



## Regional Knowledge Seminar

### **Analytical Study on Access to Justice for Victims/Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls in East and Southern Africa**

Date: Thursday, 21 October 2021

Time: 2-4pm EAT (2 hours)

Platform: Zoom:

<https://unwomen.zoom.us/j/93663515957?pwd=ZU4zSEcyMXJaZVlJSUxOcnp0QjA5Zz09>

Webinar ID: 936 6351 5957

Passcode: 4\*^VF&C

#### **Background and objectives:**

Globally, women face challenges in obtaining justice in their capacities as claimants, victims/survivors, witnesses or offenders, often driven by institutional, policy and legislative inability to eliminate discrimination, gender bias, stereotyping, stigma, indifference, corruption impunity and other factors. Women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination including women with disabilities as well as those affected by conflict, are often in a most disadvantaged position due to lack of access to quality, reliable, equitable and access to justice service delivery. For some women, access to justice is a matter of life and death and cannot be put on hold even for a day or two.

UN Women East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) undertook a Multi-Country Analytical Study of Access to Justice for Victims/Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls in the year 2020/21 in ten countries in the region, namely Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Malawi and Zimbabwe. The study aimed to contribute to UN Women's work supporting an enabling legislative and policy environment in support of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls and improving women and girls' access to quality justice services.

The Study:

a) Documented the various forms of discrimination faced by women and girls' survivors/victims of violence, including women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination based on disability, sexual orientation, or age in accessing justice, both statutory and customary (legal, social, cultural, institutional, procedural), drawing on both desk research and key informant meetings;

b) Identified and mapped promising practices and gaps in the legislative and policy frameworks (both statutory and customary) related to violence against women and girls in research countries in ESAR;



c) Compiled available data and practices on survivor support (which includes recovery services and the number of cases reported, cases taken up at various levels and disposal rates by courts);

d) Identified and recommended priority areas for programming and policy support to promote access to justice for women including in Covid-19 related emergencies and recommend measures for increasing the women in the judiciary both in customary and formal systems; and

e) Mapped and prepared a database of potential partners, key institutions and organizations including regional civil society organizations that represent women and girls with disabilities providing access to justice for women in the study countries to support programming and advocacy.

### **Objectives of the Knowledge Seminar**

- To disseminate the study on access to justice from the 10 country offices and inform future regional and country-level programmes on access to justice for women based on the findings and recommendations.
- To identify the way forward and solutions to address access to justice based on the recommendations to the ESA region as regards access to justice.

### **Target audience for the knowledge seminar include:**

All UN Women country offices in ESA Region targeted. The COs shall invite representatives from the judiciary (judges, magistrates, public interest lawyers, ministries of gender, security-police and administration officers, traditional justice system, religious institutions, academia, media, CSOs, CBOs, INGOs in Justice, UN agencies working in the justice sector such as UNDP, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNODC, RECs-AU, IGAD, EAC, COMESA. Participants will include women with disabilities, GBV survivors and other marginalized groups where possible.

### **Webinar Speakers**

- Ms. Zebib Kavuma..... Deputy Regional Director, UN Women ESARO
- Ms. Hodan Addou..... Representative, UN Women Tanzania
- Dr. Beatrice Akua Duncan..... Policy Advisor Constitutional and Access to Justice, UN Women HQ
- Justice Zion Ntaba..... National Project Coordinator, Women Judges Association of Malawi (WOJAM)
- Ms. Lensa Biyena ..... Executive Director, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA)
- Ms. Adut Daniel Chol ..... Director FIDA South Sudan
- Ms. Lizzie Kiama ..... Managing Trustee, This Ability
- Ms. Sunita Caminha..... Regional Policy Specialist, UN Women ESARO
- Dr. Jack Abebe ..... Regional Knowledge Management Specialist, UN Women ESARO



### Format of the webinar

- Presentation on the Access to Justice Study followed by a panel discussion with a set of guided questions and lastly moderated questions and answers
- **Duration:** 2 - hours
- **Virtual:** Zoom and streamed live on Facebook
- **Date and time:** 14 October from 2:00 to 4:00 **(EAT)**

### PROGRAMME

Knowledge Seminar: Regional Knowledge Seminar on the Analytical Study on Access to Justice for Victims/Survivors of Violence Against Women And Girls In East And Southern Africa

**Moderator: Jack Abebe**

Time	Activity	By whom
2:00-2:10pm	Welcome, Introductions and Objectives of the knowledge seminar	Dr. Jack Abebe, UN Women ESARO KM Specialist
2:10-2.20 pm	Opening Remarks	Ms. Zebib Kavuma, Deputy Regional Director, East and Southern Africa, UN Women
2:20-2:40 pm	Presentation on the Access to Justice Regional Study	Ms. Sunita Caminha, Regional Policy Specialist, EVAW
2:40-2:45 pm	Video – Access to justice in the region	Ms. Evelyn Ongige, UN Women Programme Assistant
2:45-3:20 pm	Panel discussion:  Moderated by: Sunita Caminha, Regional Policy Specialist, EVAW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ms. Lensa Biyena - Executive Director, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA)</li> <li>2) Ms. Adut Daniel Chol - Director FIDA South Sudan</li> <li>3) Ms. Lizzie Kiama - Managing Trustee, This Ability</li> <li>4) Justice Zione Ntaba - National Project Coordinator, Women Judges Association of Malawi (WOJAM)</li> <li>5) Dr. Beatrice Akua Duncan - Policy Advisor Constitutional and Access to Justice, UN Women HQ</li> </ol>
3:20-3:40pm	Questions and Answers	Dr. Jack Abebe, Regional Knowledge Management Specialist



**GENERATION EQUALITY**

3:40-3:50pm	Summary of key points and way forward	Ms. Sunita Caminha, Regional Policy Specialist - EAW
3:50-4:00pm	Closing Remarks	Ms. Hodan Addou - Representative Tanzania Country Office