

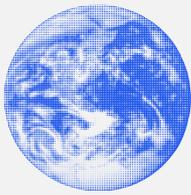
# WHO COUNTS?

Why Individual-Level Data Matters for Access to Justice and Gender-Responsive Climate Resilience



# CSW70

Every year, thousands of feminists, gender equality advocates, and leaders from around the world gather at the United Nations HQ in New York for the Commission on the Status of Women, to track and advance progress on gender equality.



**THE 70TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW70) TAKES PLACE AMIDST ROLLBACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND BACKSLIDING ON GENDER EQUALITY GLOBALLY.**

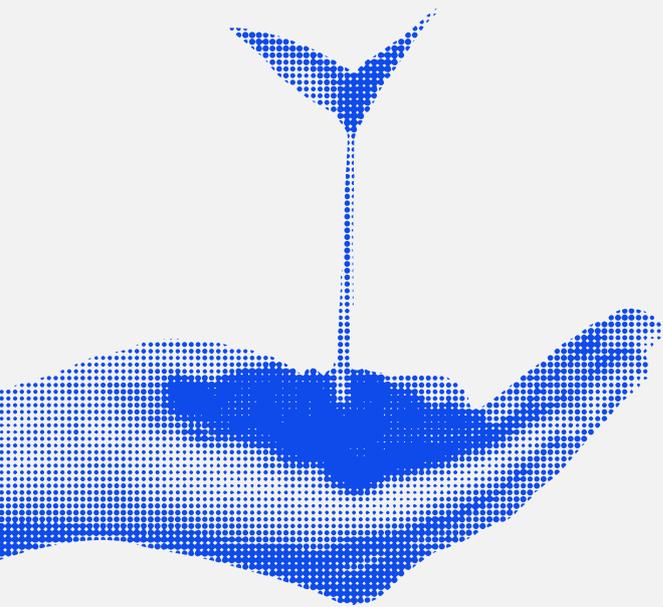
This year's CSW theme – strengthening access to justice – provides an important opportunity to resist regression and take concrete action to address some of the most pressing challenges facing women, girls, and gender-diverse people.



Access to justice goes beyond legal systems and outcomes, encompassing a wide range of activities that ensure everyone can exercise their rights and live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

**THIS  
REQUIRES  
INDIVIDUAL  
-LEVEL  
DATA.**





**A JUST FUTURE – GROUNDED IN BOTH  
CLIMATE AND GENDER JUSTICE –  
REQUIRES ROBUST AND INCLUSIVE DATA  
SYSTEMS.**

It requires that all people are counted and visible in the data that informs policies and decisions.

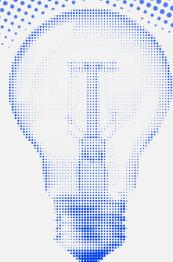
Individual-level data are the foundation for effective and inclusive climate strategies, social protection, and justice mechanisms that serve everyone.

# STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Data and evidence underpin justice systems. They are necessary for identifying and addressing discriminatory laws, designing inclusive policies, bolstering rights and social protection, and accessing legal redress.

Access to justice also goes beyond legal systems. It's concerned with systemic barriers that produce inequalities and injustice – whether intentional or in effect.

It is a critical gender issue that intersects with climate resilience. Access to justice shapes everyday realities, from women's ability to own land and access credit, to claiming insurance or compensation after climate-related disasters, to seeking support and accountability for gender-based violence, which spikes following a natural disaster.



**INCLUSIVE DATA MAKES INEQUALITIES AND INJUSTICES VISIBLE. IT IS KEY TO STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE.**

# JUSTICE AND VISIBILITY IN DATA

## HOUSEHOLD- VS INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL

Data on a range of issues – including climate resilience, poverty, and inequality – are often collected at a household-level. This typically involves surveying the ‘head of household’ – often men – about household experiences.

However, household-level measurement can mask individual lived realities of household members. It often assumes that resources, rights, risks, and opportunities are equally shared within the home, collapsing individual differences. Different questions can be asked using individual-level measurement, such as asking individuals about their own experiences and perceptions.

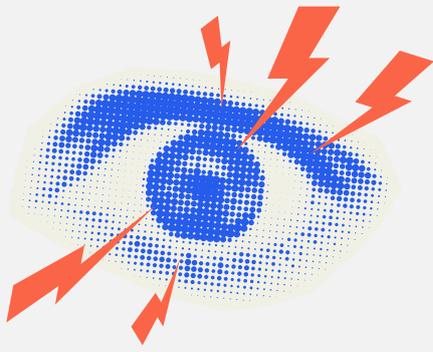
Individual-level data can be disaggregated to show the influence of gender, age, disability and other factors on climate resilience, economic circumstances, and sustainable development outcomes.



**BEING VISIBLE IN DATA SYSTEMS INFLUENCES  
WHETHER PEOPLE CAN CLAIM RIGHTS, ACCESS SERVICES,  
AND SEEK ACCOUNTABILITY.**

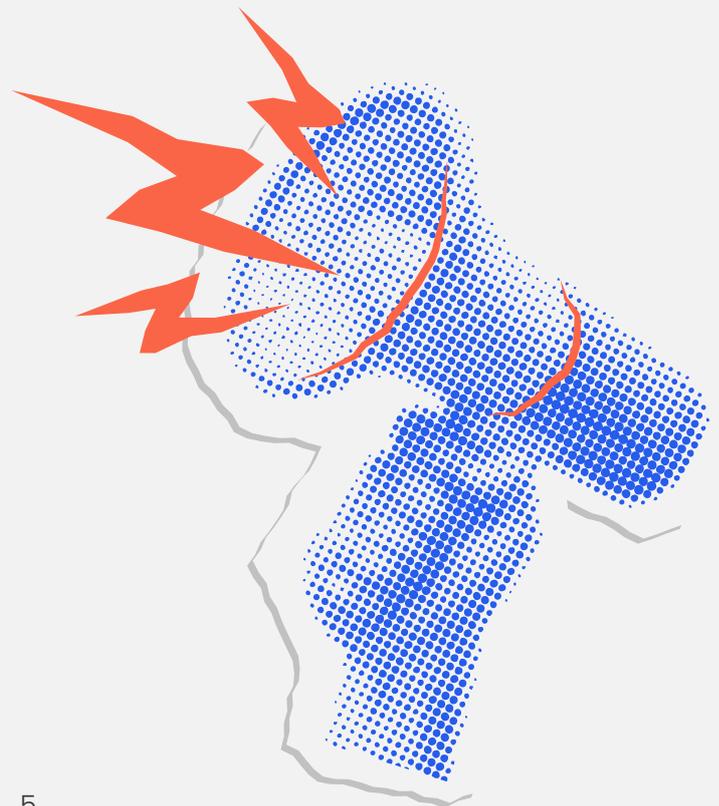


It shapes whether they are protected by justice mechanisms, and the extent to which social protection, climate policies, and resilience strategies are responsive to their needs, circumstances, and opportunities.



**IT IS A PARTICULAR INJUSTICE THAT THE LIVES OF WOMEN, GIRLS, AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE ARE STILL OFTEN INVISIBLE IN DATA SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT IS COLLECTED.**

Without individual-level data, it is harder to address structural barriers and discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, slowing action on inequalities and injustice.



## WITHIN HOUSEHOLD INEQUALITIES

Research shows that households are often the site of inequality, making individual-level data important for capturing differences between household members. For example, data that relies on household averages can obscure differences in income, gendered ownership of land and assets, or differences in legal rights and decision-making power.



**WHEN THESE REALITIES ARE NOT CAPTURED IN DATA, PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES BECOME INVISIBLE – STATISTICALLY AND IN THE EVIDENCE INFORMING ACTION.**

In this way, laws, policies and practices based on household-level data are fundamentally unjust, delivering neither procedural fairness nor equality of opportunity.

Over thirty years after the Beijing Platform for Action recognised that a lack of inclusive and gender-sensitive data constrains efforts to address inequality, significant resources globally continue to go to household-level data collection.



# INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL DATA

FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION



Inclusive data is essential for designing effective climate resilience and social protection. It helps governments and decision-makers:

- Identify who is most affected by climate risks
- Understand the extent to which people are accessing services, and exercising agency to strengthen their resilience
- Design targeted and gender-responsive climate resilience strategies and social protection policies and programs
- Ensure resources reach those who most need them
- Prevent existing inequalities from being reproduced

Individual-level data is an important tool for achieving gender equality and holds immense power to shape safe, equitable, and just futures for all. But this requires strengthening investment and political will.

**ULTIMATELY, ENSURING ACCESS TO JUSTICE REQUIRES DATA SYSTEMS THAT COUNT EVERYONE SO THAT INEQUALITIES AND INJUSTICES ARE IDENTIFIED AND CAN BE ADDRESSED. THIS IS THE FOUNDATION FOR SAFE, EQUITABLE, AND JUST FUTURES FOR ALL.**

*Revealing Resilience is an initiative that champions the use of inclusive data and measurement tools to strengthen gender equality, disability and social inclusion in climate resilience and sustainable development.*

*Funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), it is led by the University of Technology Sydney–Institute for Sustainable Futures with the International Women’s Development Agency’s flagship program Equality Insights.*

