

# Gender Data Network Statisticians at the UN World Data Forum: Insights and Impact

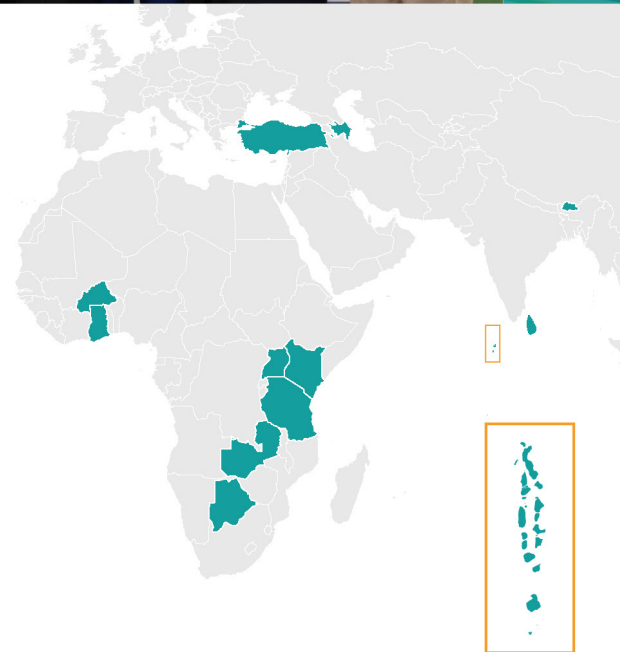
The Gender Data Network (GDN) is a global initiative by Data2X, Open Data Watch, PARIS21, UNECA, and UNESCAP, that unites statisticians from 50 national statistical offices (NSOs) in Africa and Asia-Pacific to improve gender data. Since 2019, GDN has fostered peer learning, built capacity, and driven data use in policymaking to close gender data gaps and support inclusive development.

In November 2024, the GDN secretariat brought 12 GDN members to the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) in Medellín, Colombia. This opportunity amplified regional voices, promoted collaboration, and provided members with actionable insights to advance gender data initiatives.



## WHY GDN ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Gender statisticians need skills, technology, and global connections to enhance their work. The 2024 UNWDF facilitated this by uniting governments, donors, civil society, and researchers to exchange ideas and build partnerships. GDN sponsored operational staff—those implementing gender data initiatives—ensuring ideas from UNWDF translate into lasting improvements in gender data systems.



## IMPACT OF PARTICIPATION AT UNWDF

For many GDN members, UNWDF 2024 was their first global event and a valuable opportunity to engage face-to-face with peers from across regions. This experience provided them with new ways to strengthen gender data initiatives in their home countries.

### Exchanging Experiences and Solutions

The UNWDF brought together a wide range of stakeholders—from grassroots organizations to international agencies, including their fellow gender data network members. This diverse mix created opportunities for GDN members to learn about different approaches to data use, form partnerships, and discuss shared challenges.

### Gaining Knowledge

GDN members actively participated in various sessions and side events focused on inclusive data. Key topics included innovation, data use, trust, partnerships, gender, climate, modernization, and digitalization. Lessons are citizen-generated data and data visualization were especially pronounced.

### Elevating Member Voices

Two GDN members from Uganda and Botswana shared their expertise in high-profile sessions, contributing insights on translating gender data into actionable policies and improving SDG reporting frameworks.

All GDN members also engaged with attendees at the “Commit to Data” booth. This dedicated space allowed members to network, exchange ideas, and share GDN’s commitments to advancing gender data.

"I got the opportunity to share Maldives' experience and connect with countries on the same journey as us, but at different stages of implementation."

Fathimath Riyaza, Statistician, Maldives Bureau of Statistics



"All sessions I attended are very applicable in my day-to-day work."

Diana Byanjeru, Statistician, Uganda Bureau of Statistics



"It's important to network with people in order to get inspired and develop new ideas and perspectives."

Chethini Madadeniya, Statistician, Sri Lanka Department of Census and Statistics

## INSIGHTS INTO ACTION

After the UNWDF, GDN members are returning to their offices with actionable strategies to improve gender data systems.



### Data Gap Assessment

Chethini Madadeniya of Sri Lanka will explore tools from UN-Women, PARIS21, and Open Data Watch to assess gender data gaps and leverage citizen-generated data.



### CRVS System Improvement

Fathimath Riyaza of Maldives aims to enhance the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system and improve gender data communication through digital publications.



### Data Visualization

Neslihan Öncül of Turkey plans to implement advanced data visualization techniques to make gender statistics more accessible for decision-makers.



### Continued Learning & Collaboration

Caroline Mutwiri of Kenya is applying new methodologies and collaborating with new peers met through the GDN to address data gaps and expand technical expertise.

"Data visualisation is as important as data generation and the role of data visualisation in increasing access to users."

Neslihan Öncül, Expert, Turkish Statistical Institute

"[UNWDF] lessons are practicable in my daily work—filling in data gaps by applying new methodologies and making good use of the technical expertise available through the GDN."

Caroline Mutwiri, Statistician, Kenya Bureau of Statistics



### Youth Engagement

Wiza Msiska of Zambia plans to collaborate with youth organizations to promote data literacy and advocacy for gender equality.

**Partner with us to advance gender data**

The Gender Data Network is committed to closing gender data gaps through collaboration, innovation, and capacity building. Join us in supporting gender data experts and driving inclusive, data-informed development.

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