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DATA COMPENDIUM: 25 YEARS AFTER BEIJING

A review of the UN system's support for the implementation of the Platform for
Action, 2014-2019

INTRODUCTION

In September 1995, Governments participating in the Fourth World Conference on Women gathered in Beijing with the objective of advancing the goals of equality, development, and peace for all women. After substantive negotiations, they unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (the Platform for Action) — a visionary agenda for the empowerment of women and girls. Member States bear the major responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, but the UN system also plays a key role in the implementation of the Platform for Action.

On the occasion of the platform's 25th anniversary, the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), chaired by the Executive Director of UN Women, invited its member UN entities to undertake, for the first time, a review similar to that of Member States. Consequently, UN entities reviewed and reported, through a web-based survey, on their work in support of the implementation of the Platform within their respective mandates between 2014 and 2019.

The resulting report, [25 years after Beijing: A review of the UN system's support for the implementation of the Platform for Action from 2014-2019 \(25 years after Beijing\)](#), provides a comprehensive analysis of responses to the survey from 51 UN entities. It showcases both the work of UN entities over the period 2014-2019 in support of implementation of the Platform, as well as the gaps and challenges which remain. In addition, the report provides recommendations for UN system engagement in the way forward.

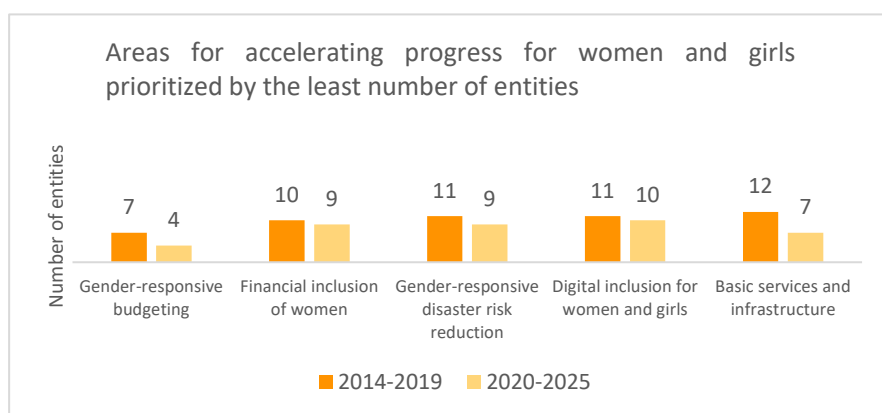
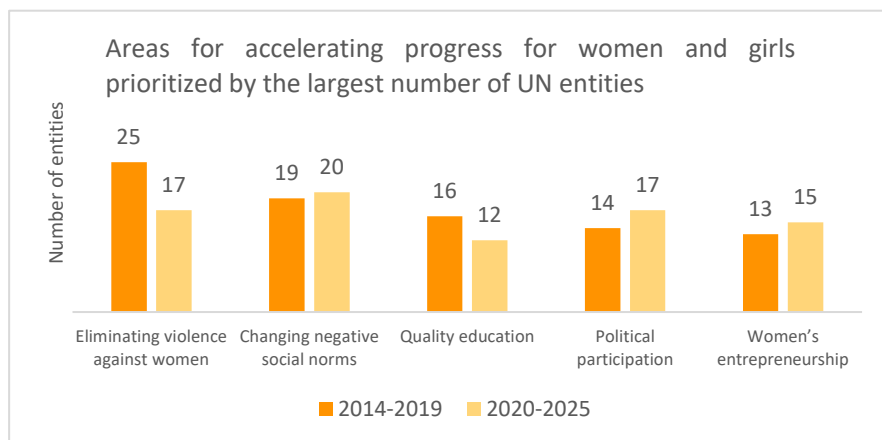
This Data Compendium complements and highlights the key data findings from the 25 years after Beijing report. The data contained in the Compendium analyzes responses from the following 46 UN entities to a web-based survey developed and provided by UN Women: DESA, DGACM, DGC, DMSPC, DPO, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, FAO, ICAO, ICSC, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OCHA, ODA, OHCHR, OHRLS, UN Global Compact, UN-Habitat, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOG, UNON, UNOPS, UNOV/ UNODC, UNRISD, UNRWA, UNU, UNV, UNWTO, WFP, WHO & PAHO, WIPO, and WMO. The findings are exclusively based on an analysis of self-reported information provided by the above-mentioned participating UN entities between September 2019 and April 2020, regarding the priorities and actions undertaken by them between 2014 and 2019.

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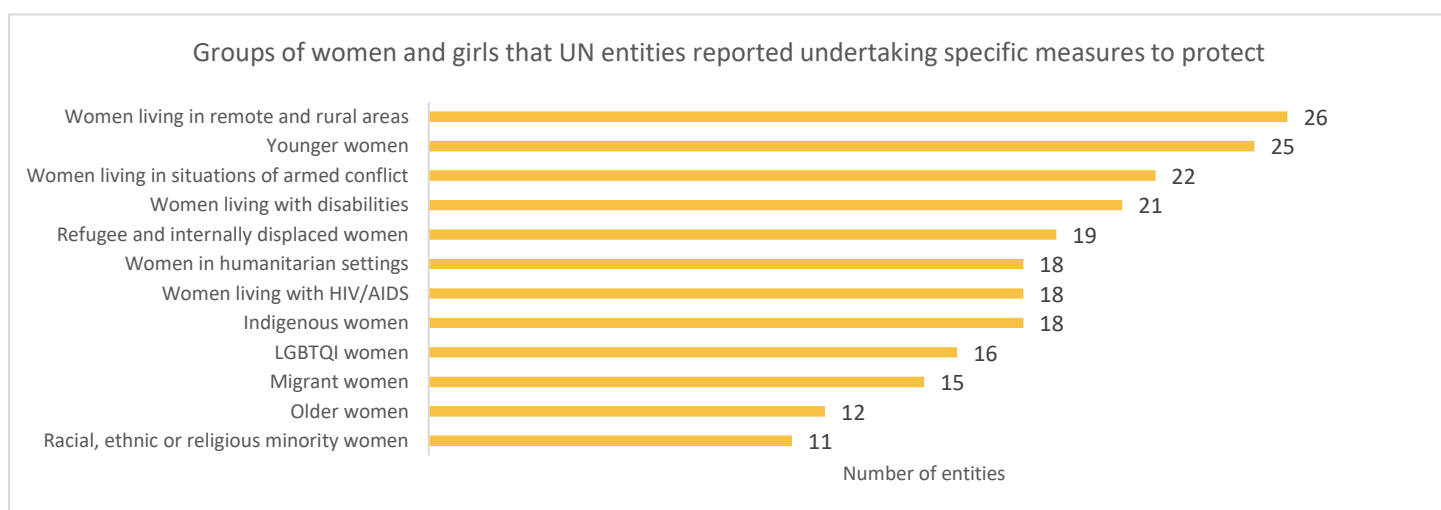


1. Priorities and achievements



Entity responses revealed that the priorities of the UN system clustered broadly around five thematic areas: Eliminating violence against women, changing negative social norms, quality education, political participation, and women's entrepreneurship.

In contrast, gender-responsive budgeting, financial and digital inclusion of women, gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, and basic services and infrastructure emerged as the areas prioritized by the fewest number of UN entities in 2014-2019. The reporting indicates that these areas are expected to be further deprioritized in 2020-2025, pointing to a concerning gap in system-wide programming.

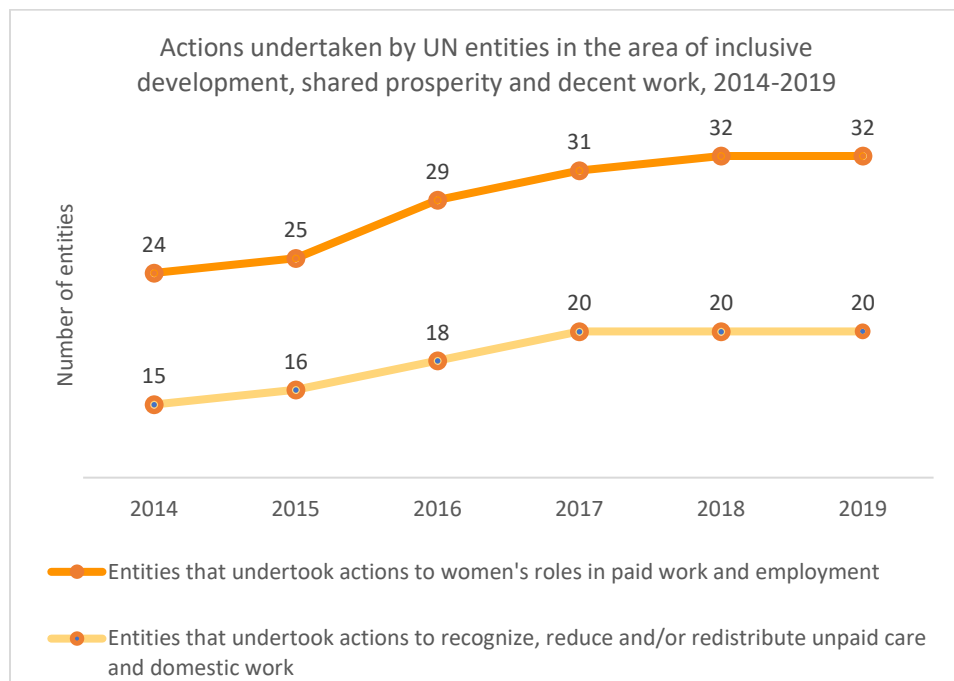


A total of 35 UN entities reported having undertaken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in 2014-2019. The largest number of UN entities undertook measures to protect women living in remote and rural areas, younger women, women living in situations of armed conflict and women living with disabilities. In terms of groups of women prioritized by the fewest number of entities, only 11 entities reported having undertaken measures in support of racial, ethnic and religious minority women in the previous five years. This area also experienced no growth during that same time period.

2A. Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

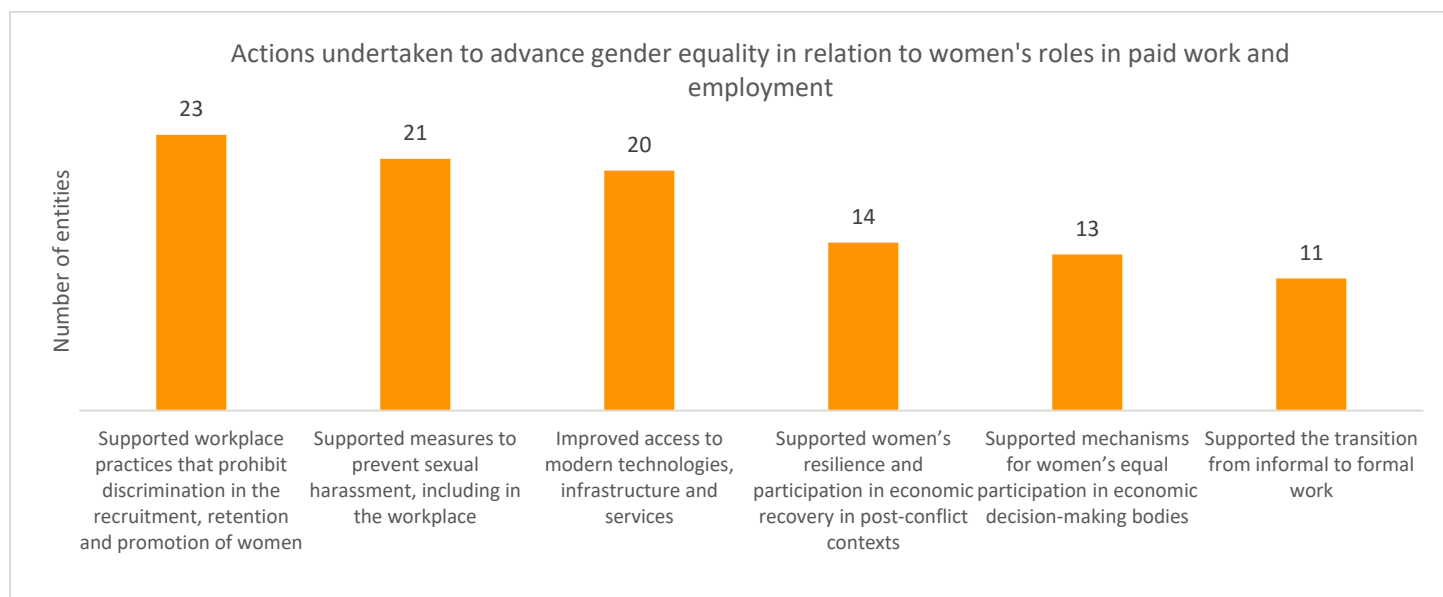
OVERVIEW

1. ACTIONS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S ROLES IN PAID WORK AND EMPLOYMENT



Of the 46 UN entities that participated in the review, 33 reported engaging in activities linked to inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work in 2014-2019.

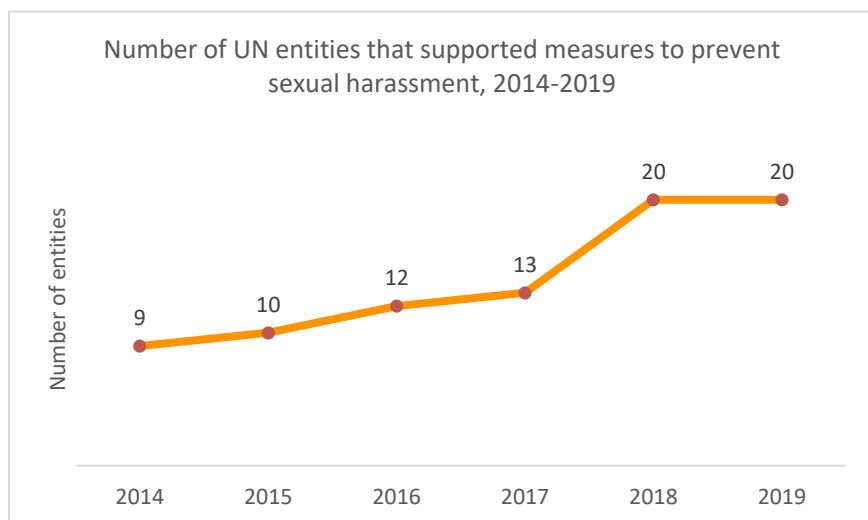
In 2014-2019 there was an increase in both the number of entities that undertook actions to advance women's role in paid work and employment; and those who undertook actions to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work.



To advance women's roles in paid work and employment, the action undertaken by the most UN entities was supporting workplace practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women; and supporting measures to prevent sexual harassment.

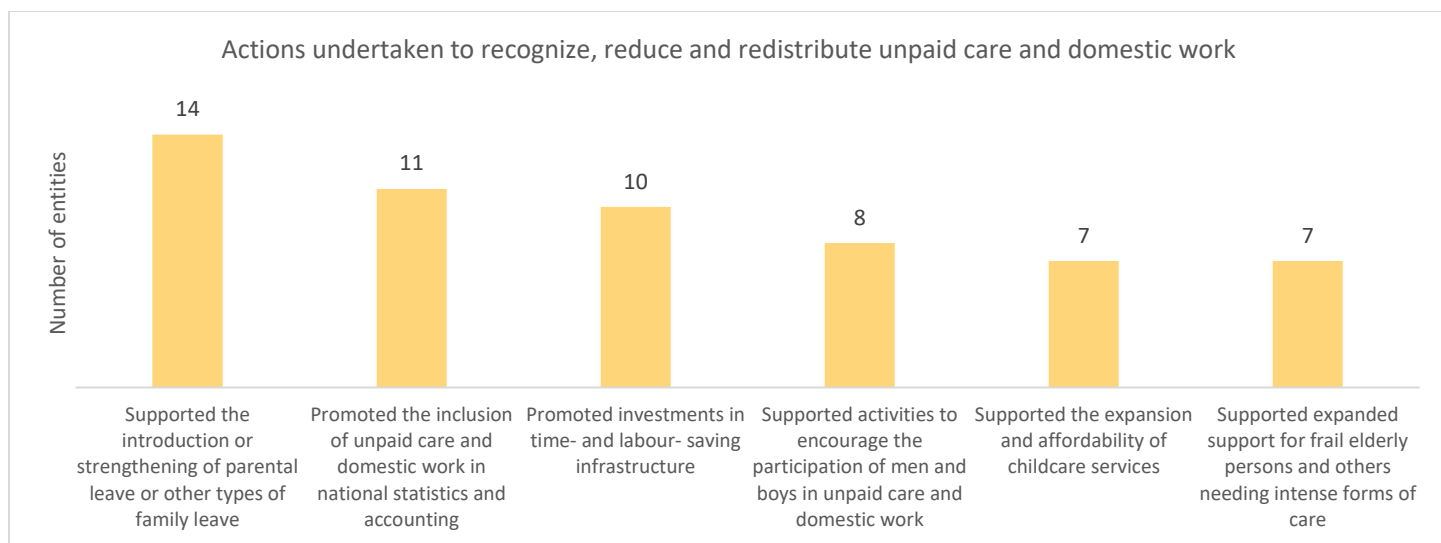
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The number of entities supporting measures to prevent sexual harassment more than doubled in the 2014-2019 period. Much of the growth took place between 2017 and 2018 and coincided with global mass mobilizations spotlighting violence and harassment directed at women.

2. ACTIONS TO RECOGNIZE, REDUCE AND REDISTRIBUTE UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK



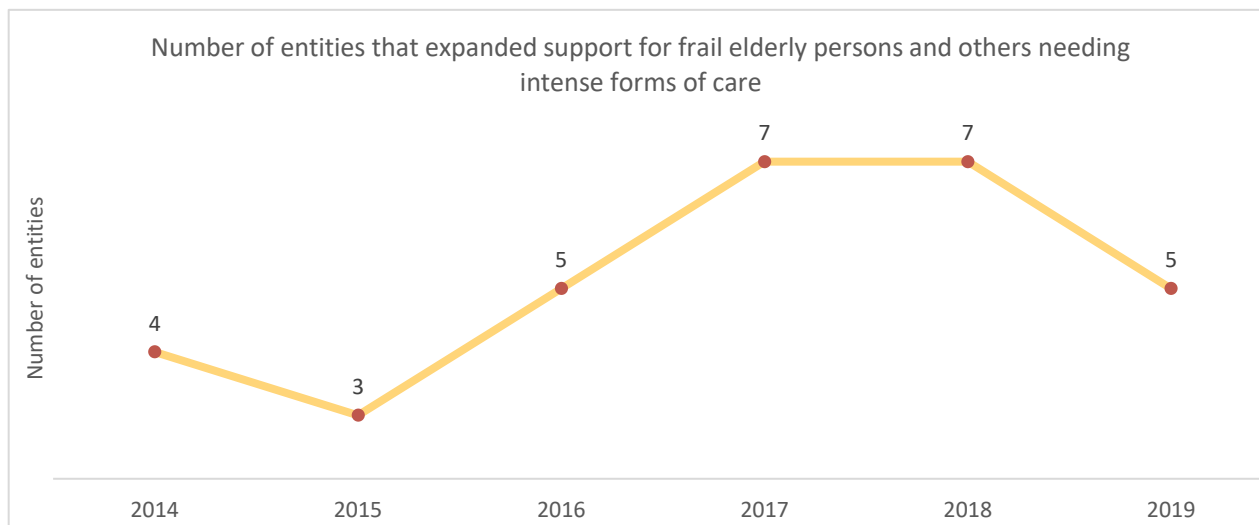
The action undertaken by the most UN entities to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work was supporting the introduction of family leave.

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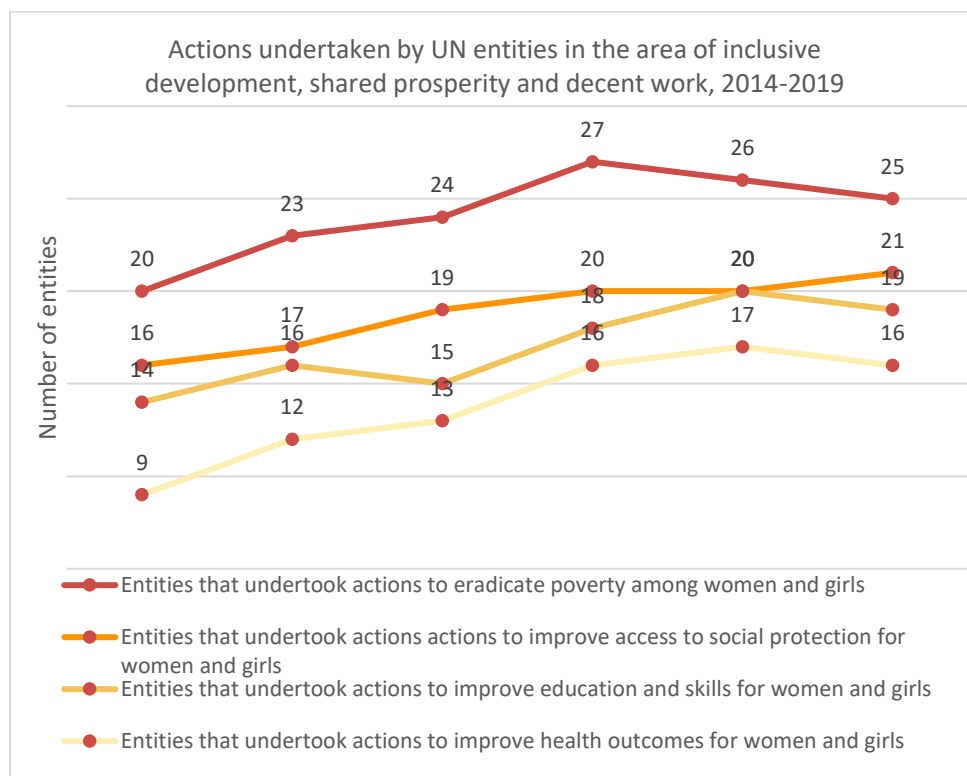


In contrast, the actions undertaken by the fewest number of entities were strengthening childcare services and ensuring the expansion of support for frail elderly persons and other needing intense forms of care. Although the latter experienced relative growth in entity engagement in 2016 and 2017, the number of entities providing support in this area declined in 2019.

2B. Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

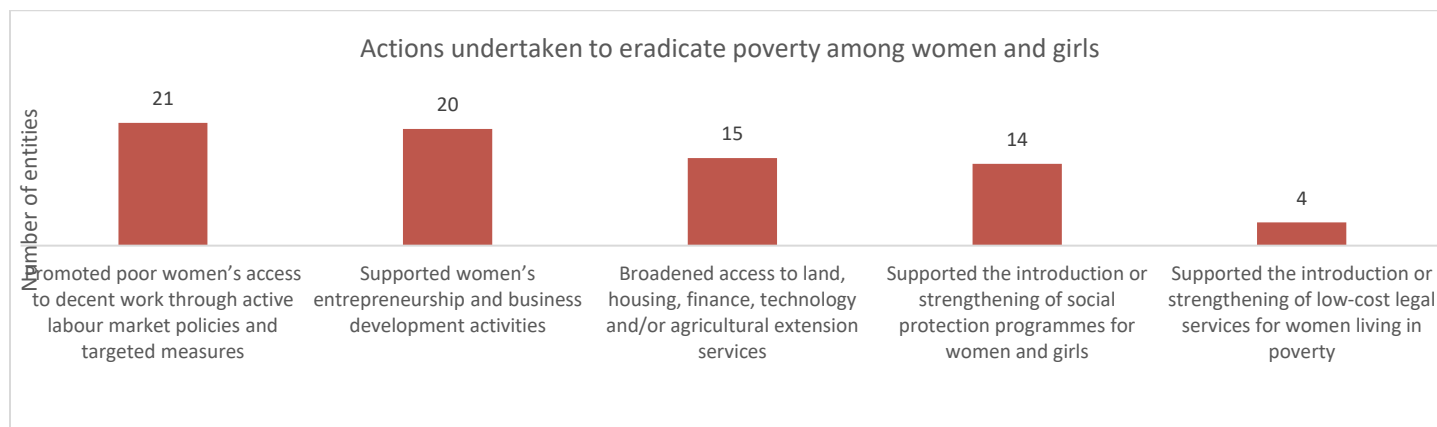
OVERVIEW

1. ACTIONS TO ERADICATE POVERTY AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS



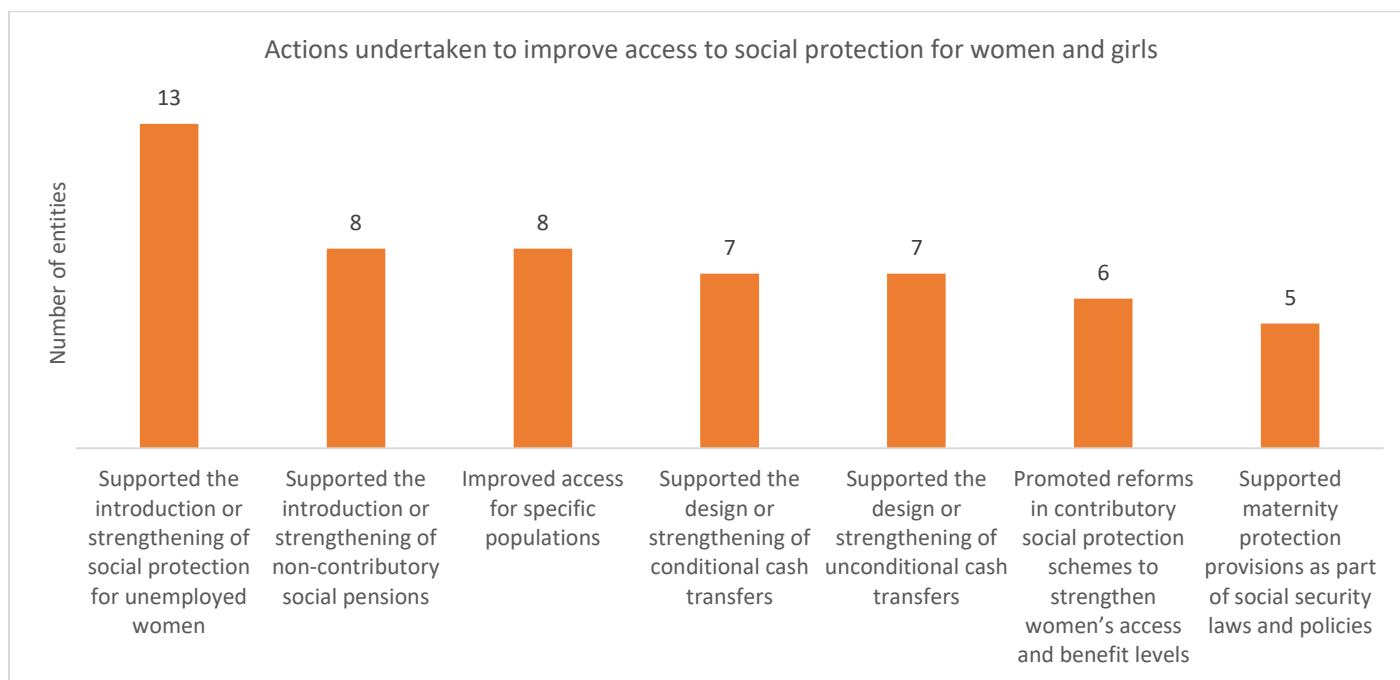
Of the 46 entities that participated in the assessment, 33 indicated that they contributed to the area of poverty eradication, social protection and social services in 2014-2019.

Work in this area experienced overall growth, and most commonly focused on actions taken to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls; improve health outcomes for women and girls; improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls; and improve social protection for women and girls.



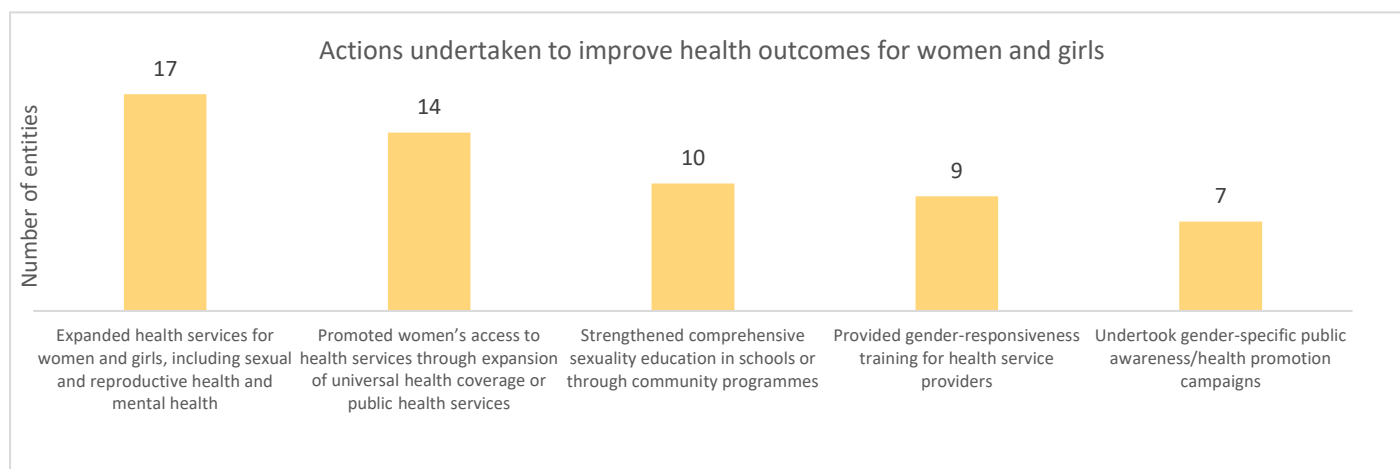
A total of 29 entities reported having undertaken specific actions to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls. Entity efforts in this area were primarily directed at promoting poor women's access to decent work and supporting women's entrepreneurship and business development activities. In contrast, during this period, the action supported by the fewest number of UN entities was the provision of legal protection and services for poor women.

2. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



A total of 18 entities undertook measures to improve access to social protection for women and girls. Out of these 13 supported the introduction or strengthening of social protection for unemployed women. In contrast, the action supported by the fewest number of UN entities was the inclusion of maternity protection provisions as part of social security laws and policies, with only 15 per cent of entities engaging in this area of work.

3. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

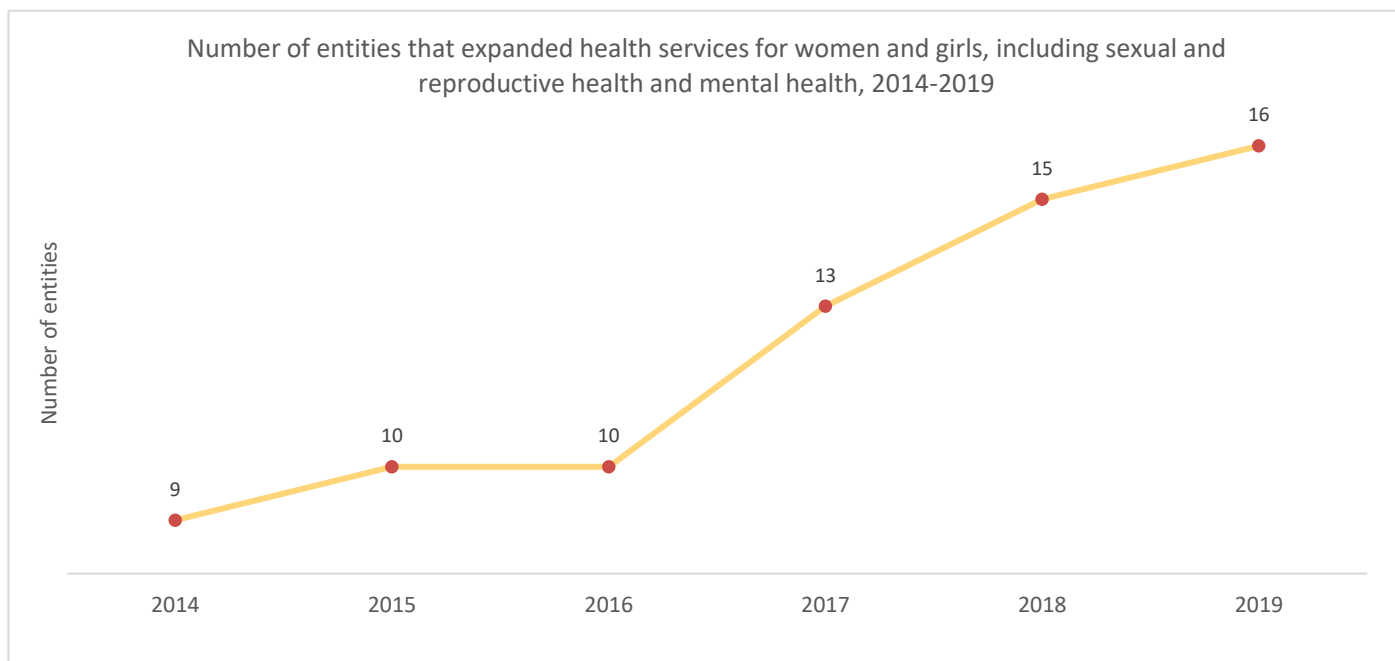


Twenty-two entities reported taking actions to improve health outcomes for women and girls. Of these, 17 reported that they focused primarily on the expansion of specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive, mental, and maternal health and HIV services.

The actions supported by the fewest entities were the initiation of gender-specific health promotion campaigns, and the provision of sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls in humanitarian settings.

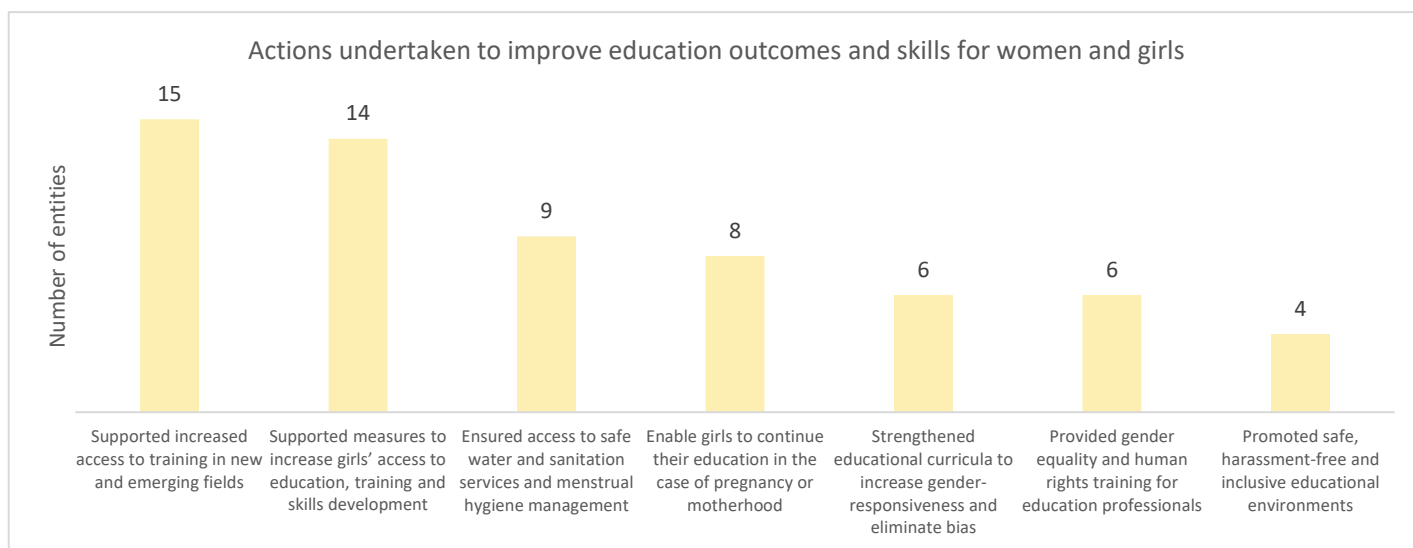
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The number of UN entities working on the expansion of specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive, mental, and maternal health and HIV services experienced nearly doubled from 9 in 2014 to 16 in 2019.

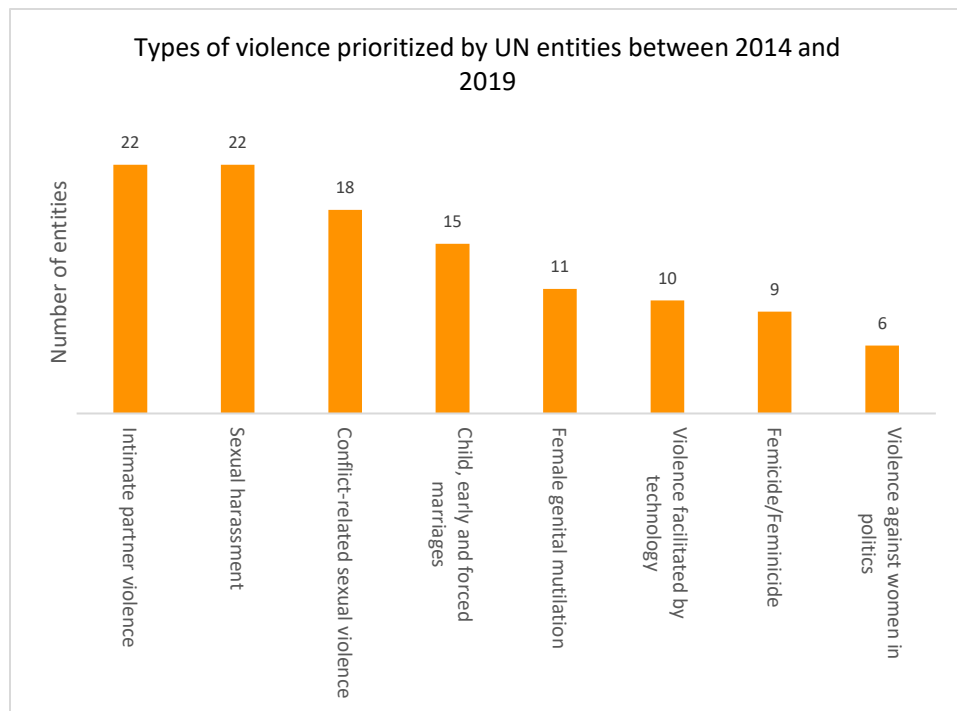
4. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION OUTCOMES AND SKILLS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



Twenty-five entities working in the area of poverty eradication, social protection and social services reported taking actions to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls. A notable area of growth involves actions to strengthen educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias at all levels of education. Although only two entities reported taking action in this area in 2014, the number grew steadily to six entities in 2019.

2C. Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

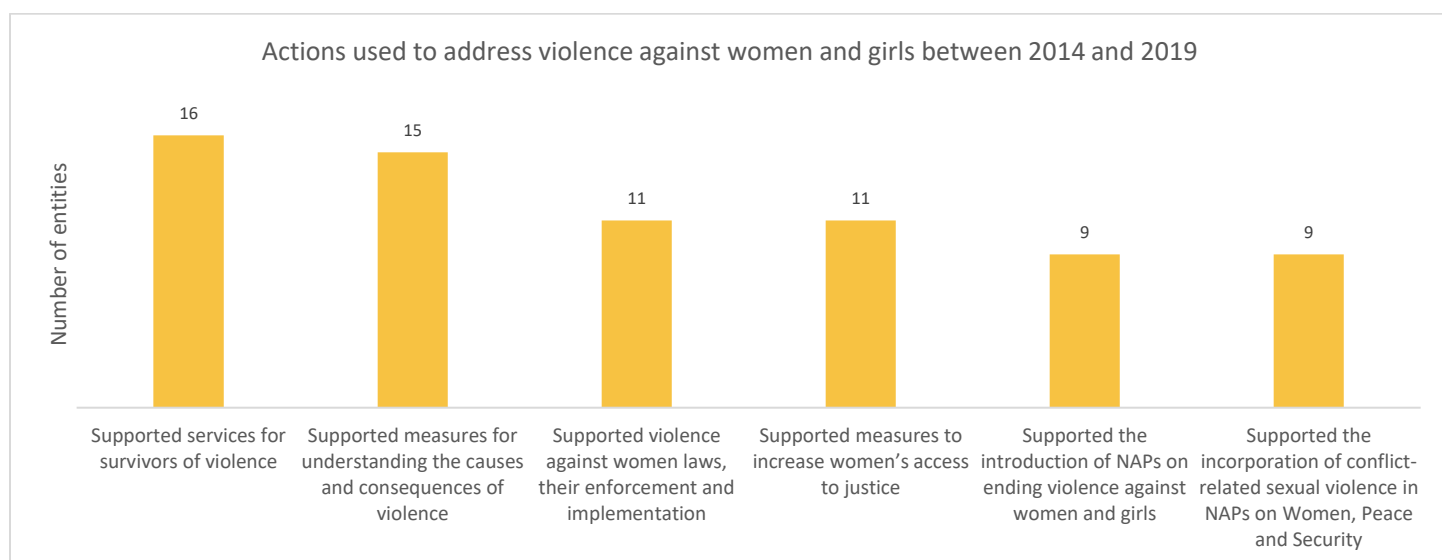
OVERVIEW



Of the 46 UN entities that participated in the assessment, 34 indicated that they had contributed to the area of freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes in 2014-2019.

Broadly, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and conflict-related sexual violence comprise the forms of violence most focused on by UN entities. In contrast, violence against women in politics was prioritized by the fewest UN entities during this period.

1. ACTIONS TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



To address violence against women and girls UN entities primarily prioritized supporting the introduction or strengthening of services for survivors of violence, and supporting the introduction or strengthening of measures which improve understanding of the causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures to end such violence.

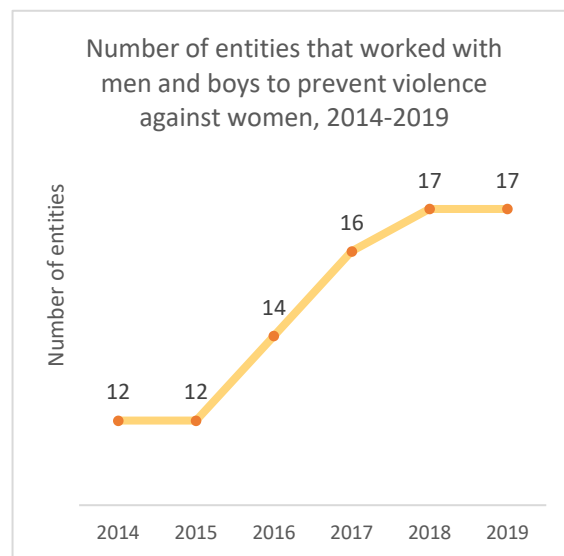
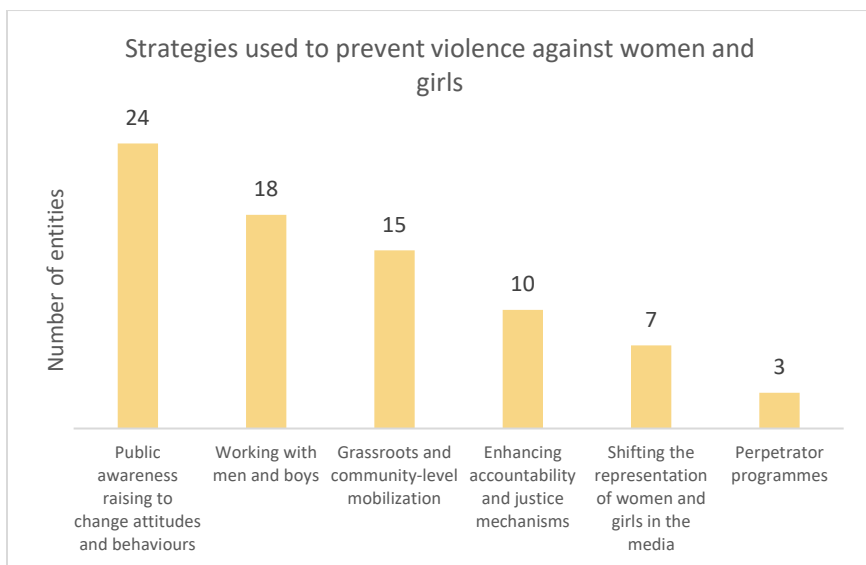
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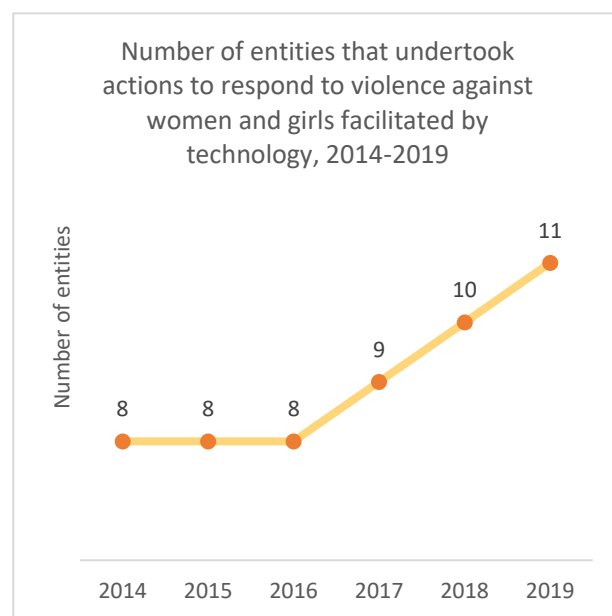
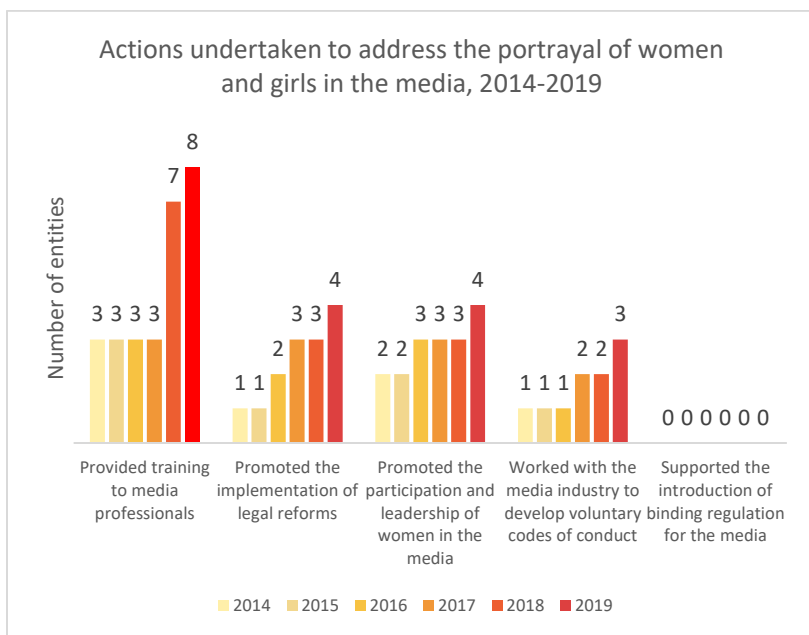
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2. STRATEGIES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



To prevent violence against women and girls UN entities primarily used three strategies: public awareness-raising and changing attitudes and behaviours, working with men and boys, and grass-roots and community-level mobilizing. Working with men and boys to address violence against women received increased attention from UN entities, growing from 12 entities in 2014 to 17 in 2019.

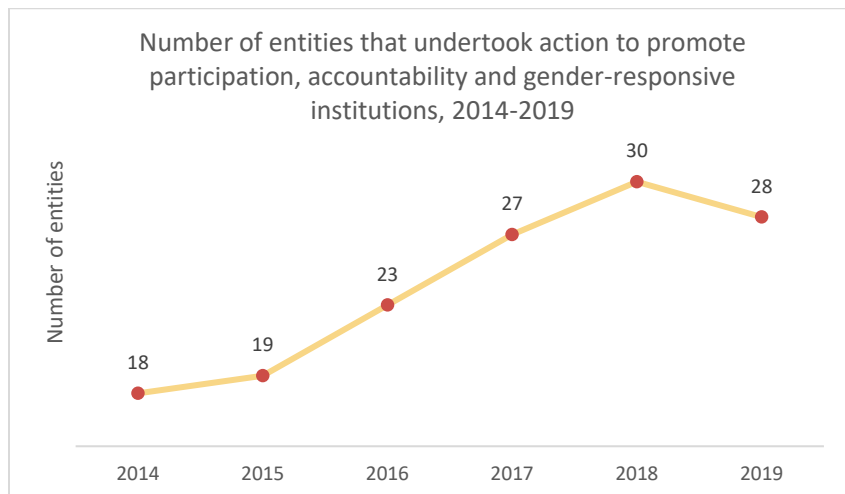
3. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS FACILITATED BY MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY



Only 10 UN entities reported undertaking actions to address the portrayal of women and girls in the media. Among these, entities focused primarily on providing training to media professionals. In addition, only 11 entities reported undertaking actions to respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology; this is, nevertheless, an increase from 8 entities in 2014.

2D. Participation, accountability and gender responsive institutions

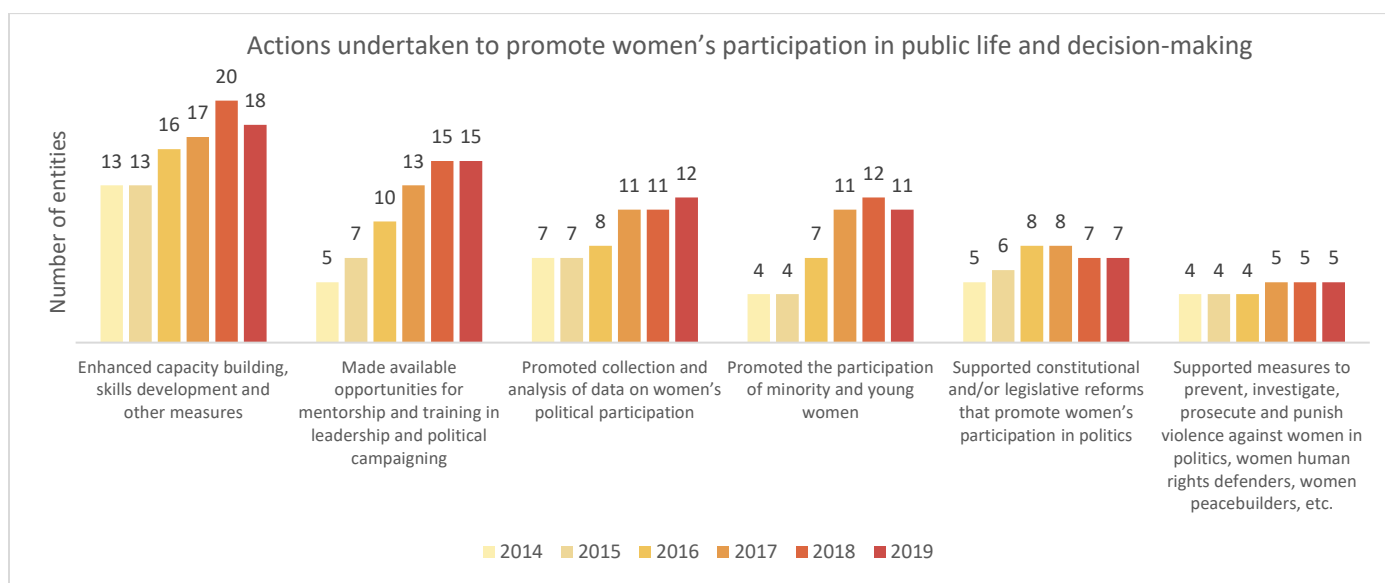
OVERVIEW



Of the 46 UN entities that participated in the assessment, 34 indicated that they had contributed to the area of participation, accountability and gender responsive institutions between 2014 and 2019.

Overall this area of work saw a sustained increase in focus by UN entities, from 18 entities in 2014 to 28 in 2019.

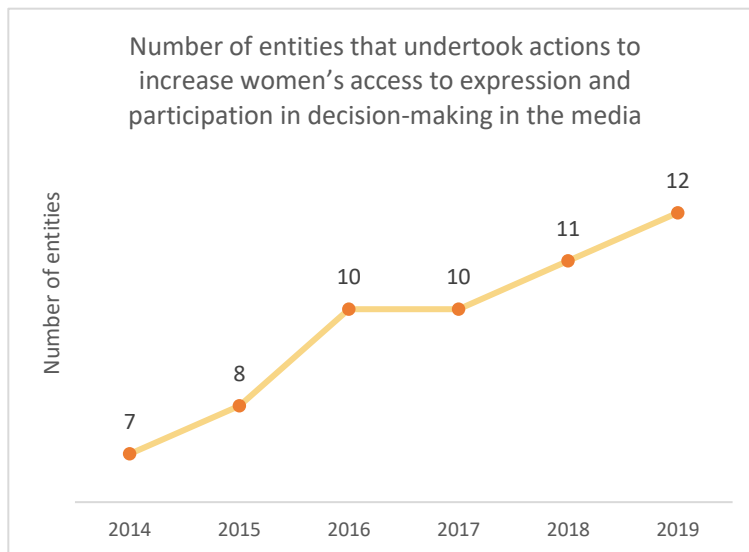
1. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE AND DECISION MAKING



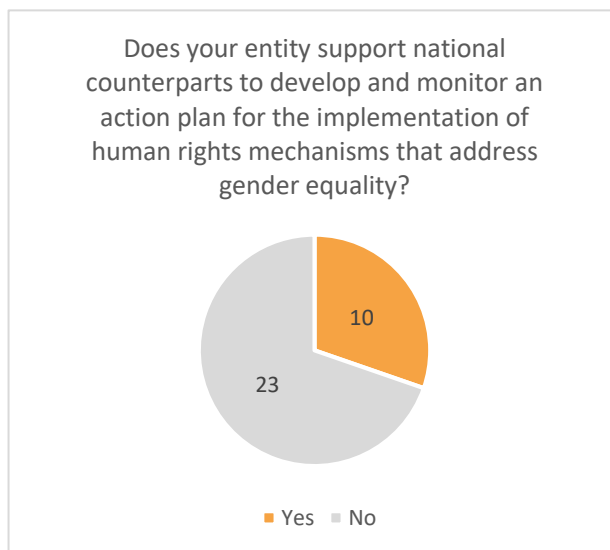
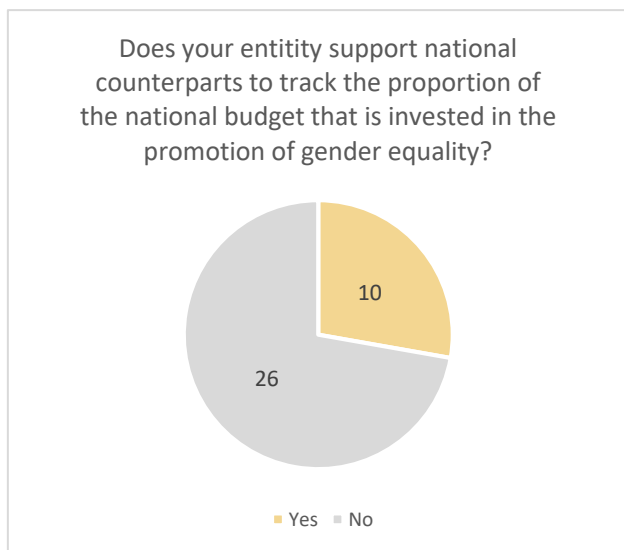
To promote women's participation in public life and decision-making, entities primarily focused on enhancing capacity-building, skills development and other measures; providing opportunities for mentorship, leadership training and political campaigning and collecting and analysing data on women's political participation. Each of these areas experienced growth in the period of 2014-2019.

In contrast, the action supported by the fewest number of UN entities was support for measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish violence against women in politics. In addition, this important area experienced limited growth in 2014-2019.

Of the 34 entities that worked in the thematic area of participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions, in 2019, 12 supported measures to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through ICT. UN entity engagement in this area has risen steadily since 2014, when only 7 entities reported supporting such actions.



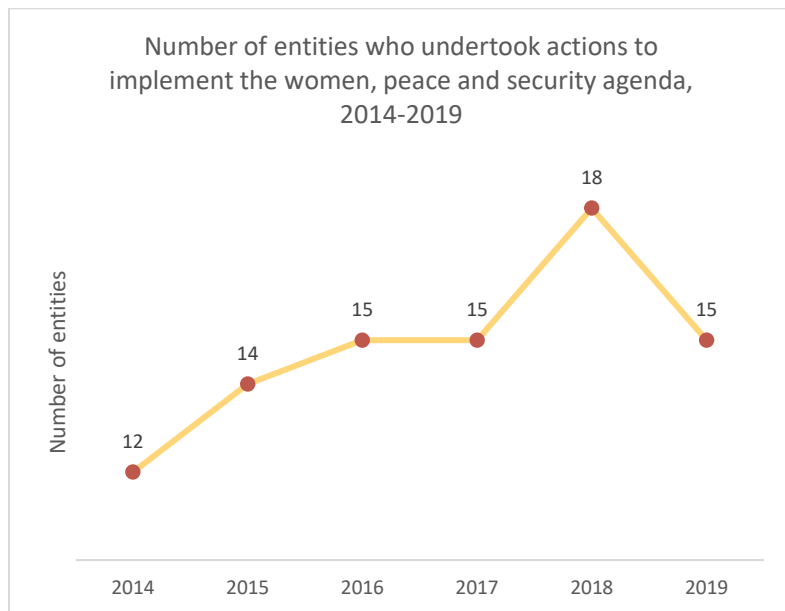
2. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT NATIONAL COUNTERPARTS TO CREATE GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETS AND TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS THAT ADDRESS GENDER EQUALITY



Twenty-nine per cent of UN entities reported having supported national counterparts to track the proportion of their budget that is invested in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Similarly, 10 UN entities reported on their support to national counterparts to develop and monitor an action plan and timeline for the implementation of CEDAW recommendations as well as recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review and other UN human rights mechanisms.

2E. Peaceful and inclusive societies

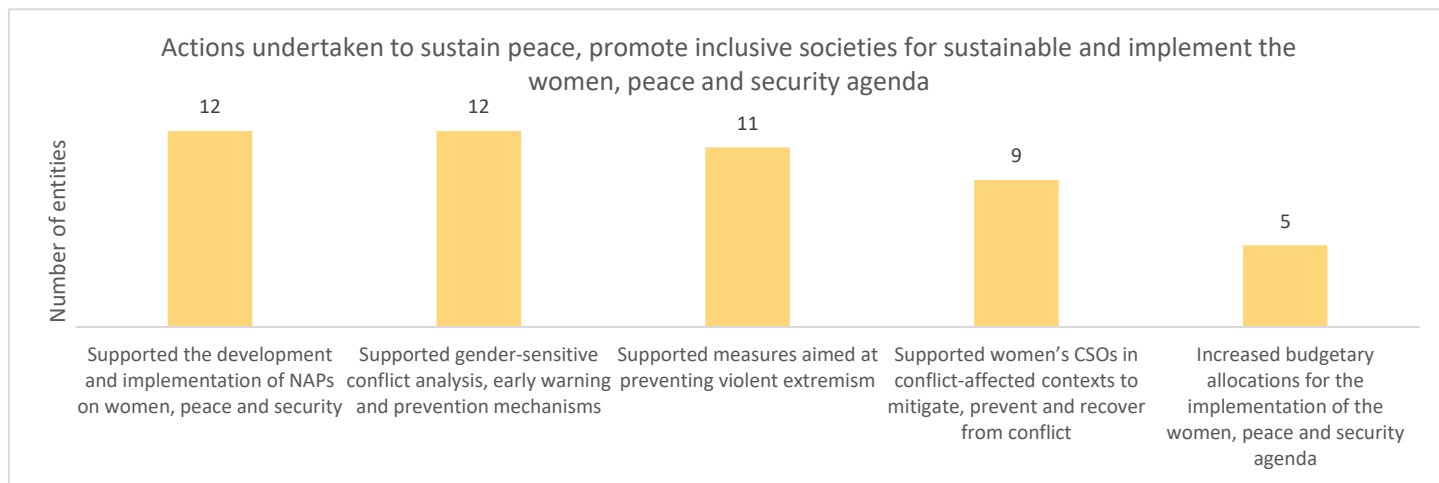
OVERVIEW



Of the 46 entities that participated in the survey, 25 engaged in work related to peaceful and inclusive societies.

The number of UN entities that reported taking actions to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda increased from 12 to 15 entities between 2014 and 2017, before spiking to 18 entities in 2018 and regressing to 15 entities in 2019.

1. ACTIONS TO SUSTAIN PEACE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES AND IMPLEMENT THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA



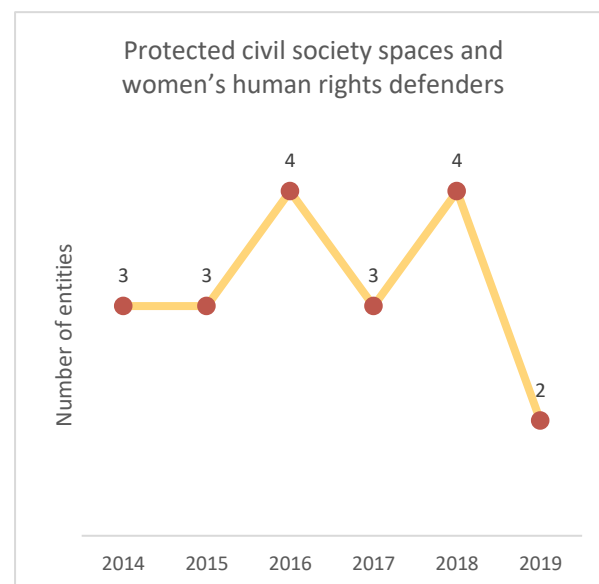
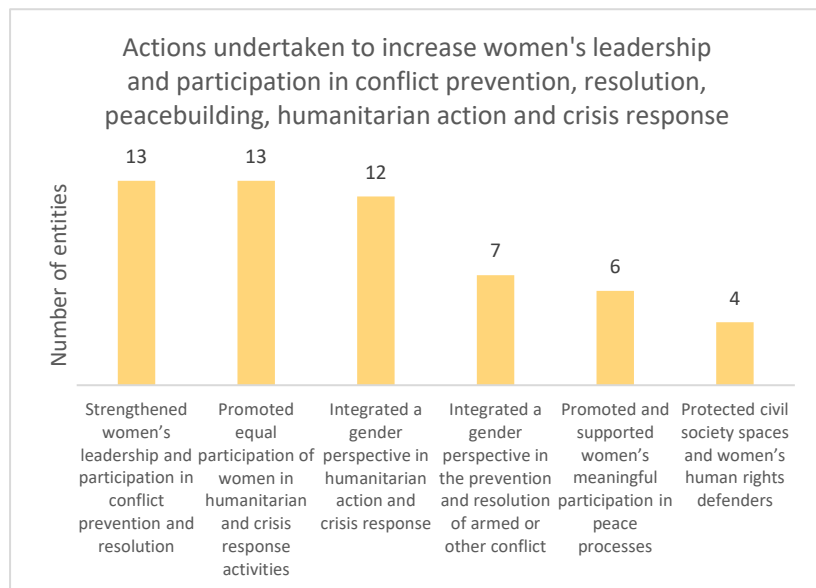
To sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies and implement the women, peace and security agenda, UN entities primarily focused on supporting the development and implementation of National Action Plans on women, peace and security; and supporting inclusive and gender-sensitive conflict analysis, early warning and prevention mechanisms. In contrast, the areas in which action was undertaken by the fewest UN entities were increasing budgetary allocations for the implementation of the agenda and supporting women's civil society organizations in conflict-affected contexts.

2. ACTIONS TO ENHANCE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS



To enhance accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls, UN entities focused mainly on supporting efforts to document and investigate violations of violations of the rights of women and girls in situations of conflicts and supporting the participation of women and survivors of violations in justice processes, including transitional justice mechanisms.

3. INCREASING THE LEADERSHIP, REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION, RESOLUTION, PEACEBUILDING, HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND CRISIS RESPONSE

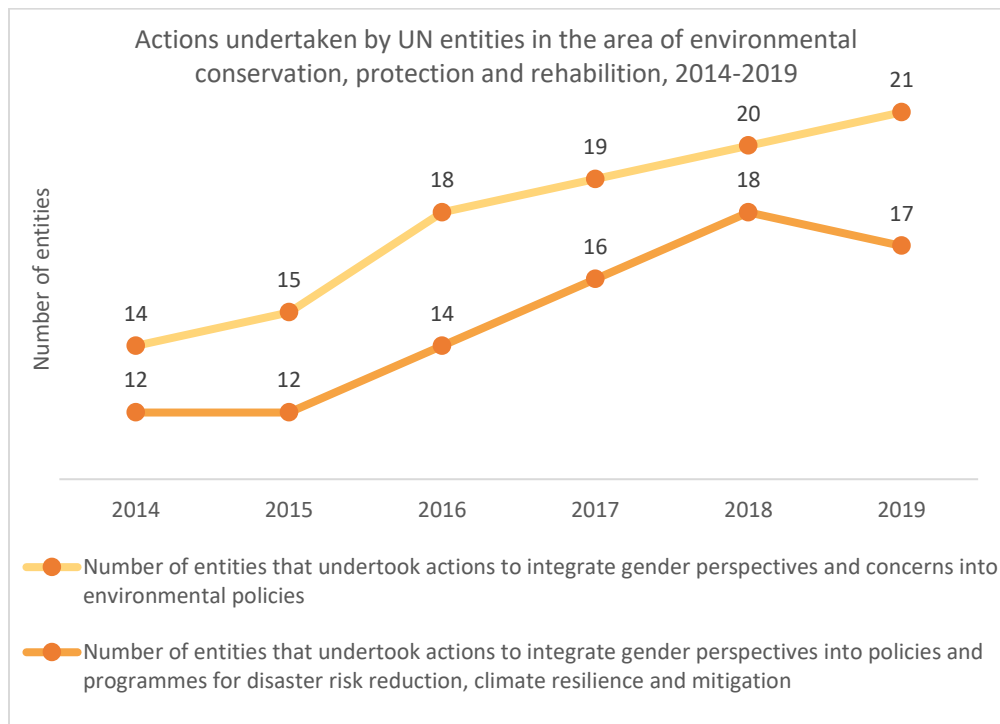


To increase the leadership and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response, UN entities focused on strengthening women's leadership and meaningful participation in conflict prevention and resolution efforts, and promoting equal participation of women in humanitarian and crisis responses at all levels. In contrast, the action supported by the fewest number of UN entities was protecting civil society spaces and women human rights defenders.



2F. Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

OVERVIEW

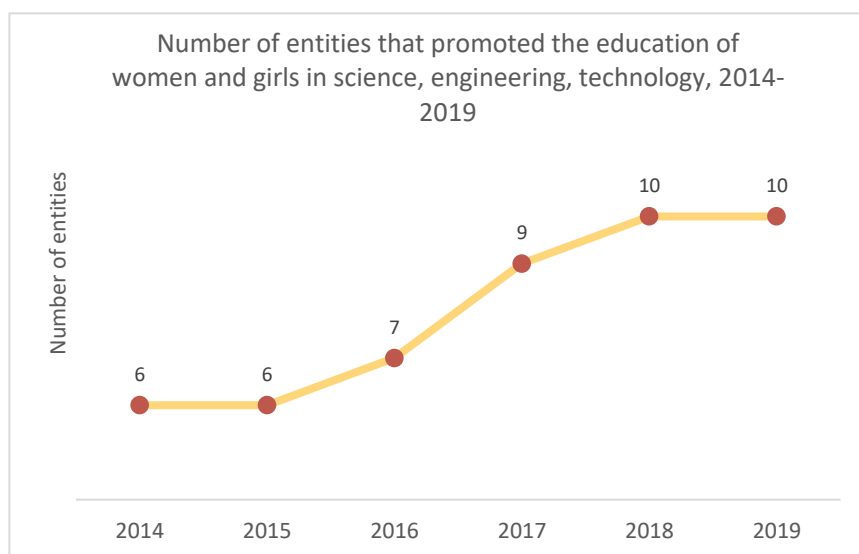


Of the 46 reporting entities, 22 engaged in work related to environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation in 2014-2019.

Broadly, between 2014 and 2019, there was a sustained increase in both the number of entities that integrated gender concerns into environmental policies and the number of those that integrated gender concerns into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation.

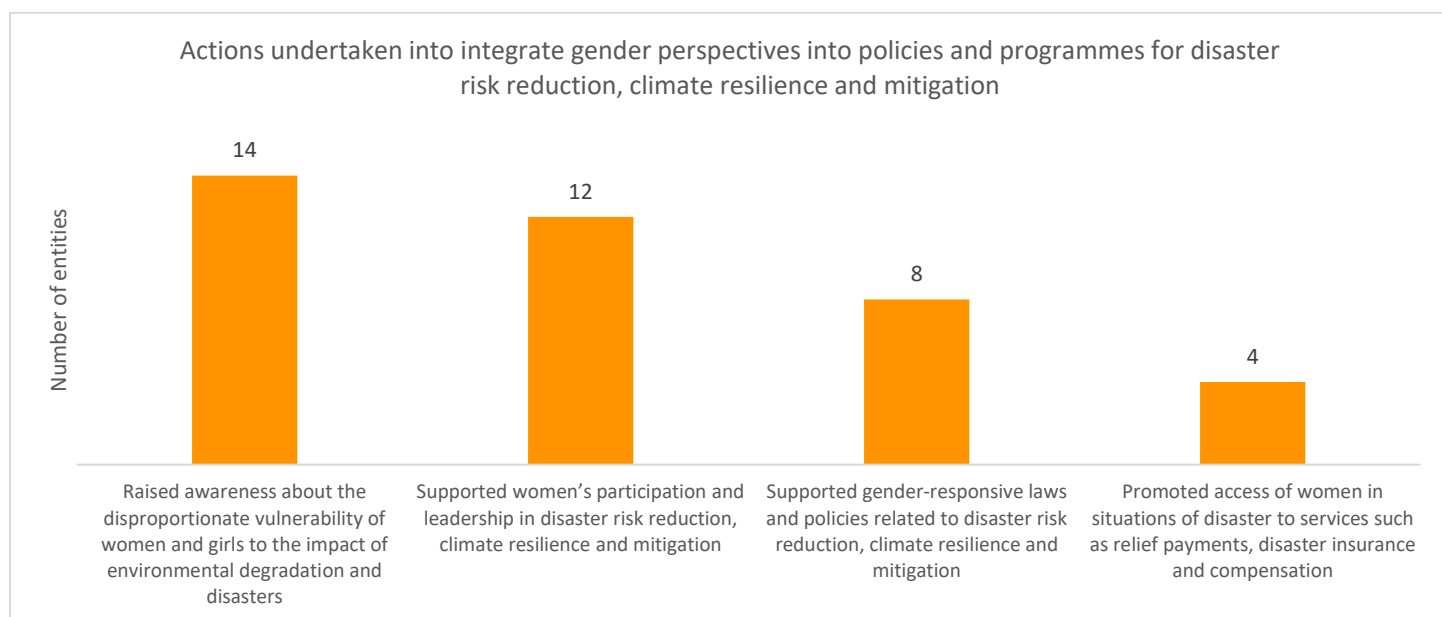
1. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN TO INTEGRATE GENDER PERSPECTIVES AND CONCERNS INTO ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

The area that experienced the largest increase in engagement by UN entities between 2014 and 2019 was the promotion of education of women and girls in science, engineering and technology in relation to the natural environment. The number of entities that undertook action in this area grew from 6 entities in 2014 to 10 entities in 2019.



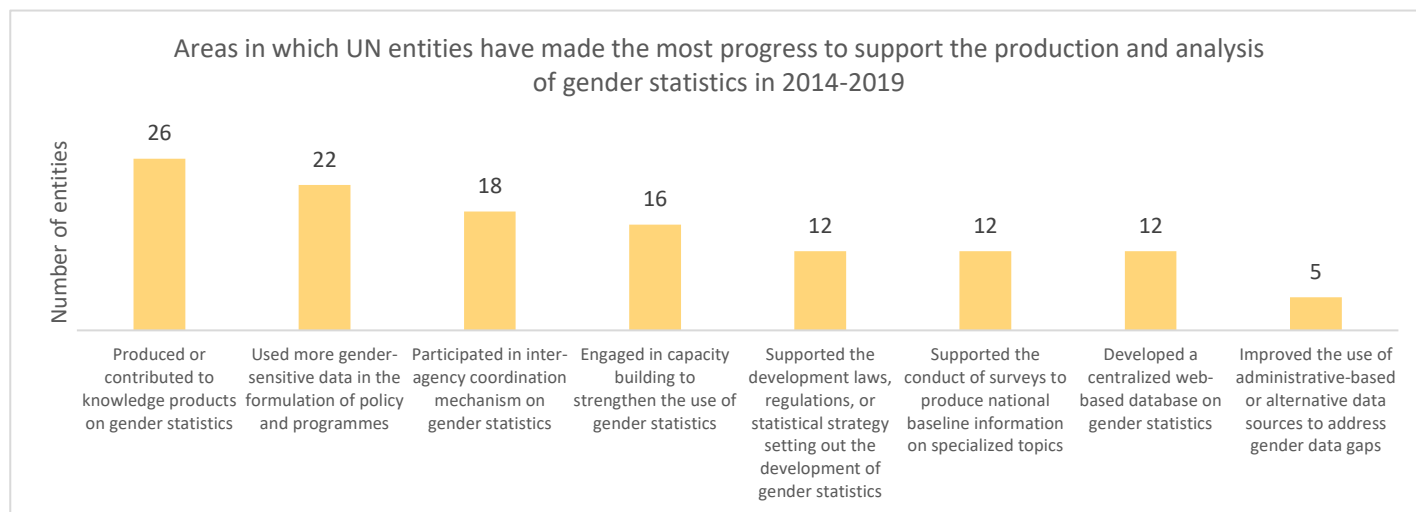
To support the integration of gender considerations into environmental policies, entities prioritized support to women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance; enhancing women's access to time- and labour-saving infrastructure and technology; and increasing women's access to and control over land and other natural resources. In contrast, the areas with the least UN entity engagement were supporting measures to protect and preserve the traditional knowledge of women in indigenous communities; and supporting measures to ensure equal access to decent jobs for women in the green economy.

2. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN TO INTEGRATE GENDER PERSPECTIVES INTO POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND MITIGATION

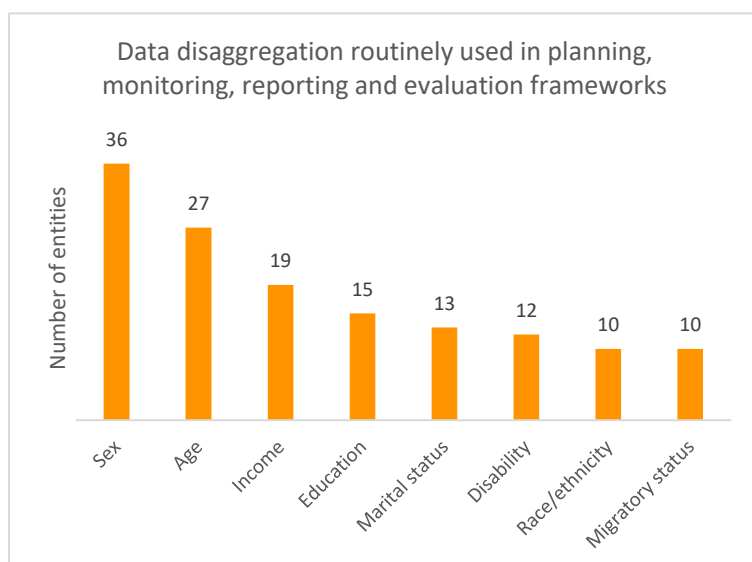


To integrate gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation, UN entities focused primarily on strengthening the evidence base and raising awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters; and supporting the participation and leadership of women, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation.

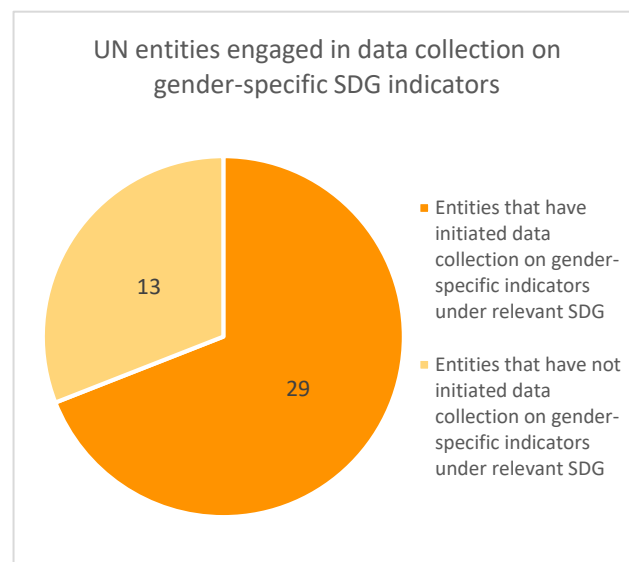
3. Data and statistics



Between 2014 and 2019, the areas in which entities reported making the most progress in the context of the production and analysis of gender statistics were: the production of or contribution to knowledge products on gender statistics; the use of more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects; and through participation in inter-agency coordination mechanisms on gender statistics. In contrast, the areas least covered in the context of gender statistics were the use of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps; and institutionalizing user-producer dialogue mechanisms.

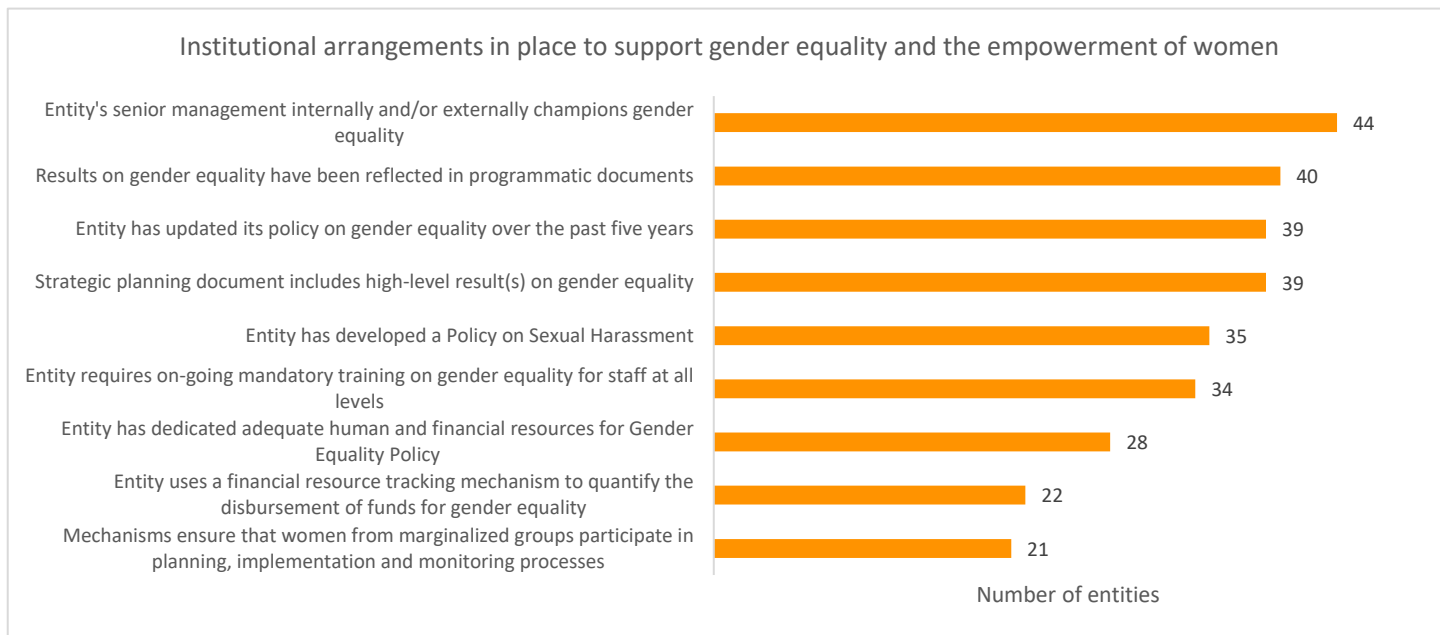


Following disaggregation by sex, the variables reported to be routinely disaggregated by the largest number of entities are age, income, and geographic location. In contrast, the variables that were reported to be disaggregated by the least number of entities are race/ethnicity, migratory status and disability.



Twenty-nine entities reported initiating data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators corresponding to the SDG(s) that match their mandate.

4. Institutional arrangements



The institutional arrangements that are in place in the largest number of UN entities are the presence of senior management that champions gender equality; and having gender equality results reflected in programmatic documents. In contrast, the least number of entities reported that they had allocated adequate human and financial resources for implementing their gender equality policy; and that they have mechanisms in place to incorporate the needs and perspectives of women and girls from marginalized groups in planning, implementation, and monitoring processes.



The stakeholders with whom the largest number of UN entities partner to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women are the UN system, civil society organizations, and academia and think tanks.

In contrast, the stakeholders with whom the least number of UN entities partner in their work to advance gender equality is parliaments, and faith-based organizations.