

From Data to Decisions: Driving Inclusive and Interoperable Data Systems with the Gender Data and AI Collaborative



Organization: Private sector

Data Type: Official statistics, Administrative data, Artificial Intelligence, Monitoring and evaluation, Data for SDG monitoring, Cross cutting

Region: Regional

Timeline: This initiative is an ongoing endeavor that demands persistent commitment and active engagement. However, a three-year timeframe is necessary to effectively organise and optimise the collaborative efforts. Phase 1 (Months 1–12) will focus on establishing governance structures and partnerships, conducting stakeholder consultations, integrating priority datasets, developing interoperability and AI governance frameworks, and launching pilot implementations. Phase 2 (Months 13–24) will focus on expanding dataset integration across thematic sectors, strengthening analytical and AI-enabled capabilities, scaling partnerships, and delivering capacity-building and peer-learning activities. Phase 3 (Months 25–36) will focus on institutionalising governance frameworks and standards, publishing technical documentation and open-source resources, expanding adoption across additional geographies and sectors, and strengthening long-term sustainability. The Collaborative aims to scale from initial pilots in India to broader regional partnerships through engagement with governments, research institutions, development partners, and ecosystem actors. Progress and learnings will be shared through reports, public convenings, technical exchanges, and national and international data governance forums.

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Sponsoring Organization:

CivicDataLab Pvt Ltd (CDL)

Supporting Organization(s):

MoU's with Department of Finance, Government of Assam Assam State Disaster Management Authority
Department of Finance, Government of Himachal Pradesh Himachal State Disaster Management Authority
Active engagement with state MoU Government stakeholders in India and other regions (national, state and local levels)
Public health and gender data partners and experts Guwahati University Cotton University
Indian School of Public Policy National and State level Universities and Research Institutes Multilaterals and MDBs
Regional, national and local CSOs and CBOs open-source and digital public infrastructure collaborators.

Objective:

The objective of the Gender Data and AI Collaborative is to strengthen inclusive and responsible data governance systems that enable better production, integration, and use of gender data across public institutions and development ecosystems.

The initiative seeks to support governments, researchers, civil society organisations, and development actors in accessing and using interoperable gender data for evidence-informed policymaking, public service delivery, and accountability. It aims to promote ethical and transparent approaches to AI within governance systems by embedding safeguards related to privacy, accessibility, bias mitigation, and explainability. It supports the collaborators to use data, technology, and AI meaningfully in their work by enabling shared learning and peer exchange.

The commitment focuses on building scalable digital and institutional infrastructure, including interoperable data platforms, common data standards, governance protocols, analytical tools, institutional partnerships, and capacity-building mechanisms that connect datasets across sectors. Through ecosystem partnerships, capacity-building, and open standards adoption, the Collaborative aims to strengthen institutional capacities for gender-responsive governance and contribute towards advancing SDG 5 and broader inclusive development outcomes.

Description:

Gender data ecosystems continue to face significant challenges due to fragmented datasets, limited interoperability across public systems, weak institutional capacities for data use, and insufficient safeguards around the use of AI in governance. Critical gaps persist in the availability, accessibility, and usability of gender-disaggregated data, particularly for underserved populations including women, adolescents, persons with disabilities, and marginalised communities.

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These challenges limit evidence-informed policymaking, reduce accountability, and constrain the ability of governments and institutions to design responsive and inclusive public systems. At the same time, the growing use of AI in governance raises concerns around bias, explainability, privacy, and exclusion. The Gender Data and AI Collaborative seeks to address these challenges by creating a shared ecosystem where governments, researchers, civil society organisations, and development partners can integrate datasets, adopt common standards, develop responsible AI applications, and generate evidence for gender-responsive decision-making. The Collaborative aims to bridge the gap between data production and data use by improving interoperability, accessibility, and institutional capacity across sectors.

The Gender Data and AI Collaborative will strengthen inclusive and interoperable data ecosystems to support gender-responsive governance and responsible AI practices. Key activities include integrating and analysing public datasets across sectors such as health, public finance, social protection, and climate resilience; developing open-source data and analytical tools; generating AI-enabled insights with ethical safeguards; and strengthening institutional capacities for data-informed decision-making. The initiative adopts open

standards, participatory approaches, and inclusive design principles to improve accessibility, interoperability, and accountability.

Governments, research institutions, civil society organisations, universities, technology partners, and community organisations will contribute through data partnerships, research collaborations, pilot implementations, thematic working groups, co-development of tools and standards, and knowledge-sharing activities. Intended outcomes include improved access to gender data, stronger institutional capacities, increased adoption of ethical AI and open data practices, greater visibility of gender gaps in governance systems, and stronger collaboration across the gender data ecosystem. The initiative adopts open standards, participatory approaches, and inclusive design principles to improve accessibility, interoperability, and accountability across stakeholders. Early concepts and approaches under the Collaborative have been discussed through engagements in Assam and at [CivicSabha 2.0](#), a multi-stakeholder convening involving government, civil society, academia, and research institutions.

Intended outcomes include improved access to gender data, stronger institutional capacities for evidence-based decision-making, increased adoption of ethical AI and open data practices, and greater visibility of gender gaps within governance systems and public policy processes.

Progress will be monitored through a combination of technical, institutional, governance, and ecosystem-level indicators. These include the number of datasets integrated, number of users and collaborators onboarded, improvements in interoperability and accessibility, engagement with public institutions, adoption of analytical tools, and participation in capacity-building activities.

The initiative will also assess progress related to responsible AI practices, including bias audits, explainability measures, privacy safeguards, and ethical data governance mechanisms integrated within the platform. Periodic internal reviews, stakeholder consultations, and user feedback processes will be conducted to evaluate usability, relevance, policy uptake, and opportunities for continuous improvement.

At the organisational level, accountability and strategic oversight will be supported through CDLs's participatory governance structure. A Strategy Team of senior leaders guides long-term strategy, partnerships, and key initiatives while ensuring alignment with CDL's mission. Collaborating with the Leadership Team and State-level Leads, the team identifies emerging priorities and undergoes periodic rotation to foster shared leadership. Strategic decisions and policies are developed through cross-functional working groups to incorporate diverse perspectives and democratic participation.

Success will be measured not only through platform adoption and technical performance, but also through the extent to which the Collaborative strengthens evidence-informed and gender-responsive decision-making for women's health governance, improves the visibility, accessibility, and usability of gender-related data, and contributes to more inclusive, accountable, and interoperable public data ecosystems. CDL will document and publicly share key learnings, progress updates, and implementation insights through reports, knowledge products, stakeholder convenings, and relevant national and global data governance platforms to support transparency, replication, and collective learning.