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SADC unveils gender strategy



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Ms Bridget John (left), Africa Development Bank principal gender statistician economist, Mr Keffi Kouakou (centre) and acting statistician general, Ms Ketso Makhamale at the Sixth Joint Africa Gender Statistics Forum in Gaborone on Monday. SADC Secretariat, head of gender Ms Phumelo Makhato unveiled the Gender Statistics Strategy 2023-2030. She said the strategy aimed to enhance the capacity for producing, utilising, and harmonising gender statistics across SADC member states. Photo: Phanyo Molele

#winwindsetrange

Lesha gore

- O da go ipona
- He njhe he riha jhwalong
- weni o jtena mha gkae

Financial challenges affect SDGs delivery

By Goitse Mofhele

GABORONE - Africa's financing landscape has been made worse by global shocks and the continued trade tensions of dollars per year to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, says Mr Willie Mafuwa of Africa Centre for Statistics and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

He said the Forum for Sustainable Development had been mandated to address Africa's financial challenges. In the context of the need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs as well as to support reform of the international financial architecture.

Speaking at the Gender Statistics Forum in Gaborone on Monday, Mr Mafuwa said the financial gap for SDGs was estimated at about P17.68 trillion (US\$3.3 trillion) per year. He said to meet people-related

goals, it was estimated that the continent needed P11.561 billion a year, noting that the UN secretary general had called for a P5.766 billion increase per year to achieve the SDGs targets, and urged international financial institutions and communities to reform themselves.

He said estimates from the Africa Centre for Statistics (ACS) had indicated that at the current pace gender equality would be achieved in 2044.

Furthermore, he said to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, depended on the quality of statistics as they provided a basis for good decision making and helped governments identify the areas of action in addressing development challenges.

He added that they were essential in managing the effective delivery of basic services and indispensable for ensuring accountability, transparency and democracy.

Moreover, he noted that only a few countries had sufficient data to monitor indicators of SDGs5 and that approximately 23 per cent of data was disaggregated.

He said the Economic Commission for Africa had strengthened its sub-programme to support member states statistical capacities.

He also said support was provided to member states through harmonising new technologies, including geo-spatial systems to improve data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination, archiving as well as facilitating access to national, sub-regional and regional databases.

He also said services were provided to member states and regional entities on statistical legislation and national strategies for the development of statistics which was aligned with national strategies and plans.

He added that the harmonisation of statistics was key to the statistical work of the ECA in the continent.

In addition to introducing new systems and methodologies for standardisation, he said harmonisation also took place through the adoption of international statistical norms, standards, classifications and the adoption of regional and national realities.

For her part, acting statistician, Ms Ketso Makhamale said the user needed disaggregated statistics to inform evidence based plans.

She said it was equally imperative that their policies, plans and interventions were sensitive to the intricacies that underpinned gender differentials, adding that it put pressure on statistical organisations to produce data and reports disaggregated by gender.

She noted that the forum had brought together users, producers and experts in policy analysis and gender statistics across Africa to



Mr Mafuwa said Africa's financing landscape had been worsened by the global shocks and the financial gap for SDGs implementation estimated at about US\$3.3 trillion per year. Photo: Phanyo Molele

show the latest innovations and best practices related to gender statistics to engage in policy dialogues.

Therefore, Ms Makhamale said the forum would create an opportunity to link gender statistics financing for accelerated progress, adding that the forum also aimed to make better use of limited resources and time through sharing best practices and developing concrete strategies to rationalise, harmonise and improve the measurement and use of gender statistics in Africa.

Also, she noted that Statistics Botswana was collaborating with the national statistical system to help collect, finance and analyse data according to best practices, including gender statistics.

The further said Statistics Botswana was providing technical guidance for collection and analysis of such information, and that gender disaggregation of statistics was also emphasised in administrative data. BOPH

Mr Makhamale said support from World Bank and UN Women continued to create platforms and opportunities for bringing together producers and users of gender statistics in SADC member states.

Furthermore, she said the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commitment to have one billion people provided a unique opportunity to address gender inequalities, build resilient interventions and increased the availability of gender related statistics.

She said statistics and data were an important part of development agenda and in achieving the UN Agenda 2030.

However, she said, data gaps identified in the SADC region and in Africa called them of making informed decisions in addressing development challenges as such gaps led to missed opportunities for creating effective policies.

"Due to lack of well-disaggregated data and gender statistics, it's impossible to have a full understanding of women

and men's roles, status and contributions to development across sectors, especially now, when we are left with less than a decade to the end of 2030 Agenda," she said.

Furthermore, she said the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commitment to have one billion people provided a unique opportunity to address gender inequalities, build resilient interventions and increased the availability of gender related statistics.

"Let us ride on this opportunity and commit to finding a suitable way to strengthen our data systems," she said.

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Visit paves way for new agreements - Minister Kwape

By Moselemang Motamele

MAPUTO - President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi's three-day state visit to Mozambique offers an opportunity for discussion on groundbreaking agreements for the Tlokoeng Port Integrated Project, a long-anticipated collaboration between Botswana, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Lemogang Kape said in an interview prior to Dr Masisi's visit will see these Presidents, Dr Masisi, President Mr Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique and Dr Fransman Mungangwa of Zimbabwe would meet on Friday to sign the Tlokoeng Port and railway line projects.

Dr Kape said the visit, which came at the President Nyusi's invitation also afforded both presidents an opportunity to ensure continuity of all engagements and agreements between Botswana and Mozambique.

Following the recently concluded 8th session of the Botswana/Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPPCC) both presidents are expected to meet to discuss the signing of Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements in the areas of road infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, food security as well as public order, a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says.

Dr Kape said strides had been made in the beef industry as some Mozambique companies imported

Botswana visit to a country that has about 30 million population, hence, he stated that this opened the opportunity to grow the industry sector as well as create a big market.

Dr Kape also mentioned some of the collaborations between Botswana and Mozambique which included deployment of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) under the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) for regional support in Mozambique to combat the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in the Cabo Delgado Region.

"As this mission comes to an end, it is important for the two leaders to reach base because our last batch of Botswana's contingent is scheduled to come home end of July," he said.

Minister Kwape also mentioned that the visit included bidding for the development of statistics which was aligned with national strategies and plans.

He added that the harmonisation of statistics was key to the statistical work of the ECA in the continent.

In addition to introducing new systems and methodologies for standardisation, he said harmonisation also took place through the adoption of international statistical norms, standards, classifications and the adoption of regional and national realities.

SADC unveils Gender Statistics Strategy

By Goitse Mofhele

GABORONE - SADC Secretariat recently developed Gender Statistics Strategy 2023-2030, SADC head of gender, Ms Phumelo Makhato said at the Sixth Joint Africa Gender Statistics Forum in Gaborone, Monday.

She said the strategy was spearheaded by increased demand for gender statistics in the region, adding that the workshop also presented a strategic approach to strengthen capacity to produce, use and harmonise gender statistics in the SADC region.

She said the strategy aimed to respond to and support evidence-based gender responsive regional initiatives to meet gender data requirements of global institutions.

Furthermore, she said the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commitment to have one billion people provided a unique opportunity to address gender inequalities, build resilient interventions and increased the availability of gender related statistics.

"Let us ride on this opportunity and commit to finding a suitable way to strengthen our data systems," she said.

She said statistics and data were an important part of development agenda and in achieving the UN Agenda 2030.





UNLOCKING THE VALUE OF GENDER DATA

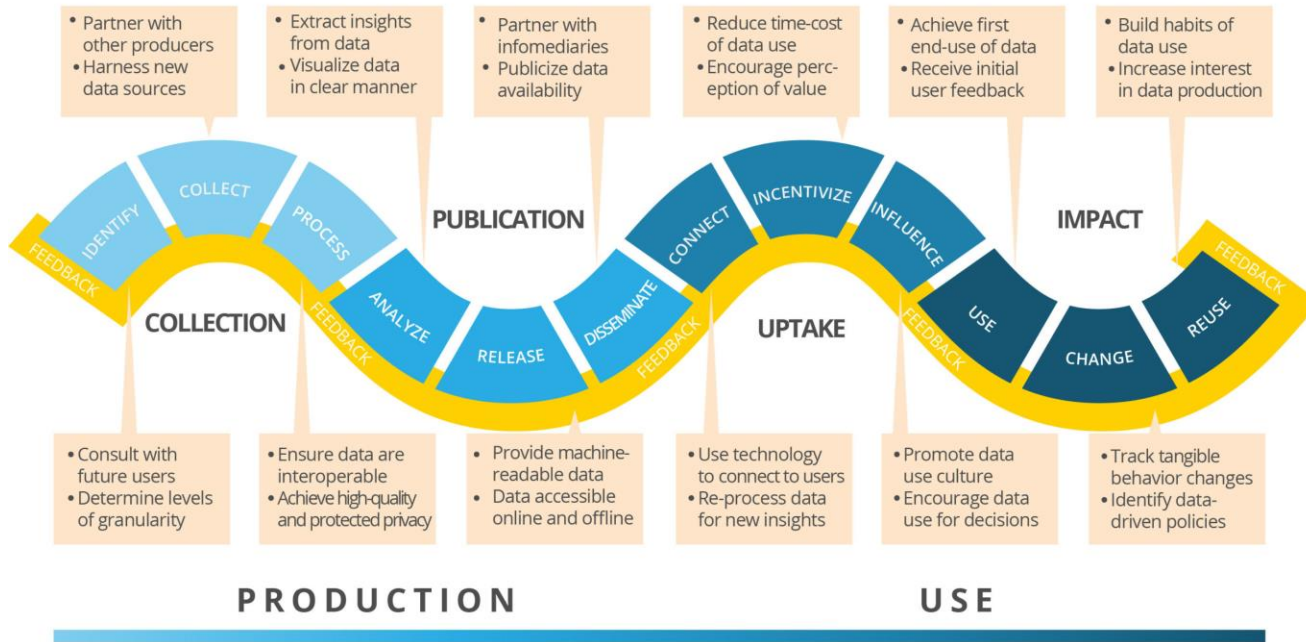
A REGIONAL TOOLKIT FOR
TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

Presentation by: Maureen Otieno- Lead Consultant.
Email: otienomaureen11@gmail.com



Where it all begins: Facts must reach and gain traction with Users

DATA VALUE CHAIN



Roadblocks for **production** include lack of financial, human, and technological resources; low data literacy; lack of trust between users and data collectors; blind-spots in data gaps; lack of country ownership; and lack of government desire for transparency.



Roadblocks for **use** include low political support; lack of data relevance to decisions; poor quality; lack of trust in government data use; no rewards or results of data use; financial constraints; corruption; data silos; and lack of partnerships between infomediaries.

MARKERS

Potential achievements within each process of the value chain mark progress towards data impacts.



The purpose of the toolkit



The toolkit is designed with the intention to provide **guidance and practical strategies** for promoting uptake and use of gender data and statistics to inform policy, advocacy, planning, research, and accountability across ESA region.



Primary users and specific audience are policy makers and the legislature, academic institutions, researchers, civil society organizations, grassroots community leaders and media aimed at accelerating gender equality and women's economic empowerment in the ESA region



The aim is to ensure **gender data and statistics** guide and contribute to delivering **transformative action in pursuit for gender equality and sustainable development.**



Provides requisite **skills for the day-to-day use of gender data and statistics** enabling target audiences to **understand and interpret** a 'gender priority issue' in and through statistics.

The Context of the Toolkit

The production and use of gender statistics is a complex process that requires deliberate efforts aimed at -connecting, incentivizing and influencing-users to value gender data. The toolkit offers users:



Simplified and interactive tools and flow processes that can be used in planning, advocacy, programming, accountability that advances Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment agenda in and through data across diverse sectors.

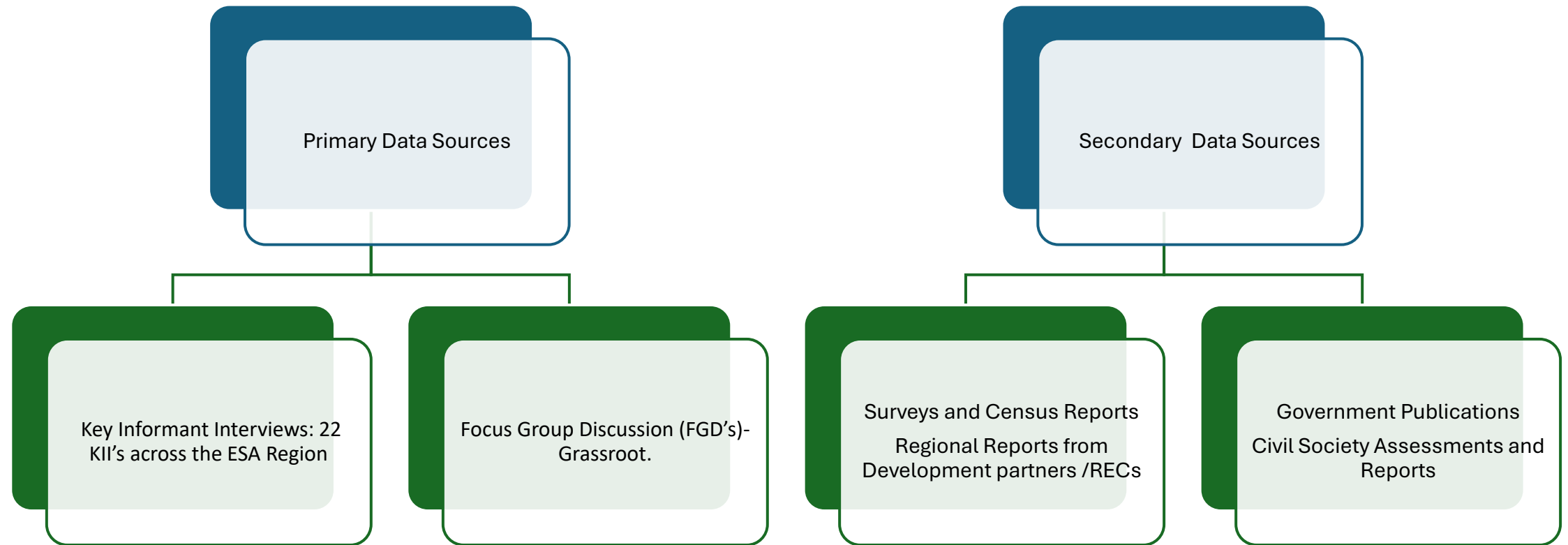


'Reflection Exercise for 'non-statisticians or gender practitioners' : What do I know about gender as a discourse? How, When and where to use gender data in my work?



'Strengthen Uptake': Practical Strategies and opportunities for strengthening uptake, collaboration and building effective co-ordination mechanisms improving gender data culture. In addition, the toolkit documents good practices including case studies from Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia

Designing the Toolkit : Methodology/Approach



Findings

EFFECTS:

'Information Asymmetry' has serious consequences on women, girls, men boys and girls in society. Failure to address the causes results in: widening of gender gaps and the exclusion of women, men, boys and girls, persons with disabilities and special interest groups in national priorities and development plans resulting in increased inequalities

Gender Data

e.g. Surveys, Administrative Data, Big Data, Qualitative Data, Citizen Data is produced

Potential Users:

Media
Legislature
Researchers
Grassroot and community leaders

ISSUE: 'Information asymmetry'

Producers have generated gender data which users have no knowledge exists, and/or can either not easily access or access in a timely manner, or interpret or use to inform their

CAUSES

- **Lack of political** will to finance uptake and use post-production of gender data
- **Limited literacy** of target users in interpreting gender data
- **Lack of trust** between users and producers of gender data. This is common in media and change advocates such as grassroot organizations and community leaders and civil society
- **Limited production** of user-driven gender data hence limiting demand for use

Key Influencing factors:



Investing in continuous gender data literacy:

Specifically target strengthening skills and capacity of users in interpreting gender data from existing facts and evidence. For instance, train media, legislature including those who advise them on how to interpret existing data into national priorities.



Delivering impactful messages through gender data:

Train media, grass root and community leaders and civil society on communicating gender data including data story telling through simplified media and tools for advocacy.



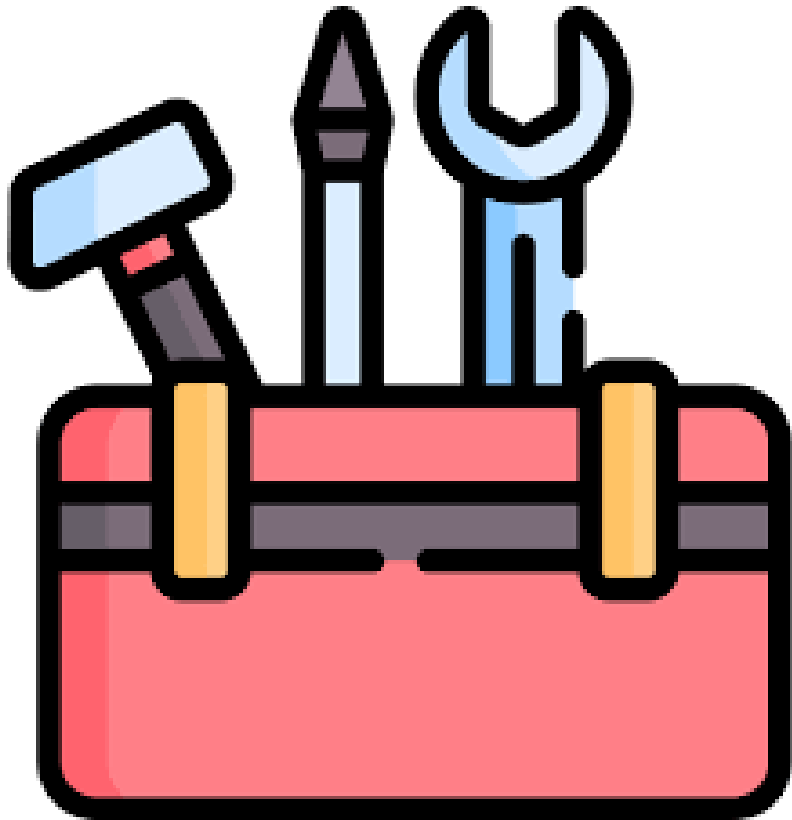
Partnership and collaboration:

Deliberate collaborative efforts to champion gender data use and improve data culture and trust in producers and users of data must be put in place through legislative

To make good on our promise to leave no one

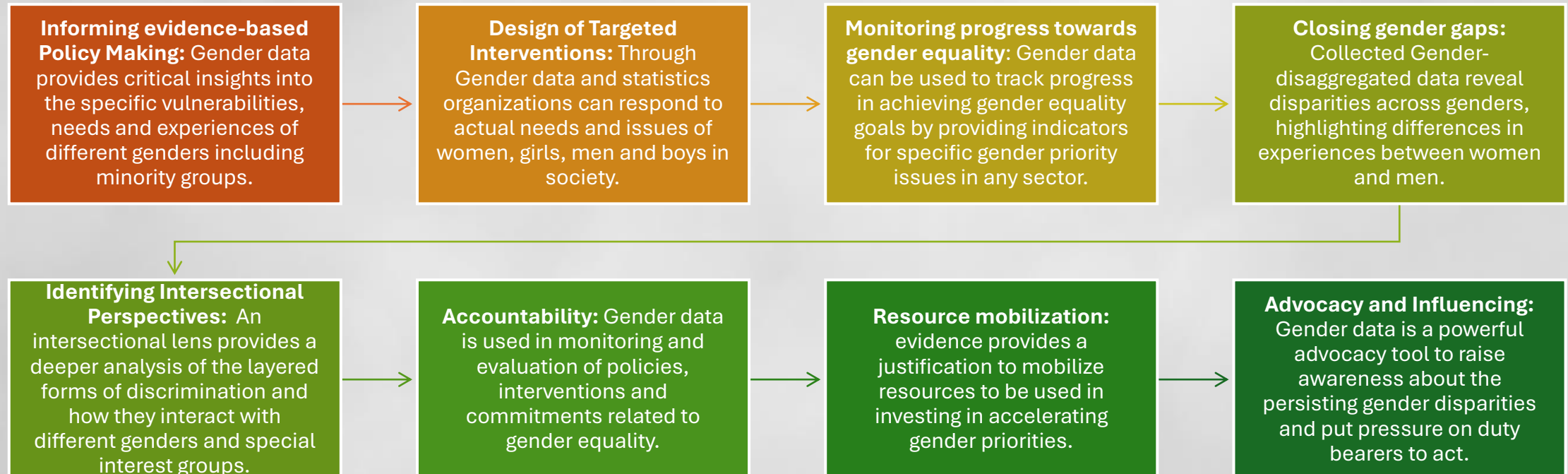


The Toolkit at a Glance



- Part 1: Introduction to the Toolkit
- Part 2: Data is for all of Us
- Part 3: Maximizing the Potential for Gender Data
- Part 4: Strategies for Strengthening Gender Data Use

The Emphasis: Data is for all of Us





Processes: By deepening understanding on *'why'* *'When'* and *'how'* legislature, government, policy makers, media, academia, grassroot and civil society organizations can use gender data at all stages of their work.



Gender Blind

Is the failure to recognise that the needs of men and women are different. A gender-blind approach assumes that gender is not an influencing factor in projects, programmes or policies.
#Totally Ignoring gender data and statistics



Gender Sensitive

This looks at gender inequality and gender gaps and might work to ensure equitable allocation of and/or access to, services and support. But it does not challenge gender roles or the norms, structures, systems, and power inequalities behind the problems



Gender Responsive

Challenges gender norms and seeks to advance gender justice and protect women's rights. These initiatives open a power relations and the protection and promotion of people's rights and voices.



Gender Transformative

Changes the root causes of unequal gender relations and discrimination against women and girls. Seeks to tackle inequalities by engaging women together with men in addressing underlying gender barriers
#Uses Gender data and statistics throughout the cycle

Strategies for fostering Uptake and Use

We round up this toolkit by spotlighting effective strategies to help unlock the value for gender data, while strengthening collaborations that will scale the gender data revolution and close the gender gap in ESA Region

Strategy 1: Identify context specific barriers to Uptake and Use.

Strategy 2: Prioritize Gender Data Literacy for Optimal data Use

Strategy 3: Train Gender Data Champions

Strategy 4: Communicate and Use Gender Statistics as a Tool for Change

Strategy 5: Build Trust: The Gender data Future we want

Strategy 6: Connect, Influence and Incentivize



References

1. Data Value Chain Accessible on <https://opendatawatch.com/reference/the-data-value-chain-executive-summary/>
2. The Gender Continuum Accessible on



Thank You