

“Better data. Better lives.”

In his message on World Statistics Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon stated that good data and statistics are indispensable for informed decision-making by all actors in society. As countries and organizations embark on implementing the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reliable and timely statistics and indicators are more important than ever. World Statistics Day was marked on October 20, 2015, with the theme “Better data. Better lives.”



**WORLD
STATISTICS
DAY**
20.10.2015
**BETTER DATA.
BETTER LIVES.**

Countries need statistics to understand the needs of their populations, especially those who are poor and vulnerable - to ensure that all children have access to education, to provide decent employment to those who are able to work, to reduce inequality, and to monitor the overall effects of climate change.

In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a need for a new data ‘revolution’. It can be achieved by empowering national statistical data agencies, and by harnessing the potential of new technologies and innovative approaches, with the support and expertise of academia, the private sector and civil society. The data we need are those which not only reflect reality in all its facets, but are also able to anticipate change and future challenges.

Dafina Gercheva, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Moldova, said: “The implementation of the new world agenda on sustainable development requires responsible institutions, a strong national capacity and political will, and also financial resources. Countries need accurate disaggregated data to be able to approach inequalities and to make sure that each and every person - women and men, girls and boys - has access to equal opportunities and can apply their abilities to contribute to their countries’ development. The proper use of such data is even more crucial when it comes to proper monitoring of the implementation of selected priorities.”

The statisticians’ mission is not limited to data collection and processing, but also includes understanding the user groups, improving dissemination, raising awareness of the value of statistical data and actively encouraging their correct use. These challenging tasks can be addressed only through cooperation between producers and statistics’ users. All those working in the field of policy or social services should possess the skills to understand and use data records. Policies that promote gender equality and empower women, among others, call for a more specific understanding of gender issues and relevant statistics.

Gender equality is a fundamental factor in ensuring development for all. Using disaggregated data helps us to retell about the benefits of gender equality.

In this context, under the motto of the World Statistics Day 2015, “Better data. Better lives”, in October-November 2015 UNDP and UN Women supported a series of training activities in the framework of “Strengthening the National Statistical System” Project. Statisticians from the National Bureau of Statistics trained the representatives of civil society organizations, gender focal points of line ministries and staff of the Parliament’s Secretariat. The seminars focused both on gender sensitive indicators and on practical aspects such as accessing, analyzing, interpreting and using these indicators in promoting gender equality, in policy drafting and monitoring, as well as in legislative work. In the current information age everyone, and especially specialists from institutions and state organizations facing an intense turnover of professionals, need to have basic statistical knowledge and skills.

International and national experts in statistics shared opinions with journalists in a round-table on how to search, find and use gender sensitive statistics in media activities to describe the comparative situation of men and women, rather than merely promote stereotypes and prejudices. Moldovan statisticians shared their experience on designing and conducting statistical literacy trainings for data users from different professions and sectors with 40 participants from several Eastern European and Central Asia countries who have met in Chisinau for a two-day workshop organized with the support of UNECE.

Finally on November 27, 2015, the National Bureau of Statistics presented to the public the draft Strategy for Development of National Statistical System (NSS) 2016-2020, which was developed with the support of the United Nations agencies. Implementing the Strategy will significantly reduce or eliminate current shortcomings and will increase the system’s capacity to cope with the growing demands at national and international level, including for monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



Non-governmental organizations learn to use statistics in promoting women’s rights and gender equality, 15-16 October, 2015.