translates to impact is an important (and largely untapped) solution to drive more and smarter financing. In the face of competing budget priorities, it is imperative that calls for increased investments in gender data are backed by a compelling business case —both to manage risks and to secure a more prosperous and sustainable future for all.



Call to Action: Partnering for smarter gender data financing

Investing in gender-sensitive and inclusive data ecosystems is a vital part of the global effort to build back better from COVID-19, tackle climate change, and ensure an inclusive response and recovery to global conflicts and crises. But this goal is not achievable by one institution or country alone; it requires collaboration, partnerships, and knowledge sharing.

Join the efforts to seek solutions in scarcity for gender data financing and improve the lives of women and girls around the world.

Visit bit.ly/SolutionsinScarcity to learn more.

Add your voice to the [#SmartDataFinance](#) conversation on Twitter.

