Investment in Gender Data Accelerates Gender Equality

Gender data is powerful. It uncovers gender inequalities. It illuminates solutions. It helps monitor progress.

More and better gender data leads to policies that are:
- Equitable
- Effective
- Responsive to the needs of communities

But when it comes to what’s needed, the world is falling dangerously short:
- Less than half of countries have data available to monitor SDG 5
- Gender data systems are underfunded by roughly $450 million per year
- COVID-19 has exacerbated existing gender inequalities

While the Generation Equality Forum captured unprecedented attention to gender equality, commitments to gender data don’t stretch far enough:
- 6% of all commitments made during the Generation Equality Forum reference gender data
- 2 out of 4 of those commitments pledge use of gender data to inform policy and programmatic solutions

In a year when post-pandemic recovery necessitates bold action for gender equality, accountability for gender data is key:
- All Generation Equality commitment makers must identify the gender data they need to inform concrete actions and measure success.
- In official Generation Equality monitoring and evaluation processes, commitment makers must be asked to self-report on progress against identified data gaps and use of gender data to deliver results.
- To accelerate global progress, stakeholders across all sectors must continue to pledge commitments to gender data, both within and in addition to the Generation Equality framework.

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The time to invest in gender data is now. Governments, donors, civil society, and the private sector must commit to:
- Collect & disaggregate gender data
- Fund gender data gaps
- Use gender data for policymaking
- Share best practices
- Increase accountability for gender data

Notes:
1. Gender data is data that is disaggregated by sex, and reflects gender issues, including roles, relations and inequalities. It can be both quantitative and qualitative, and collection methods account for stereotypes, social norms, and other factors that may introduce bias.
3. For a list of all commitments made during the Generation Equality Forum, see the official Generation Equality World Map of Commitments. For more information on the Generation Equality Action Coalitions and outcomes of the Generation Equality Forum, see the Action Coalitions’ Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality.