

# Making women count: Closing gender data gaps in STI

The availability of national gender disaggregated data is essential in addressing persisting gender disparities in STI on the African continent, yet comprehensive reviews of available literature are scarce.

Through work led by South Africa's Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the SGCI has developed a series of country-specific context analyses synthesising available data on gender and inclusivity (G&I) in each SGCI participating country. The series highlights contextual factors driving G&I disparities in STI. Each country report is structured according to the UNESCO STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA) policy impact areas: social norms and stereotypes, education (primary, secondary and tertiary), the career progression environment, research content and practice, policy, and entrepreneurship and innovation. The series is intended to assist SGCs in identifying areas in their institutional and country contexts in which a gender perspective can be strengthened.

In developing the G&I country context analyses, literature searches on G&I in STI on the continent returned little or inadequate country-specific details. The review methodology drew on published socio-economic, gender and education indicators to illustrate gender disparities along the STI pipeline and consequences for socio-economic development for each country. Attention was also paid to the extent to which diverse overlapping social identities that may compound marginalisation – such as age, race, disability and sexuality, among others – were attended to. Still, the findings demonstrate marked gender data gaps, particularly in the area of structural transformation, rendering some country profiles more detailed than others, with diversity beyond gender data being near absent.

Nevertheless, by using the approach of providing illustrative evidence-based indicator examples of gender disparity and parity gaps (where available) along the STI pipeline, the reports provide nuanced country profiles and evidence for transforming the unequal systems and structures that drive gender inequality.

*A key objective of the SGCI theme on Gender and Inclusivity is providing resources to support SGCs in integrating a gender transformative approach across their activities. The G&I theme is led by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa in partnership with Gender at Work, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and Jive Media Africa.*

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