

Monitoring SDG 5 Gender Equality



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Status of SDG 5: Data gaps and ways forward

G. Azcona and L. Rahm

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June 3rd 2024, 8 am EDT

How far are we in advancing gender equality?

Objectives:

critically reflect on SDG 5 progress, data gaps, and gender mainstreaming across all SDGs, point to complementary data and ways forward

Data sources:

SDG tracker: <https://sdg-tracker.org/>

Gender Snapshot 2023 and 2024 (*forthcoming*)

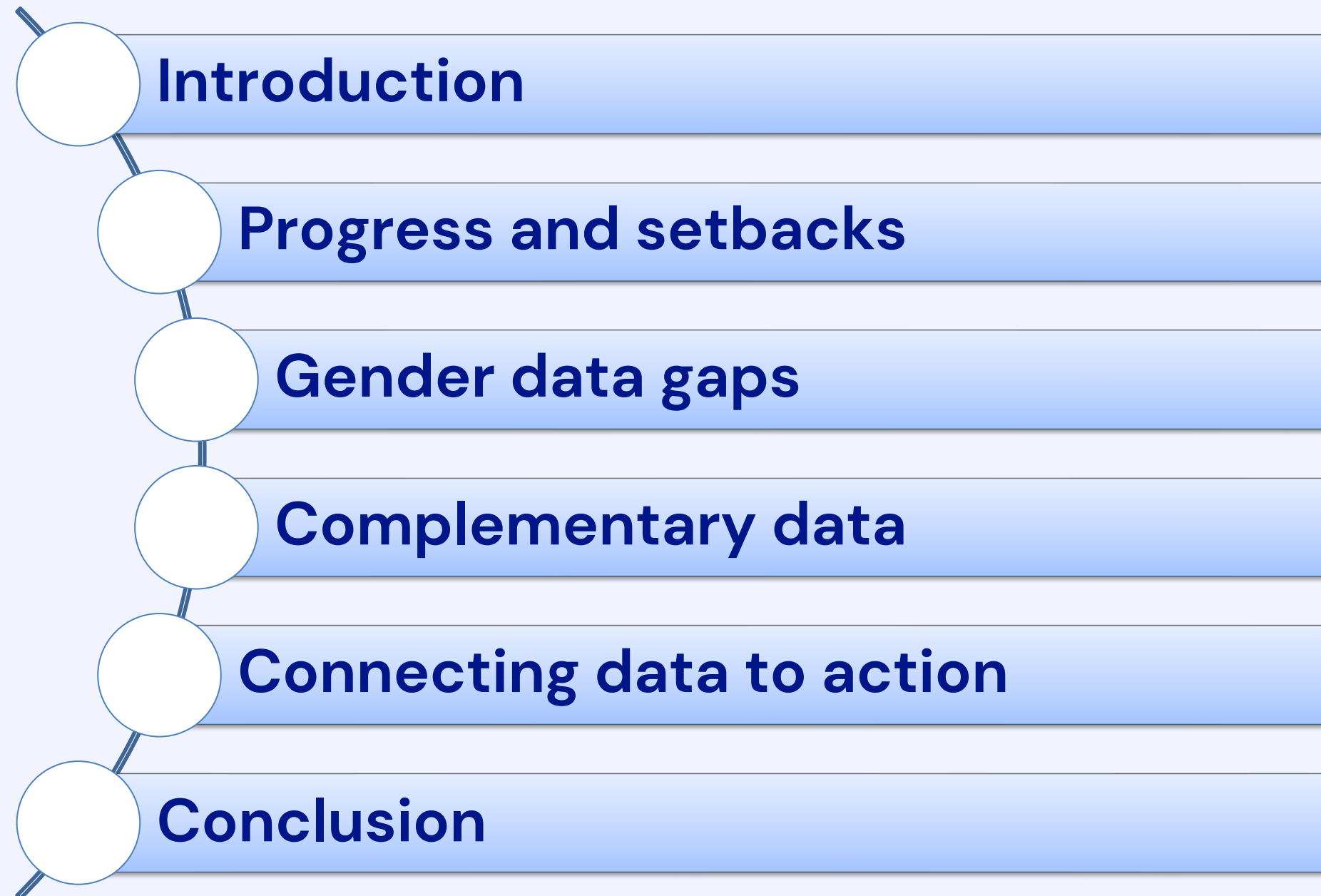
Based on Book Chapter:

SDG 5: Beyond Data Availability for Empowering Policy Action on Gender Equality

By Ginette Azcona (UNWOMEN), Antra Bhatt (UNWOMEN), Tara Cookson (UBC), and Laura Rahm (CEU/UofT).

Elgar Companion to Data and Indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, edited by G. Umbach and I. Tkalec (EUI)

Chapter outline and today's agenda



- The 2030 Agenda marks a **new era for gender equality monitoring** and accountability.
- SDG framework broadens the scope of women's rights beyond the Millennium Development Goals, addressing violence, care work, resource access, and reproductive health.
- Gender Equality (SDG 5): a standalone goal *and* integral to all 17 SDGs.
- Alignment with the Beijing Platform for Action amplifies gender equality targets and indicators, fostering governmental action.
- Despite expansion, gender data is underfunded, often outdated, or unavailable, especially disaggregated data.
- Addressing gender inequality requires going beyond indicators, including qualitative data reflecting women's perspectives.

The chapter explores SDG 5 progress, data gaps, complementary data sources, and the link between data and policymaking.

Progress and setbacks (1)

a) Discrimination, violence, harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)



Despite progress, globally, **75% of countries** continue to have legal gaps in women's equal access to employment and economic benefits. At current rate of progress, it could take **286 years** to equality.



High prevalence of intimate partner violence reported, with **13% of females** aged 15-49 affected in the past year, and **26%** in their lifetime. Estimated that **6%** of females are subject to non-partner sexual violence once in their lifetime.



Practices like child marriage and FGM are declining, but not fast enough. **1 in 5** young women married before 18 with significant regional disparities, down from 1 in 4 females a decade ago. FGM affects **230 Mil females** in 30 countries. Despite decline, **68 Mil girls** will be subjected to the practice by 2030.



Laws ensuring SRHR are advancing (5.6.2 **close to target**), but women's access to these rights is lacking (5.6.1. **far off track**).

Progress and setbacks (2)

b) Unpaid care work and women in positions of power and decision-making



Women perform **three times** more unpaid care, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; data gaps obscure the full picture.

Women hold **26.9%** of *parliamentary* seats in January 2024; parity is not expected until 2062. *Local* government representation is **close to target**. Progress in female *economic* leadership positions has been **limited and in some places on the decline**.

Progress and setbacks (3)

c) Economic resources, technology, legislation

TARGET 5.A



EQUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES, PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Economic Resources (5.a): Women's land ownership rights lag: less than **50%** secure land rights in most surveyed countries (34 of 46 countries). Only **4 of 52** countries with available data have legal frameworks that guarantee women's equal rights to own/control land.

TARGET 5.B



PROMOTE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Technology Gap (5.b): Data shows women less likely to own mobile phones in 49 of 80 countries and areas, indicating a gender technology gap.

TARGET 5.C



ADOPT AND STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND ENFORCEABLE LEGISLATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Legislation and Policy (5.c): Only **26%** of countries have systems to track gender budgeting, **15%** of countries lack minimal features; progress needed for gender-responsive policies.



Progress and setbacks (4)

Overview of global SDG 5 progress assessment based on 2023 data



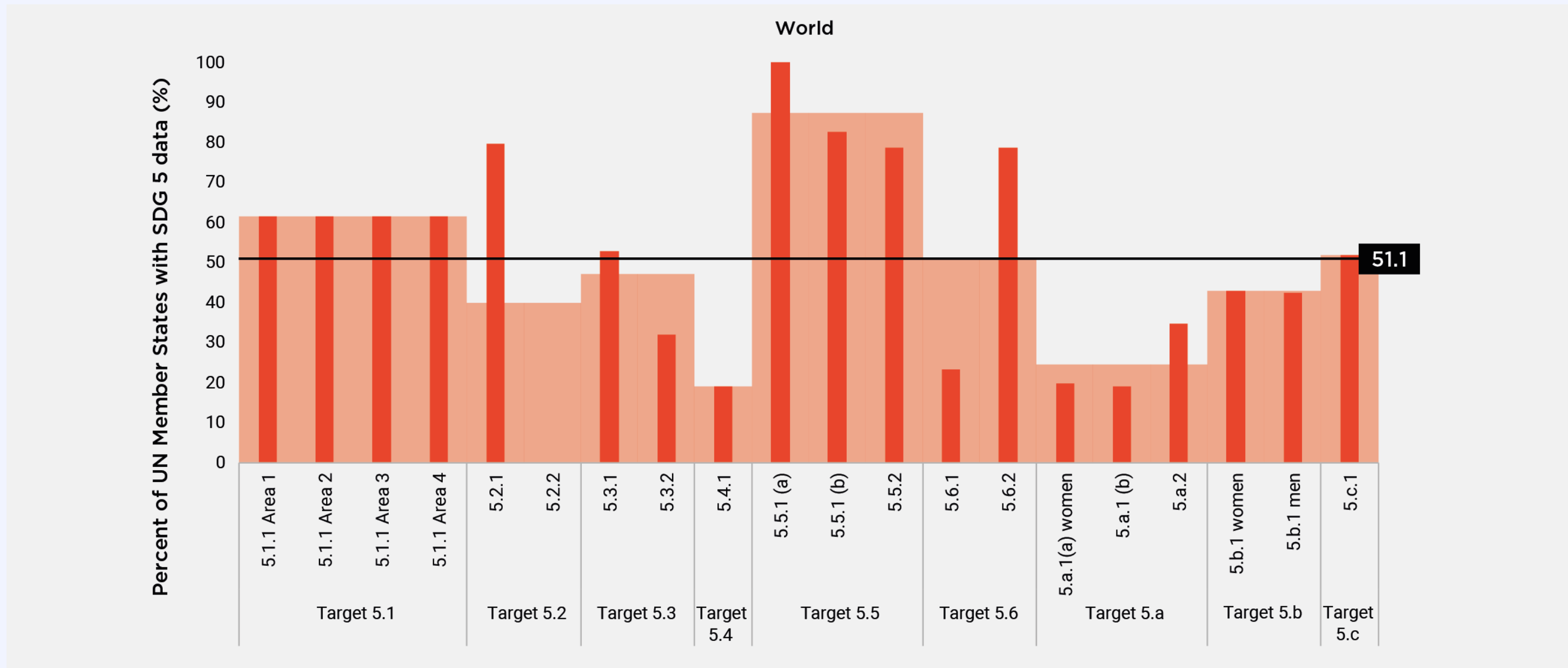
Gender data gaps (1)

Nearly 1 in 2
(44%)

of the data points needed to track
progress on SDG 5 are missing.

Gender data gaps (2)

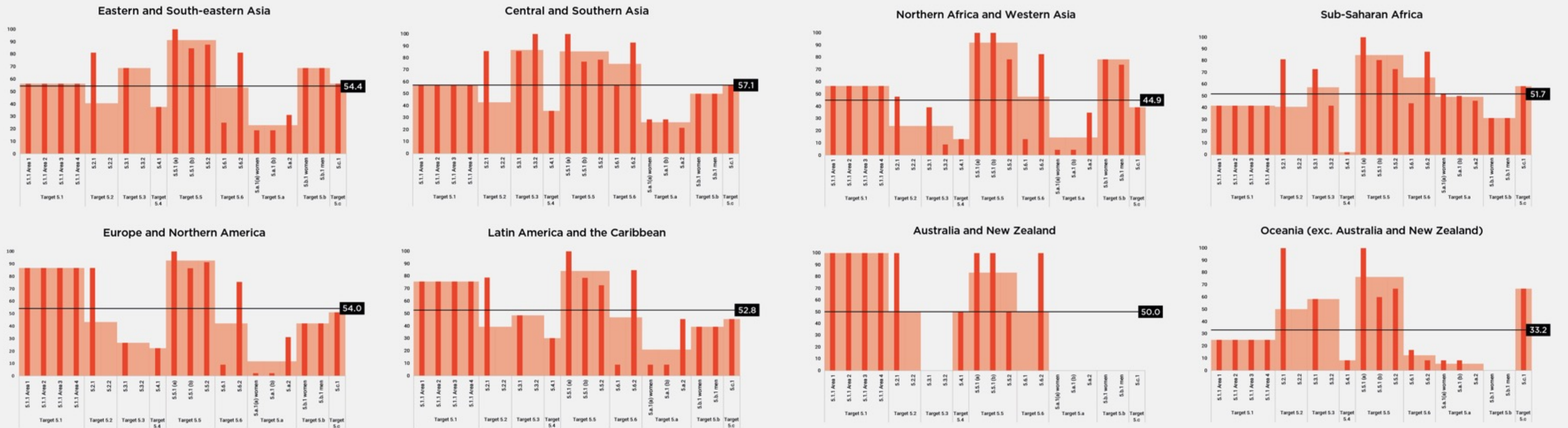
SDG 5 data availability by SDG target, and indicator (aggregates based on 193 UN Member States)



Source: Authors' calculation using UN Women 2024

Gender data gaps (2)

SDG 5 data availability by SDG region, target, and indicator (based on 193 UN Member States)



Source: Authors' calculation using UN Women 2024

Complementary Gender Data

Challenges

Critique of SDGs:

- too technocratic,
- overlooking power dynamics,
- misconceptions around measurability and progress (Esquivel, 2016; Merry, 2016).

Limits of Quantitative Data:

- Numbers can exclude vital information on women's struggles.
- National aggregates hide intersectional inequalities (Zakaria, 2017; Kabeer, 2011).

Data Production Challenges: Many countries, also with advanced statistical systems, struggle with disaggregated data 'to make those furthest behind visible.'

Opportunities

Qualitative Data: reflecting women's daily experiences and resistance strategies to oppression (Fuentes & Cookson, 2020; McIlwaine et al., 2023).

Grassroots Data: Counter-mapping and citizen-generated data provide alternative, nuanced insights (Motta, 2019; GROOTSKenya, 2021).

Big Data's Role:

- Offers timely, large-scale insights but raises concerns on privacy, ethics, perpetuating biases.
- Its use requires careful governance and a focus on feminist interests (OHCHR, 2018; D'Ignazio & Klein, 2023; Gurumurthy and Chami, 2022).

Connecting data to action (1)

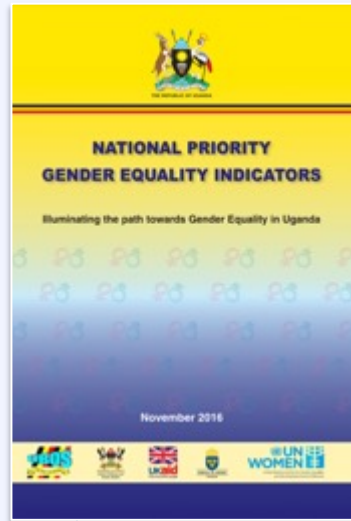


More gender data doesn't ensure usage or equality. Stakeholder uptake and impact are minimal in gender data field (Open Data Watch, 2021).

Adaptation of SDG indicators and alignment with national priorities based on local contexts is crucial for policy and resource decisions.

Connecting data to action (2)

Localising SDG 5: Uganda's case study



Collaboration with UN Women to refine National Priority Gender Equality Indicators led to enhanced SDG monitoring and policy-making in Uganda (UN Women, 2022).

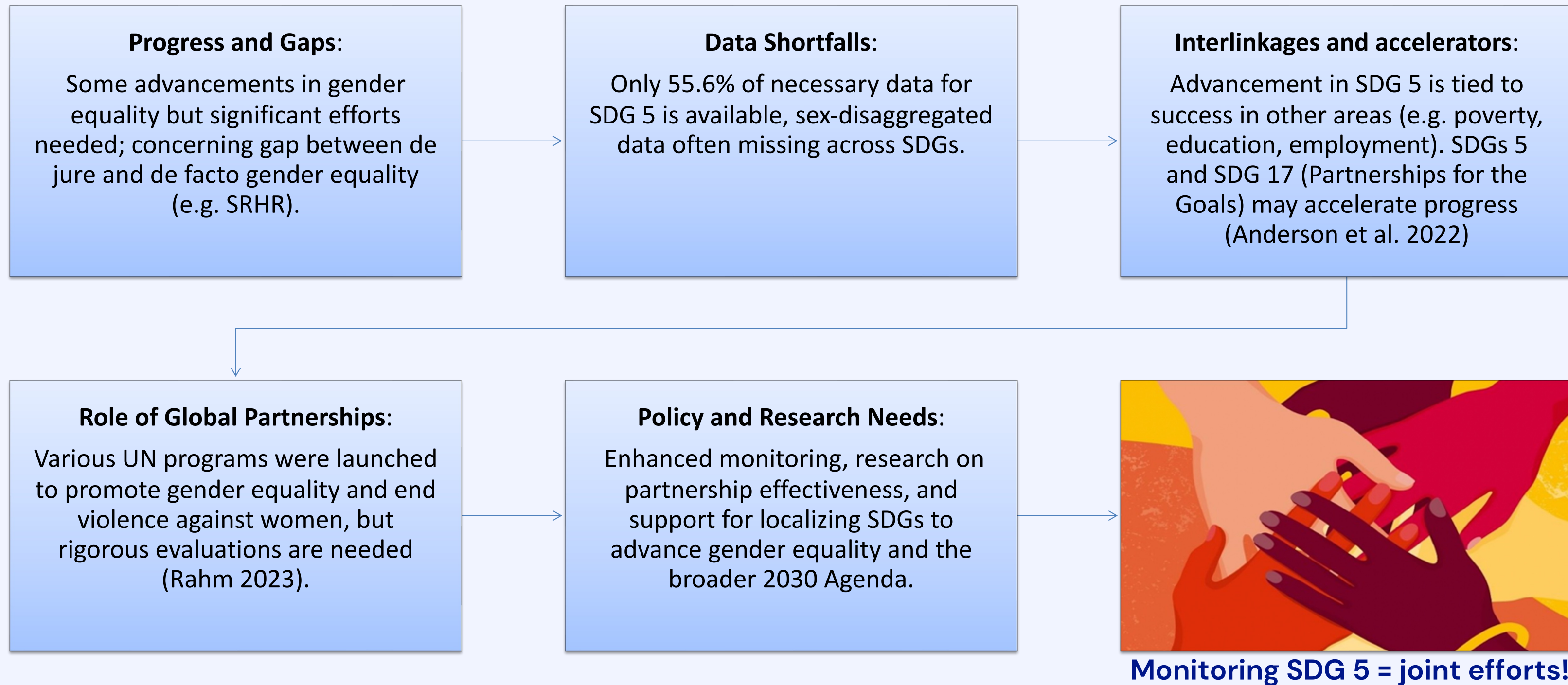


Policy Impact: Uganda's national indicators influenced the Third National Development Plan and updated public procurement policies for women's participation.



Citizen-Generated Data: Uganda published guidelines to improve the creation and use of citizen-generated data on gender inequality (Republic of Uganda and UBOS, 2021).

Conclusion and way forward



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**Sustainable
development cannot
be achieved without
full respect for the
human rights of
women and girls.**

Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary General



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Acknowledgement of Co-authors



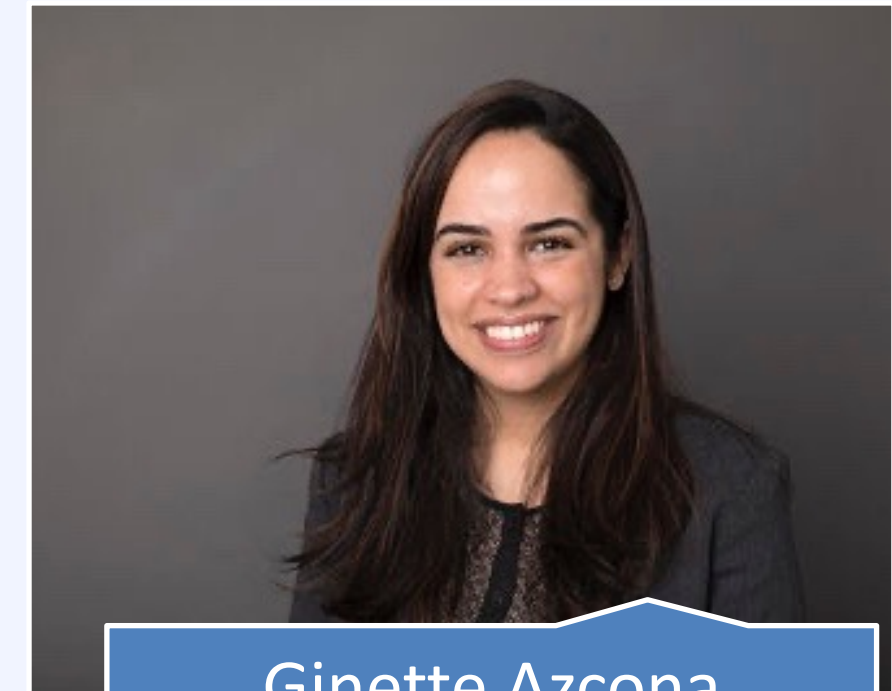
Antra Bhatt
(UN Women)



Tara Cookson
(UofT)



Laura Rahm
(CEU)



Ginette Azcona
(UN Women)

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