

# The Generation Equality Forums: Opportunities for Alliances between Vital Statistics and Gender Equality

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# Why is CRVS important to gender equality?

- Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems provide legal documentation on vital events (births, deaths, marriages, divorces) - it should capture and include the entire population living in a country or territory.
- However, women and girls are often excluded from civil registration & this exacerbates gender inequality -- this leaves women and girls disproportionately vulnerable to deprivation and exploitation





# Why is CRVS important to gender equality?

People face barriers to civil registration:

- Poverty
- Inaccessibility of registration services/sites
- Unemployment
- Limited education
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Lack of benefits of civil registration

Women and girls face major barriers when it comes to civil registration; compounded by the barriers previously mentioned:

- Laws and regulations
- Lack of autonomy
- Limited agency
- Power imbalances
- Harmful practices

# From the perspective of SRHR



- Vital documents gives a person legal identity & establishes access to rights and privileges
- Easier to access health, education, social benefits and inheritance

# Lack of civil registration leaves women and girls vulnerable

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- Girls are disproportionately affected by child marriage
- Widows often face discrimination, blame and hostility
- Women who die may also go unregistered
- Lack of information on causes of female death ~ gap in health-related decision-making



# Why is gender data important?

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When policies and measures are not tailored to existing gender differences, they can perpetuate and exacerbate inequalities

Gender data can help monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies and measures.

Gender data are particularly important because individual beliefs about gender and gender roles are so often influenced by stereotypes, old customs and traditional concepts.



# Capturing gender data in civil registration & vital statistics (CRVS)

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When decision-makers endeavour to ensure that CRVS includes women and girls, they will need evidence about the extent and impact of gender inequities in civil registration & how to strategically address these

Remove legal & regulatory impediments to registration (information on mother's marital status may be a barrier when community stigma prevails for births out of wedlock)

Other barriers that should be addressed: costs, accessibility and complicated procedures



# Capturing gender data in civil registration & vital statistics (CRVS)



Sex-disaggregated monitoring of vital statistics is necessary for identifying gender inequalities

Gender equality cannot be achieved unless women are accurately represented in data = disaggregating data by sex and other relevant dimensions is vital to decision-making at the global, regional and national levels.

Raise awareness on the benefits of civil registration - by working with communities, especially women and girls





# Generation Equality Forum- synergies and opportunities

- Quality gender data is fundamental across each Action Coalition
- When used to shape policies and investments, gender data has the power to accelerate gender equality.
- Data disaggregated by sex and reflective of gender roles and inequalities, gender data reveals systemic inequities, illuminates a path for action, and can be used to monitor global progress

# ACTION 1

## EXPAND COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Increase delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school reaching 50 million more children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity by 2026.



Gender-sensitive indicators make gender biases more visible and help measure gender-related changes in society over time.

When data are disaggregated by sex, age, marital status, poverty and race/ ethnicity it helps to identify the disparate needs of young people and inequalities

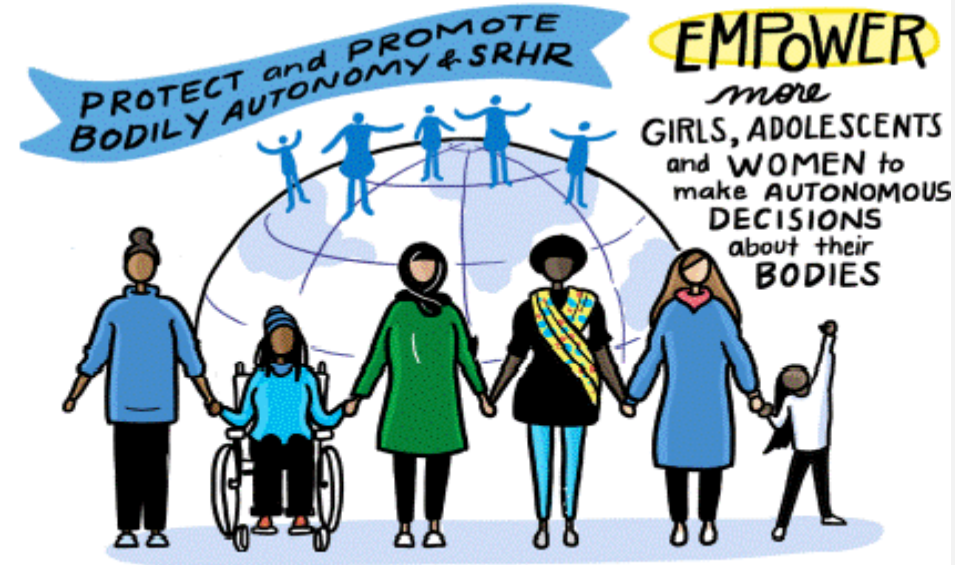
The Generation Equality Forum is a critical opportunity to improve the lives of women and girls, and investment in gender data must underscore these efforts.

Gender data essential to the transformative agenda of the action coalition on bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights

## ACTION 3

### INCREASE SRHR DECISION-MAKING & BODILY AUTONOMY

Through gender norms change and increasing knowledge of rights, empower all people including 260 million more girls, adolescents and women in all of their diversity to make autonomous decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction by 2026; enact legal and policy change to protect and promote bodily autonomy and SRHR in at least 20 countries by 2026.



Reliable data is essential for designing health interventions that better meet women's intersectional needs, especially for women and girls in humanitarian crises, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and women with disabilities.

Health data for adolescents is not always sex-disaggregated, and data on socially-excluded girls is particularly scarce — limiting knowledge on the health of girls and young women.

## ACTION 4

### STRENGTHEN GIRLS, WOMEN'S AND FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS TO PROMOTE AND DEFEND THEIR RIGHT TO BODILY AUTONOMY AND SRHR

Increase accountability to, participation of and support for autonomous feminist and women's organizations (including girl- and adolescent-led, and Indigenous organizations and collectives), women human rights defenders and peacebuilders. Strengthen organizations, networks and movements working to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR.



# Opportunities and Way Forward

- Action Coalition leaders utilize available gender data to analyze intersectional discrimination, develop concrete actions, and build the accountability framework to monitor and measure success.
- Develop a gender data plan to deliver on the Action Coalition blueprint and undertake an analysis of gender data gaps related to the concrete actions identified in the blueprint.
- Call for investment in gender data. Financial analysis must include a costing for producing the necessary data identified in the gender data plan.
- Quality gender data will enable Action Coalition leaders to develop a concrete, evidence-based agenda and track progress toward measurable change

