



KENYA COUNTRY OFFICE

STRATEGIC NOTE NARRATIVE (2023-2026)





CONTEXT

Kenya is a lower-middle-income country in the Horn of Africa, with a population of 47.6 million as of 2019 and a multi-party parliamentary system. Kenya's score on the Human Development Index has risen steadily from 2019 to 2022, positioning it at 143 out of 189 countries and territories in 2022.¹ Kenya is a lower-middle-income country and is the third largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria and South Africa.² The economy has since recovered from the effects of COVID-19, with growth projected at 5 percent in 2022 despite facing global food price increases and drought conditions. Inequality persists, including gender inequality, exacerbated by climate change leading to inter-communal violence. COVID-19 has caused job losses and other sources of livelihood for women more so than men. At the same time, there are increasing risks of sexual exploitation, physical violence, harassment and child marriages due to prolonged drought.

Over the past decade, Kenya has made important governance and structural reforms that have contributed to impressive political gains, economic growth and social development. Kenya has impressive legal frameworks and

policies on gender equality, and entities such as the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) have been established to promote and protect the rights of Kenyan people. While Kenya's rank and score on the Gender Inequality Index (GII) has consistently improved since 1995, the country's most recent ranking of 126 out of 189 countries indicates that gender inequality continues to be an overarching concern in security, reproductive health, empowerment and labor market participation.³

Harmful gender norms and stereotypes continue to hinder progress toward achieving greater gender equality. These include limited access to resources, lack of support for women's economic empowerment, persistent patriarchal practices and unequal access to decision-making positions in political life. In addition, there is slow implementation of gender equality legal frameworks and existing policies and low budget allocation to gender equality, with only 0.3 percent of the national budget allocated to gender and 13 out of 47 counties having no budget allocation for gender.

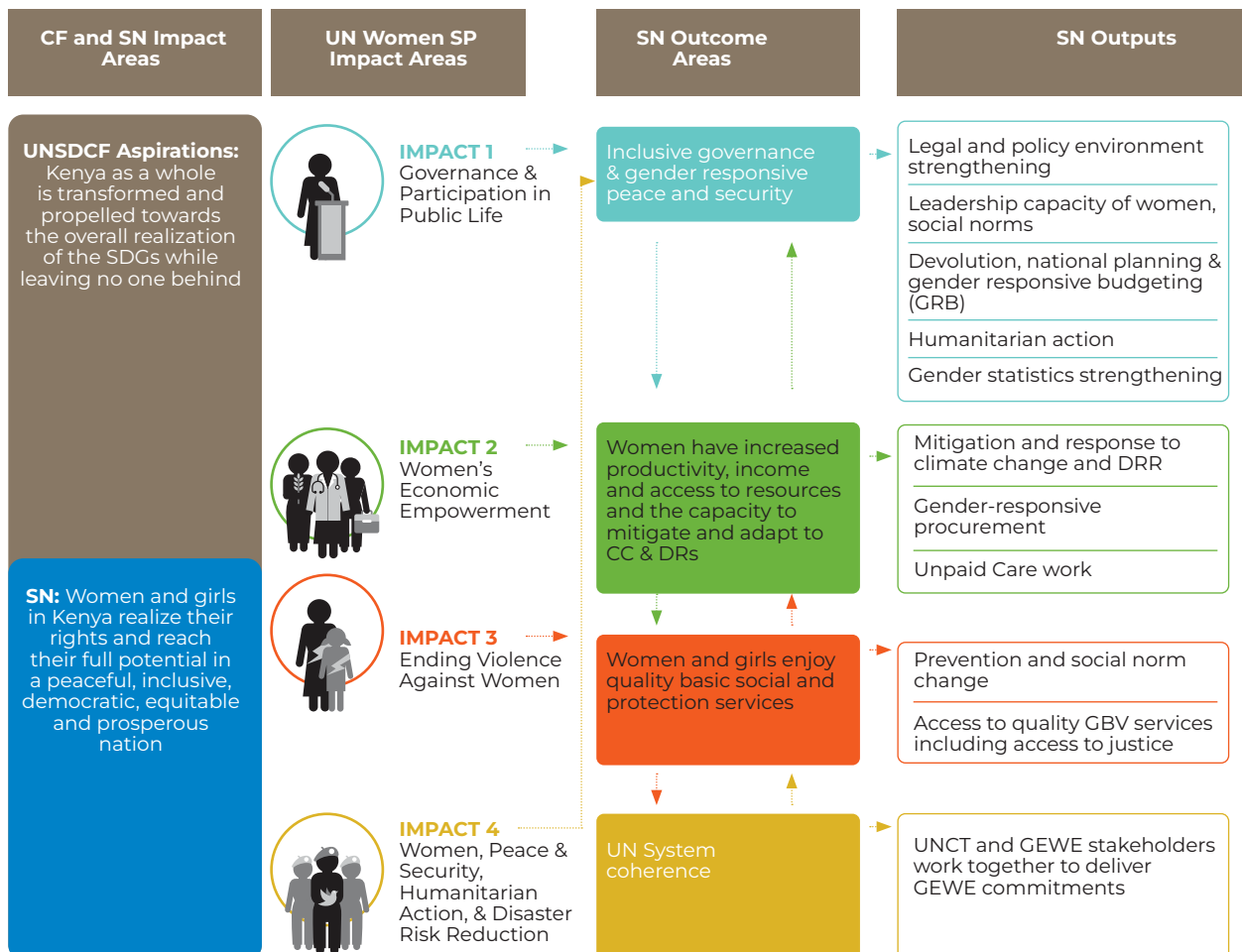
1 <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/hdi-by-country>

2 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya/overview>

3 UNCT Common Country Analysis, 2021 p. 49

Kenya Country Office (KCO) SN at glance

Over the next four years, UN Women Kenya's strategic note will be implemented in four thematic areas. These priorities are fully aligned to the national priorities, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the Global UN Women Strategic Plan (SP).



OUTCOMES

Inclusive governance and gender-responsive peace and security

UN Women will focus its contribution on key areas, including (i) collaborating with state and non-state actors to formulate, strengthen and implement policy and legislative frameworks that promote the participation, inclusion and representation of women and girls in leadership and governance; (ii) strengthening systems for financing gender equality, public participation in governance and accountability for gender-responsive service delivery; (iii) enhancing the visibility and capacity of women and girls to participate in democratic processes and inclusive

governance; (iv) increasing the production, availability, analysis and use of quality sex-disaggregated data and statistics to track progress and influence decision making and; (v) deepening its work on women peace and security by strengthening the capacity of national and county level policymakers and grassroots women's organizations to develop and implement gender-responsive peace and security policies.



2

Women have increased productivity, income and access to resources and the capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change & disasters

UN Women will focus on supporting the development and implementation of policies and strategies on gender-responsive climate change, disaster risk mitigation,⁴ and natural resource management. Through its gender-responsive climate change work, KCO will promote appropriate technologies, including kitchen gardens that increase resource efficiencies, household food production and nutritious foods, while increasing women's knowledge on value addition and proper food utilization.

UN Women will also support the realization of affirmative action opportunities for government procurement, sustainable consumption, and the 5Rs⁵ of unpaid care and domestic work.

⁴ *Breaking the silos and linked closely with women peace and security work under the first outcome*

⁵ The 5Rs are Recognize, Reduce, Redistribute, Reward and Represent



OUTCOMES

3

**Women & girls
enjoy quality
basic social
and protection
services**

UN Women will scale up its work on strengthening the institutional capacity of state and non-state actors to prevent and respond to GBV, aligning with the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Commitments to end all forms of GBV by 2026. It will further scale up and automate population-based engagement on prevention, timely and quality response for survivors, optimize GBV data collection and analysis and use it to inform policy and programme decisions. The interventions will also seek to change harmful behavior and social norms against women and girls.

4

UN system coherence

UN Women will build on the achievements of GEWE coordination work from the previous SN, with a special emphasis on strengthening the capacity of stakeholders, including the UN and state and non-state actors, to influence the prioritization of gender equality in strategic planning frameworks of the government, UN system, development partners and private sector.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

UN Women intends to partner with multilateral and bilateral agencies, and national and international, private-sector players. Furthermore, the country office CO will continue to consolidate and strengthen partnerships with traditional donors, and aim to expand the pool of available resources for gender equality by exploring innovations, including with financial institutions, and influencing national budgets.

In addition, the CO will aim to have a mix of partners, with capital-based Women's Rights Organizations driving national advocacy work in close collaboration with community-based

organizations that work directly with women at the community level. UN Women will also continue to broaden its partnership base within the newly elected government, working beyond the gender machinery and directly engaging with other sectoral ministries, departments and agencies at the national and county level. The CO will also diversify its partnership base to include media entities for branding and advocacy, academic and think-tank organizations for disseminating and using UN Women knowledge products, and private sector partnerships for resource mobilization through engagement with companies and philanthropic entities.



SUSTAINABILITY

UN Women's sustainability strategy seeks to guarantee that gains made on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment are not lost over time. The sustainability and exit strategy employ four approaches:

1. Continuous analysis, adjustment and adaptation to shifting operational context for GEWE;
2. Integration of gender into sectoral policies, programmes and domestic financing for sustainability;
3. Gender transformative change for sustainable results. Underpinning each output is the recognized need to address unequal power relations and harmful structures and design activities to support the transformation of harmful social norms and practices, the impact of which will continue beyond UN Women Country Office SN interventions.
4. Continuous work with Civil Society Organizations to advocate for women's rights to hold the government accountable for commitments on GEWE.





Monitoring and evaluation

UN Women is committed to applying Result Based Management (RBM) principles, including results monitoring, reporting, evaluation and real-time data management through a costed monitoring, research and evaluation plan (MERP) aligned with the UNSDCF and Medium-Term Plan IV. It uses other innovative, inclusive, and periodic reviews in conjunction with the national counterparts and development actors.



Research and knowledge management

UN Women will scale up the co-production of data and cutting-edge knowledge in partnership with other UN agencies and policy actors. Implementing the 2030 Agenda requires timely data and robust expertise to identify solutions for operational and normative advances in GEWE. This will be complemented by Communities of Practice and expert networks consolidating knowledge from across UN Women and its partners.



Resource Mobilisation

UN Women has five main objectives in its resource mobilization strategy:

1. Invest in 'delivering as one UN approach' through joint programmes and coordination to prioritize GEWE in development initiatives;
2. Research, identify and cultivate new funding opportunities, especially in the private and philanthropic sectors in Kenya, including exploring gender bonds;
3. Fortify current donor stewardship;
4. Explore co-funding modalities with the GoK to ensure ownership and sustainability of results in line with the Public Finance Management Act;
5. Deepen KCO team capacities to mobilize resources and improve results-based management.



Communications and Advocacy

UN Women's strategic communications goal is to position the organization as a leader and trusted partner in the gender equality space in Kenya by amplifying the UN Women brand and ensuring gender equality is central to Kenya's Vision 2030 and the realization of the SDGs. Building on previous communications and advocacy efforts, UN Women seeks to achieve these objectives by leveraging five approaches; communicating results; advocacy and campaigns; media engagement; digital platforms and internal communication.



Lessons Learnt

- UN Women Kenya will engage fewer partners and work more with networks/ consortia that can deliver entire outputs rather than activities
- Deeper investment needed into county level data to enable UN Women to inform localized interventions
- UN Women Kenya will avoid spreading resources too thinly by selecting a limited number of counties where gender equality indicators are lowest in the country, informed by the Leave No-One Behind analysis of the new UNSDCF.



FUNDING STATUS 2023-2026

	Estimated funding for the New SN in US\$				TOTALS -4yrs	Available	Funding Gap
Program Area	2023	2024	2025	2026			
OUTCOME 1: Inclusive governance and gender-responsive peace and security	6,113,946	6,833,940	7,286,993	7,693,739	27,928,618	4,590,376	(23,338,242)
OUTCOME 2: Women & girls enjoy quality basic social and protection services	1,800,000	1,980,000	2,178,000	2,395,800	8,353,800	1,997,354	(6,356,446)
OUTCOME 3: Women have increased productivity, income and access to resources and the capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change & disasters	1,639,680	1,803,648	1,984,013	2,182,414	7,609,755	878,128	(6,731,627)
OUTCOME 4: UN system coherence	234,926	258,417	284,259	312,685	1,090,286	355,257	(735,029)
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY	3,333,749	3,281,249	3,261,249	3,291,249	13,167,497	6,765,061	(6,402,436)
TOTAL	13,122,302	14,157,254	14,994,515	15,875,886	58,149,957	14,586,176	(43,563,781)

UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE



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