

Thematic Forum in Argentina

Learnings from 2016 and Plan for 2017

This report provides a brief overview of the situation in Argentina including; the actions we have taken in order to accomplish the Argentina Gender Thematic Forum, the barriers we have encountered along the way and a plan of action make it happen.

Objectives of the Argentinian Thematic Forum

Main objective: Get a better understanding of the gender data ecosystem in Argentina and find opportunities for future DataShift initiatives.

Secondary objectives:

- Understand the needs of gender NGOs related to data
- Map the national statistics office initiatives on this subject
- Find opportunities, “data gaps” and other challenges for future DataShift initiatives
- Find possibilities of co-creation between government and civil society
- Provide recommendations for gender NGOs related to data
- Strengthen the gender NGO network and find possibilities of co-creation
- Provide recommendations from the Argentinean context that can support similar processes in other countries.

First attempt to host the Argentinian Thematic Forum

Context of the Thematic Forum

In December last year, we reported about the #NiUnaMenos (“NotOneLess”) campaign calling for concrete actions to eradicate gender violence and inequality. The movement resulted into two massive demonstrations, as well as the launch of a 186-question survey aimed at generating national statistics on “macho violence”. The survey revealed that over 97% of women suffered some kind of gender violence, but only 5% had reported it to the police. The harnessing of data by the movement shows how that citizen-led data-based initiatives can support in demanding changes to public policies or in the monitoring of official data. The lack of information about gender violence shows that no official national statistics exists. It also showed that there are many initiatives driven by civil society to measure it, but most of these organisations don’t know about each other, resulting in duplicate efforts.

First approach: understanding gender data ecosystem in Argentina

[#NiUnaMenos](#)

In June 2015, due to the alarming situation faced by women daily, a group of journalists, artists and women from the cultural sphere - organised a mass demonstration using the hashtag **#NiUnaMenos**. It was massive, uniting over **300,000** people. This first demonstration show that the situation was untenable and the complaint was generalised.

In 2016, the movement continued to grow; not only organising another two massive demonstrations using the hashtags **#NiUnaMenos** and **#VivasNosQueremos**, and also launched a 186 question survey. The aim was to generate national statistics on “**macho violence**” (this term was used to differentiate between victims and offenders).

Previous meeting with #NiUnaMenos

Two weeks before the Thematic Forum we had a meeting with **#NiUnaMenos**. This meeting provided us with some valuable information about gender organizations in Argentina.

- The small ones do not want to dialogue with government. They believe this is not going to help: they do not see government as an allie.
- They also criticize **#NiUnaMenos** because it is a massive movement which, in their opinion, dilutes the important message of feminism.
- **#NiUnaMenos** admit that it is important to have dialogues with government because they believe they can not do any significant national survey without their help and that they are the only ones who can enact laws. They do not want to replace the government with their survey, they want to make visible the alarming situation of women so the policy makers make concrete actions.
- We also learnt a lot about this movement: they have no strategy (they do not have a clear objective for the survey). We believe that **#NiUnaMenos** had so much impact because they took an issue that most people felt like urgent: they identify a generalized need and that is why it had so much impact.
- They believe they are driving mostly a cultural change. They also want policy makers to make concrete actions, but they think the biggest impact would be in a cultural level.
- Their movement has a great impact in social media, but they have no comms strategy.

About their survey

- They believe that it is not only a way to make gender violence visible, but also to make the women that answer it realized that there are many kinds of violence (physical, psychological, symbolical, etc).
- They did not pretend to make an academical survey. They knew it would have some problems because they have not the same structure and tools as the government statistical offices, but they wanted to make all society realize gender violence is an issue that needs an urgent solution.
- They think that reaching total credibility is really hard (especially for a movement that has no economical resources), but they said that the amount of responses they collected (over 60.000) is a way of credibility itself.
- They found great difficulties in reaching all the country. They communicate essentially in the social media, but there are many places in Argentina where people do not have access to Internet.

What do they want to do next?

- They want to generate awareness on the previous steps before the physical violence (symbolic and psychological violence).
- They also want to show all civil society and government that this is an issue that affects every women (according to the results 97% had suffered some kind of gender violence).
- They want to communicate this especially to men, because they believe that women already know this situation because they suffer it every day.

Previous meeting with Red Lac Trans

Red Lac Trans is a gender organization from all Latin America (they have different offices in each country). They work to improve the life quality of transsexuals. They had participated of the CAMP CAMP. We are working with them because they have lots of data (collected by themselves) that visualizes the hard reality transsexuals have to live every day.

Other gender organizations criticize Red Lac Trans because they are open to dialogue with government: they disapprove this because they believe that they can not dialogue with people with an opposite perspective.

- Red Lac Trans think that it is important to dialogue with any government because they are the ones in charge of legislation.

Gender survey

We sent a survey to some gender organizations to understand:

- what kind of data do they use.

- the source of that data.
- what kind of data do they need.
- if they collect their own data.
- what kind of data do they want the government to open.
- what government departments do they want to dialogue with.

Survey´s results

- The organizations collect data because they need it for their everyday work, but they do not share this information with other organizations. If all this was open data the amount of information available would be huge: it is really important to promote networks.
- When data from the National Survey´s Department is available organizations seize it, but there are many data gaps.
- Organizations want the government to open all kind of data: they think this helps transparency and it could be useful for their everyday work.

First National Survey of gender violence presentation (survey conducted by #NiUnaMenos)

- They had issues in data visualization: the results were shocking but they could not communicate them in an attractive way. Datashift could help in this matter to generate a bigger impact.
- They had a great reach: there were many journalist, tv channels and ngos there. This could have been strategically seized.

Hackathon

In November Government decided to organize an event called: [“Hacke a la violencia contra las mujeres”](#). Its main objective was to identify digital solutions to the violence that argentinian women suffer every day. We were invited to take part of this event (in which we were planning to include the Thematic Forum), but finally we decided not to take part (only four days before the event) and we unfulfilled the objective of hosting the TF in Argentina before the Global one.

Reasons why we decided not to take part

- We were told that we would have an space of 4 hours, but this changed four days before the Thematic Forum (when they told us we had only a two hours´s space). This time was not enough to achieve all the objectives as we planned: it was very little time for a very ambitious objective.
- We realized too late that gender organizations were not going to participate of this event because they do not see government as an allie.

- This event was taking place the same day #NiUnaMenos was presenting its survey: all gender organizations were going to be there, instead of coming to the event hosted by government.
- This Hackathon had an event on Facebook with negative comments.
- The event organized by government had some criticism aspects in the website and in the way they present information:

-They highlighted the fact this event was a contest and that people could win money. We think that the most important fact they should be highlighting was that it was an unique opportunity to **start a dialogue with key actors to make a real change in women's situation.**

-The event was **not specially addressed to civil society organizations:** it was addressed to programmers, developers, designers, experts in communication and social scientist.

-They had some data about women's violence in their website that was not well presented: it focused in women's role as a mother. We knew this kind of information would be bad received by gender organizations.

We believe we could have better results if we hosted an event where NGOs and government could work together than if we invite NGOs to an event organized by government. As the people from #NiUnaMenos told us, gender organizations have no good relationship with government, they do not see it as an allie.

Plan 2017

During January and February 2017 Wingu will be working to accomplish all the objectives previously detailed. After the learnings we obtained from the first approach we added the following ones:

- Understand in depth why gender organization do not want to work with government.
- Have a better understanding of the relationship between gender organization: the differences between those with a political alignment and those which have no one.
- Present a document to government detailing the needs and demands of gender organizations.

