



**UN WOMEN REGIONAL
COORDINATION STRATEGY
FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
2024-2025**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AU	African Union
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BWP	Biennial Work Plan
CAR	Central African Republic
CCA	Common Country Analysis
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DRD	Deputy Regional Director
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community for West African States
ESARO	East and Southern Africa Regional Office
EVAW	Ending Violence against Women
GAM	Gender and Age Marker
GE	Gender Equality
GEA	Gender Equality Accelerator
GEM	Gender Equality Marker
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
GTG	Gender Theme Group
HA	Humanitarian Action
JP	Joint programme
JWP	Joint Work Plan
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
LEAP	Leadership, empowerment, access and participation
LGA	Liptako-Gourma Authority
LO	Liaison Office
MAF	Management Accountability Framework
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
PMT	Programme Management Team
PRG	Peer Review Group
PSEA	Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OIBC	Opportunity and issue-based coalition
OMT	Operations Management Team
UNSCR1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
RCP	Regional collaborative platform
RD	Regional Director
RECs	Regional Economic Commissions
RGTG	Regional Gender Theme Group
RO	Regional Office
R-UNDG	Regional UN Development Group
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SN	Strategic Note
SP	Strategic Plan
SWAP	System-wide Action Plan
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCT-SWAP	UNCT-SWAP for Gender Equality Scorecard
UNDCO	United Nations Development Coordination Office
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISS	United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WCA	West and Central Africa
WCARO	UN Women West and Central Africa Regional Office
WPPL	Women's political participation and leadership
WPS	Women, Peace & Security
WPSHA	Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action

FOREWORD

The consultations held during the 2020 Mid-Term Review of the West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) 2018-2021 Strategic Note revealed the need for a Regional Coordination Strategy to clarify UN Women positioning with Regional Economic Commissions, inter-governmental processes and menu of services at the country level.

This was further shaped by discussions during the elaboration of the UN Women Strategic Plan (SP) 2022-2025, which identifies coordination as a core function of the SP Result Framework, elevating coordination at the Outcome level.

The WCARO Coordination Strategy complements the WCARO 2022-2025 Strategic Note and contributes to UN Women Africa Strategy 2.0 (2022-2025) and the UN Women Coordination Strategy currently under development. It supports the Management and Accountability Framework (MAF) designed under the UN Development System Reform, facilitates the realization of the coordination function, including the Theory of Change (TOC), results framework, and related indicators, as well as partnerships on and for coordination, and contributes to more visible results on UN Women thematic priorities.

The pillars of the WCARO Coordination Strategy were developed through collective thinking and discussion among regional entities and UN Women partners around best practices on coordination at the regional and country levels.

The WCARO Coordination Strategy concretely:

- Provides an overview of the global framework regarding UN Women's coordination mandate in West and Central Africa. It maps relevant coordination functions at the regional, intergovernmental and country levels and provides a coordinated strategic vision and recommendations by capitalizing on the inputs and perspectives collected during a comprehensive and in-depth consultation process.
- Proposes new paths for partnerships for results in terms of coordination and creating new financial opportunities. It improves system-wide capacities, partnerships and funding with continental, regional, and sub-regional entities and networks, including data support through the Women Count Programme and joint results through the Opportunity and Issue-Based Coalitions (OIBCs) of the Regional Collaborative Platforms.

- Defines menu of services and strengthens country-level capacity to accelerate the Gender Agenda and policy dialogue in countries with and without a UN Women presence in the WCA region, for example, by placing Gender Equality Coordinators at Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs).

This Regional Coordination Strategy articulates how UN Women will leverage its unique triple mandate (normative support, UN system coordination and operational activities) to mobilize urgent and sustained action to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Overall, this strategic document is UN Women's West and Central Africa's contribution to the 2030 deadline to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is hoped that it will feed regional discussions and advance UN Women's partnerships and interventions worldwide.



Regional Director a.i.
Maxime Houinato

METHODOLOGY

The Regional Coordination Strategy has been shaped by Africa-wide interventions, lessons learned from in-country support and UN positioning with continental and intergovernmental bodies and processes, as well as UN Women’s partnerships with the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) and with the Development Coordination Office (DCO).

It is also nurtured by comments and discussions within the Community of Practice of the WCA Community of Practice on Coordination, which gathers RCO staff and Gender Theme Group (GTG) staff in the region.

This WCA Regional Coordination Strategy is an evolving document. Its implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework, funding and partnerships will be aligned with the implementation and oversight of the WCARO 2022-2025 Strategic Note and Partnership Strategy and Resource Mobilisation Strategy. It will, therefore, initially have a two-year implementation period that could be adjusted based on results achieved and on political and strategic needs and commitments.

To ensure this document becomes a living text, individual units of UN Women will customize or localize it to their respective situations and contexts, and the

contribution of units to the strategy will be included in their work plans for implementation, monitoring and fundraising purposes.

Indicators of the strategy are aligned with OIBC indicators in order to facilitate strong mainstreaming through joint programmes and Africa-wide interventions, as well as Gender Equality Accelerator (GEAs) indicators of the SP 2022-2025. GEAs are programmatic frameworks to ensure impact at scale, focusing on the realization of human rights of women and girls. They work as the interface between the global standards and national legal and financial frameworks, policies and plans with transformative impact at scale.

The regional Coordination strategy is expected to be localized in country level frameworks. It will guide UN Women positioning and interventions and reinforce partnerships and joint interventions.

10 GENDER EQUALITY ACCELERATORS

GEA 1 Women Lead 	GEA 2 Gender Budgets 	GEA 3 Transform Care 
GEA 4 Women and the World of Work 	GEA 5 Gender-Responsive Climate Action 	
GEA 6 Together to Zero VAWG 	GEA 7 Women, Peace and Security 	
GEA 8 LEAP 	GEA 9 Women’s Resilience to Disasters 	GEA 10 Women Count 

INTRODUCTION

The origins of UN Women’s coordination role can be found in the Report of the Secretary-General, ‘Comprehensive Proposal for the Composite Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women’ (A/64/588). The report calls for greater authority and positioning to direct, support and strengthen accountability of the UN system for delivering results on the ground and to enhance greater accountability and consistent political will on gender equality from senior management and system-wide standards. The report underscores the comprehensive mandate of UN Women to respond to the lack of a coherent and system-wide approach and to the fragmented intergovernmental policymaking.

UN Women’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025 underscores that UN Women is expected to lead and coordinate United Nations system strategies, policies and actions on gender equality and women’s empowerment to promote effective systemwide gender mainstreaming, drawing fully on the comparative advantage of United Nations actors.¹ In this sense, coordination of UN Women falls under Outcome 7 of the UN Women’s Strategic Plan (2022-2025), which states that “The UN System coherently and systematically contributes to progress on gender equality and the empowerment and rights of women and girls, in accordance with international human rights standards.”

The 2030 Agenda reaffirms the centrality of gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) to sustainable development, and the latest Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) (2017-2020) calls upon all UN entities to continue to promote GEWE, placing emphasis on the importance of system-wide accountability on the ground. Furthermore, the General Assembly’s 2020 Resolution on the QCPR (QCPR, A/75/233) calls for accelerating progress on gender equality as a core function of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).

In support of the UN Development System reform and in response to calls from Member States in the QCPR, UN Women works closely together with key UN partners to jointly monitor and report on pivotal results, based on the common indicators set in the QCPR Monitoring Framework. In line with the 2020 QCPR, UN Women aims to further leverage the UN system coordination mandate to influence and support partners within the UN system to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of commitments at all levels. This includes supporting the mainstreaming of gender equality across sectors.

At the country level, in full alignment with the 2020-2023 QCPR and under the leadership of Resident Coordinators, UN Women aims to maximize its central role within UNCTs to ensure that UN Cooperation Frameworks (CFs), Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and other common country documents are gender-responsive and/or integrate a gender equality-specific outcome and pursue results that strengthen accountability and results from all participating agencies.

¹ Comprehensive proposal for the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Report of the Secretary-General. P. 5, para. F. Available here: [Comprehensive proposal for the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women : \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/2017/qcpr/qcpr.html)

According to a recent corporate evaluation,² “implementing the coordination mandate requires appropriate investment to strengthen the legitimacy vested in the coordinating entity to lead, promote and coordinate” the UN system. Coordination in the thematic areas should be viewed in terms of the value it adds to normative and operational results and outcomes. Coordination is as much about people skills and building trust as it is about institutional arrangements. Instances of strong leadership and individual efforts were found to be key drivers of success to build collaborative relationships within and beyond the UN coordination architecture. Finally, in complex contexts such as the WCA region, humanitarian-development-peace cross-pillar collaboration represents a strategic entry point for coordination efforts with on-the-ground

networks. Links between women, peace and security and humanitarian structures and clusters are to be created in order to better target support to women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

UN Women’s coordination mandate is meant to respond to global issues pertaining to GEWE, as identified in corporate discussions on coordination,³ but current system-wide accountability and reporting frameworks on GEWE appear inadequate to enable effective coordination for system-wide results in positioning GEWE in the global normative agenda and in thematic areas. This Strategy aims to provide clarification on ways to better tackle women’s needs on the ground and leverage regional partnerships to increase effectiveness and enable real change on gender equality.

COORDINATION LOGIC MODEL



2 Corporate evaluation of UN Women’s UN system coordination and broader convening role on EVAW, April 2021.

3 Executive Board informal briefing and consultation on ‘Raising the Ambition on UN System Coordination’, 14 June 2021.

Vision and Theory of Change

Vision

The WCA Regional Coordination Strategy is rooted in the following vision for coordination:

“UN Women in West and Central Africa effectively leverages its regional value to mainstream gender in regional, subregional and continental bodies, entities, mechanisms, processes and programmes, including in peace, security, humanitarian and disaster risk reduction (DRR) settings in order to fight against all forms of violence against women and girls and to achieve gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s rights.”

Theory of Change

Despite good progress achieved by West and Central Africa countries in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment as reflected in the Beijing +25 review, the full realization of women’s rights is still hindered by structural challenges. These include:

- The negative social norms deeply embedded in the culture that shape the power relations between men and women in the community.
- The economic inequalities due to the discrimination of women that leads to a lack of access to resources (land and finance), education and well paid employment confines them to informal and unsecured employment and the disproportionate burden of unpaid work, further limiting women’s capacity to seize economic opportunities.
- Violence against women and girls in all forms, including violence during conflicts and violent extremist attacks, is rampant and victims do not have access to the necessary support, including justice.
- The leadership and participation of women in democratic institutions and decision-making processes is unequal at all levels, thus denying women rights to influence decisions that affect their lives.
- Humanitarian crises caused by the adverse effects of climate change, natural phenomena, or the increase in migratory flows affect women in a different way, exacerbating their vulnerabilities, increasing their exposure to gender-based violence and putting their economic autonomy at risk.

- The weak technical and financial capacity of state institutions to fulfil their commitments towards international, regional and national agendas with regards to the acceleration of gender equality and women empowerment.
- Lack of coherence of the UN accountability System at the regional level and country levels with regard to GEWE and the lack of capacities in gender analysis, programming, monitoring, reporting and mainstreaming in order to bring transformative change.

Conditions for change

IF regional, continental and intergovernmental mechanisms and interventions for gender equality and women empowerment are well articulated to the needs of the most marginalized women and girls, coordinated and well-funded.

IF women and girls have greater access, under conditions of equality and security, to spaces for political and public participation and decision-making at all levels, with emphasis on women belonging to groups that have been excluded;

IF the UN leverages its financing dedicated to gender equality and women empowerment and mainstreams gender equality in its programmes and policies;

IF women, especially those from low-income families, increase their access to and control over climate-resilient economic resources and opportunities to move into a more market-oriented and competitive business within a framework of inclusive, sustainable, and socio-economic development;

IF women and girls enjoy a life free from of gender-based violence as a result of transformed strong negative social norms and the provision of comprehensive services to survivors by the State, including protection, physiological and medical support and access to justice;

IF State institutions increase citizen security, access to justice, peace and the transformation of conflicts that ensure the participation and leadership of women in processes of peace negotiations, peacekeeping and the defense of human rights;

Because

UN Women in West and Central Africa effectively leverages its regional value to support gender mainstream in regional, subregional and continental bodies, entities, mechanisms, processes and programmes, including in peace, humanitarian and DRR settings to fight against all forms of violence against women and girls and achieving gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights

More women and girls, in their diversity, will have leadership roles in public life, autonomy, and participation in decision-making processes at levels.

More women and girls will enjoy their rights and unlock their full potential for a better access to decent work, social protection, and access to improved livelihoods and financing.

More women, especially rural and marginalized women, will have access to work and income opportunities for inclusive growth.

More well-equipped national institutions will make gender equality their agenda articulated around gender responsive policies, plans, strategies and budget, to promote decent work, social protection, and women's access to productive resources.

More female survivors of violence will have access to essential quality services, protection, and support for the restoration of their rights. Progress will be made towards the prevention and elimination of violence to guarantee women and girls live a life free of violence.

More women, especially in need of protection in conflict torn zones, will lead local and national processes to sustain peace, conflict transformation, and humanitarian actions.

IF the UN System delivers with greater accountability;

Then, higher levels of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in WCA region will be achieved so that all women, especially those belonging to the most excluded groups, can exercise their rights and contribute and benefit equally from development, humanitarian action, and peace for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and SDG 5 on-track for achievement by 2030.

Negative social norms and **harmful practices** that perpetuate gender inequalities will be transformed/ challenged by a critical mass of men and boys, allies of women in favour of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

National institutions will have the required capacity including data and gender disaggregated statistics to meet their commitments as related to gender equality in accordance with international standards.

To achieve the expected results, within the framework of this Theory of Change, UN Women has identified the need to **leverage drivers of change** whose function is to accelerate development processes towards priority population groups:

- **Policy and normative work:** Support governments to implement their international and regional commitments as related to human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment. [**Universal Periodic Review (UPR), CEDAW reports, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Sendai Framework, the Beijing Platform for Action, UN Security Council Resolution 1325**]
- **Accountability mechanisms and tools:** UNCT SWAP, SG strategy, GEM, GTG, RCP, OIBC
- **Community engagement:** Empower communities by leveraging youth organizations' engagement, and women's organizations, CSOs and research institutions to contribute to the transformation of negative social norms through a results-driven approach.
- **Strengthening synergies and building alliances:** The Regional Office will use its convening capacity to bring on board regional and intergovernmental institutions, including women, peace and security (WPS) institutions and Economic Commissions that

work in either the same thematic or geographical areas for effective coordination.

- **Movement building:** Support robust regional and multi-actor gender equality movements engaged in gender equality and convened around a common and powerful advocacy agenda, leveraging gender equality forums (GEF).
- **Enhancing youth involvement:** Enhance youth involvement through existing youth-led organizations and support for regional coalitions for the development and implementation of regional initiatives aligned with UN Women’s strategic focus areas.
- **Promotion of innovative approaches and piloting new models:** Promote these through innovative

transformative models, with a focus on data collection, to be scaled up across the region’s five GEFs, CSW, Women Count, pooled funds for joint programming and Gender Equality Coordinators.

- **Centrality of ‘leaving no one behind’ (LNOB), human rights-based approach (HRBA) and GEWE programmatic principles:** Programming and analysis across all thematic areas should ensure full inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, particularly the most vulnerable, affected and marginalized populations and be mainstreamed into CCAs and CFs.
- **Data and knowledge-based advocacy and interventions:** Accurate information on gender equality will be provided through various data points.



Credit: UN Women

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COORDINATION

In-Country Coordination

UN Women Country Offices

WCARO covers a total of 24 countries: UN Women has a Country Office in 10 countries, and there is no UN Women presence in 14 countries. In countries in which UN Women has a presence, UN Women supports RCs and UNCTs through the UN Women Country Representative who represents the entity in the UNCT, Gender Theme Group and other related accountability mechanisms. The Representative's role is key to ensuring that gender is mainstreamed in specific system-wide processes (CCA/CF, joint programming, the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard and results groups documents) and in national strategies, laws and documents. In countries where UN Women does not have a full country office, it is the Regional Office, under the leadership of the Regional Director, that plays this leading role.

UN WOMEN FOOTPRINT

WCA Regional Office

Location: Dakar, Senegal

Coverage: 24 Countries

Work Force: 388 (2023) SN 2022-2025

10 Country Offices:

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

14 Non-Resident Agency Countries:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Republic of Congo, Togo, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and Sao Tomé and Principe.

Upcoming:

4 Gender Equality Coordinators:

Burkina Faso, Ghana, Gabon and Chad



At the country level, coordination has three components: internal coordination, inter-agency coordination and external coordination.

- **Internal coordination** develops UN Women’s triple mandate: normative, programmatic and coordination among partners. (See specific action by country in [Annex 1](#).)
- At the **inter-agency level**, the Country Office (CO) chairs the GTG and participates in UNCT results groups, supports the SG strategy on parity, leads the UNCT-SWAP and Gender Marker, collaborates in joint programmes (Peacebuilding Fund, Spotlight Initiative, etc.) and resource mobilization initiatives.
- **External coordination** entails a wider approach. The CO leverages in its regional position to work closely with intergovernmental bodies, regional committees, DCO regional architecture, regional CSOs and regional platforms, such as the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).

ADVANCING UN WOMEN’S COORDINATION MANDATE

Enhanced GEWE Accountability in AFRICA

Implementation African Strategy 2.0 and regional normative frameworks and commitments

GEWE in United Nations System

Investment, advocacy, leadership, and capacity strengthening:

- Accountability mechanisms and platforms
- Supporting UNSDCF & HRP process in Humanitarian contexts
- Leverage in Joint Programmes and Regional Collaboratives Platforms/OIBCs
- Leadership on GEWE

Governmental and Intergovernmental Support

High-level advocacy and capacity-strengthening

- Partnerships with Regional Economic Commissions and Regional Bodies
- Monitoring and reporting of regional commitments on GEWE
- Advancing inter governmental commitments: CSW, Beijing Plus 30, Sendai Framework, HLPF

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

Donor feedback, advocacy, technical leadership, and capacity-strengthening:

- Regional CSOs, Women’s Led Organizations
- Youth-Led Organisations
- Private sector
- IFIs
- Regional Economic Commissions

Communication of Results

Investment, knowledge management and communicate:

- Data and Statistics
- Monitoring and Reporting regional trends and results on GEWE
- SDGs targets



Investment, advocacy, data, communication, leadership, capacity-strengthening, and technical support



Organigram: Enhanced GEWE accountability in Africa

MENU OF SERVICES FOR COUNTRY OFFICES

- Technical support in gender mainstreaming throughout CF processes and documents, and quality assurance of joint programmes, Joint Annual Work Plans and strategic documents.
- Technical support in the roll-out of the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Score Card, Action Plan implementation and monitoring of UNCT-SWAP reporting.
- Technical support in the application of the Gender Equity Marker (GEM) to joint programmes (JPs) and joint work plans (JWPs).
- Track UNCT-SWAP benchmarks.
- Strengthen GTGs role within the UNCT as results-oriented mechanisms.
- Coordination of external mechanisms for GEWE, such as technical and financial partners' groups on gender.
- Support resource mobilization initiatives (e.g., pooled funds, joint programmes, calls for proposals).
- Disseminate intelligence on funding mechanisms that are conducive to joint programming (CERF, PBF, Elsie Fund, UNISS...) to support pre-positioning and negotiations within UNCT.
- Support CO in marketing the coordination mandate into adequate products for fundraising with the private sector
- Support UN Women leadership and capacity in setting up pooled funding mechanisms
- Support CO in promoting UN Women's added value in humanitarian planning and interventions, for an increased accountability to gender commitments in UN-led humanitarian and refugee responses.
- Support for programmatic principles (gender, HRBA and LNOB) and peer support groups.
- Support intergovernmental processes (e.g., implementation of CSW-agreed conclusions and CSW negotiations, Beijing plus 30, Sendai).



Credit: UN Women

Inter-Agency Coordination

Gender accountability mechanisms

Gender Theme Groups

Anchored in the United Nations Economic and Social Council’s resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,⁴ a Gender Theme Group (GTG) is defined as an inter-agency coordination group that “provide(s) strategic support and advice to United Nations Country Teams in enhancing their gender mainstreaming efforts.” The resolution also emphasizes the need for gender-responsive performance management and strategic planning, sex-disaggregated data, reporting and resource tracking, while drawing on gender expertise to mainstream gender equality in the preparation of the Cooperation Framework. GTGs are key to ensuring these actions are well

advanced at the UNCT level. With this aim, GTGs need to have the capacities and mandate to support the Resident Coordinator (RC) leadership in advancing GEWE, consensus-building on national gender equality priorities, and driving cross-thematic collaboration and cooperation with a large range of partners and other groups within the UNCT, including those in humanitarian contexts.

The GTG Standards and Procedures (GTG S&Ps) is a guidance that sets out standards and procedures for GTGs, clarifies how GTGs should function, and addresses current challenges and opportunities in a globally coherent manner, within country-level contexts.

Configuration of GTGs in WCA and ESA:

GTG only	GTG as part of a result group	GTG combined with other thematics
Morocco	Zambia	Senegal (human rights, disability)
Ghana	Chad	CAR (human rights)
	Djibouti	Cameroon
Mauritania	The Gambia	Malawi (UN Gender Group, UN donor group on gender, sector group on gender)
Mozambique	Zimbabwe	Niger (UN Gender Group and Human Rights (GTGDH), Gender and Humanitarian Group (GTGH), Technical and Financial Partners Gender Group (GTG-PTF), “Les Amis de l’Agenda Femme, Paix et Sécurité”)
Liberia	Côte d’Ivoire	Cabo Verde (human rights)
Kenya	Togo	
Sierra Leone	DRC (several GTGs)	
Madagascar	Burkina Faso	
	Guinea	
	Rwanda	
	Mali	

4 (2019). Resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, para 7 (i). https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3806913/files/E_2019_L10-EN.pdf

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR A FUNCTIONAL GTG

- Have terms of reference (TORs) in line with the Standards and Procedure Guidance.
- Have an Action Plan and effectively implement it.
- Have a functional organizational chart with the Resident Coordinator as the lead, a chair (UN Women for countries in which UN Women is present and UNFPA or another UN agency such as OHCHR, FAO, UNICEF, or UNDP when UN Women is not present), a co-chair and a secretary.
- Follow up effectively on implementation of the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Action Plan.
- Hold regular meetings, and take and share minutes.
- Support resource mobilization initiatives (i.e., participate in all proposals, support the creation of pooled funds, participate in the elaboration of joint programmes).
- Provide support in GEWE within the UNCT, as well as to national counterparts, CSOs and other shareholders.
- Support the GEWE normative mandate at the country level.
- Support the drafting of CEDAW, VNRs and UPR reports.
- Support the Resolution 1325 National Action Plan.
- Support the Beijing Action Plan and implementation of CSW agreed conclusions.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

IASC, under OCHA's leadership, is considered the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance at the strategic level.⁵ It involves UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, and develops humanitarian policies, agrees on a clear division of responsibility for the various aspects of humanitarian assistance, identifies and addresses gaps in response, and advocates for effective application of humanitarian principles.⁶ WCARO participates in IASC meetings. This engagement is considered very strategic as IASC constitutes an exceptional entry point for influencing gender integration into regional and global humanitarian responses.

IASC is linked to the other humanitarian coordination mechanisms at the regional level, such as the Protection Working Group, the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Working Group, the Inter-Cluster Group and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Regional Task Force, where UN Women is also represented by staff from thematic units.

PSEA Regional Task Force

The PSEA Regional Task Force was created in 2020 under the leadership of UNHCR and is situated in the Regional Inter-agency Task Force Protection Cluster. The PSEA Regional Task Force is a space for both initiating and coordinating efforts to better support WCA countries and Regional Offices in their efforts to advance an enabling environment to institutionalize accountability to affected populations in terms of sexual exploitation and abuse (and the prevention and response to it) when committed by UN personnel, implementing and institutional partners, and other aid/humanitarian personnel.⁷

When the RC is the highest UN official and aligned with the responsibilities of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) on PSEA, the RC has a system-wide responsibility for developing collective PSEA strategies and ensuring that a country-level PSEA Action Plan to mitigate the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse is developed and implemented annually in consultation with all heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes represented on the UNCT and operating in the country.

5 General Assembly Resolution 48/57

6 <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc>

7 2020, PSEA Task Force ToRs.

This plan should build on the systems and good practices already in place and include the strengthening of community-based mechanisms to receive complaints and of pathways to refer victims for assistance.

The PSEA Regional Task Force includes UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and protection and inter-agency working groups chairs. UN Women is an active member at the country and regional levels, providing technical expertise in ending violence against women (EVAW) and GBV and providing related data and knowledge.

Civil Society Advisory Group

The Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) is an expert body with an advisory and advocacy role to support UN Women’s work on gender equality. It is recommended that CSAGs are set up in countries where civil society and the women’s movement are strong, have established voices, and influence the national gender equality agenda.

WCARO has adopted a flexible model of engagement that is more adaptable to the myriad ways of engaging with CSOs and leverages platforms already in the region. In line with the WCARO Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy, UN Women engages with advocacy groups on GEWE-specific issues without creating new, overlapping or competing structures. This engagement prioritizes flexible engagement models (e.g., hubs and think tanks) that allow targeted and meaningful collaborations on specific strategic issues for which the complementarity of UN Women working with civil society could bring an added value to the realization of the GEWE agenda in the region. UN Women may facilitate and create opportunities for networking discussions and dialogues among organizations to support peer capacity-building and knowledge exchange. This could lead to dialogues for building trust and accountability between UN Women and CSOs (around the Strategic Note or flagship programmes) and to innovative programming sessions. Only two countries have a CSAG in the WCA region: Niger and Cameroon.



Credit: UN Women

Coordination in Non-Programme Presence (NPP) Countries

The UN system reform aims to identify the best modalities to ensure that guiding principles are integrated into the new generation of Cooperation Frameworks. As such, the re-invigorated RCO system is key to providing opportunities to ensure coherent, transparent and accountable joint planning and programming in support of national gender equality priorities.

Towards a more coherent, comprehensive and effective approach, in countries in which UN Women is not present, WCARO offers technical and policy support on issues such as the UNCT-SWAP, GEM, gender mainstreaming in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), CCA, GTG coordination support, joint programming and resource mobilization initiatives and with regards to thematic areas (e.g., bilateral support from regional policy advisors). WCARO has internal focal points represented by the regional policy advisors/specialists⁸ and designated by the Regional Director for each country of the region where there is no UN Women physical presence. As one component of the reform, UN Women is part of the UNCT once signing the Cooperation Framework, even if UN Women is non-present in the country. Four

countries in the region have a Gender Equality Coordinator, placed within the RCO and ensuring coordination support (Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon and Ghana).

Beyond supporting UNCTs in developing gender-responsive CCAs, UN Women supports UNCTs in adopting the Theory of Change and developing gender-responsive outputs, outcomes and indicators and gender responsive programming.

This is done through i.) participation in results groups' virtual meetings, ii.) provision of written inputs to draft documents, iii.) actively participating in the peer support group (PSG) convened by the United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO), and (iv.) contributing to peer-reviews of UNSDCF-related documents of countries beyond the region.



Credit: UN Women

8 See [Annex I](#)

- **Gender integration in Joint Work Plans and Joint Programmes through GEM**

UN Women supports UNCTs in the development of gender-responsive Joint Work Plans and their review. This can be done through the application of the Gender Equality Marker (GEM) in collaboration with the country's RCO and GTG, as well as UN Women HQ GEM helpdesk. UN Women also supports UNCTs in applying the GEM to their joint programmes in order to assess gender integration and identify areas of improvement for effective GEWE integration.

- **UNCTs' capacity-building in gender-related areas**

With regard to strengthening the capacities of UN staff and personnel, UN Women promotes and delivers capacity-building initiatives in gender-related areas, such as training on programmatic principles on gender analysis, gender-responsive results-based management (RBM), applying the Gender Equality Marker to JPs and JWPs, undertaking the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, gender-responsive evaluations, gender data and statistics, and gender-responsive budgeting.

Key personnel to receive such trainings, including through the strategic prioritization exercises with DCO are members of the GTG, the Programme Management Team (PMT), the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) group, the communications group, the Operations Management Team (OMT), UNSDCF results working groups, RCO personnel and any UN staff working in the country. Government Officials and financial partners and CSOs are also associated to that trainings. The proposed capacity-building initiatives provide technical and practical skills through participatory learning methodologies and are based on the global guidelines and regional toolkits for each specific tool.

Participants benefit from highly-valued peer-to-peer learning opportunities by sharing lessons learned from other UNCTs in the region and beyond, as well as their key successes, challenges and support needs in applying some of these tools. The training initiatives have an evaluation portion and provide at least two opportunities for participants to provide feedback to course organizers in order to improve the training to make it more relevant and more responsive to needs and expectations.

9 Contact: unctswap.wcahelpdesk@unwomen.org

- **Technical support to GTGs and results groups**

UN Women supports UNCTs in the region by coordinating GTGs, particularly by ensuring the roles of chair, co-chair and secretariat function when UN Women is present in the country. This support includes:

- Participatory development or revision of the GTG's TORs in line with the Standards and Procedures Guidance for GTGs.
- Participatory development of the GTG's Annual Work Plan in line with the Standards and Procedures Guidance for GTGs.
- Mobilization of GTG members in soliciting and supporting gender-responsive initiatives to the UNCT, such as the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard and applying the GEM to joint programmes and JWPs.
- Provision of relevant templates and sharing of good practices from the region.
- Orientations on how to use UN INFO to extract gender data, support UNCT-SWAP reporting, track expenditures, strengthen GTG confidence to hold the UNCT accountable in relation with GEWE issues.

- **Tailored UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Support**

UN Women WCARO provides technical support to countries of the region that undertake the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, tailored to the UNCT's specific needs.

The package includes:

- Full access to the regional UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard HOW-TO-DO Toolkit, with roadmap, templates, sample presentations and communications, as well as the recording of the training sessions in both English and French.
- Membership in the Regional UNCT-SWAP Community of Practices (CoP) to benefit from sharing experiences, good practices and lessons learned from other UNCTs in the region and to engage in networking and capacity-building initiatives.
- Tailored technical support through the Regional UNCT-SWAP Help Desk⁹ with regards to all aspects and phases of the Gender Equality Scorecard—from application to implementation and reporting.

- **Technical guidance to UNCTs' consultants/experts**

Per a UNCTs' request, UN Women can provide technical guidance to consultants and other experts working on specific issues related to gender in a WCA country.

- **Ongoing strategic advice and thematic support**

UN Women can provide strategic advice and thematic support to UNCTs with regards to:

- Women's political participation and leadership.
- Women, peace and security.

- Women's participation in humanitarian action.
- Women's economic empowerment, with specific regards to their participation in climate-resilient agriculture, social protection and inclusion, green jobs, and gender-responsive procurement.
- Gender statistics.
- Elimination of violence against women and girls, including technical support in the areas of PSEA and GBV prevention and response.

MENU OF SERVICES FOR NON PROGRAMME PRESENCE COUNTRIES

Gender Analysis

UN Women can facilitate gender analyses with the UNCTs to help achieve a common understanding of the gender equality and women's rights situation in the country, and identify gaps, potential opportunities, recommendations and entry points for the implementation of the gender agenda.

Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) support through Women Count

UN Women's regional Gender Statistics Unit, in collaboration with the Coordination Unit and the African Development Bank, can support the development of CGEPs from a technical point of view. These would be ideally developed before the CCA development to inform the CCA by providing an overview on gender equality and the situation of women and girls in the country.

Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and Cooperation Frameworks

UN Women can support gender mainstreaming into gender responsive CCAs in different ways: i.) by providing gender analysis through specialized experts, ii.) by mainstreaming gender through all the thematic areas, iii.) by facilitating workshops for the GTG and CCA drafting teams to help contextualize outputs of the gender analysis, iv.) by providing technical guidance on how gender sensitive data, v.) by providing written inputs to the draft CCA, and vi.) by supporting quality assurance through the DCO/PSG.

Support to joint programmes and Gender Equality Marker (GEM)

UN Women can support the elaboration of joint programmes and quality assurance and application of the GEM.

Support to resource mobilization initiatives

UN Women offer support through the elaboration of proposals, projects, joint proposals and advocacy for pooled funds.

Gender Equality Coordinators

In order to ensure sufficient and regular support to the UNCT and provide policy advice to ensure that GEWE is mainstreamed in UNCT joint planning and programming, UN Women has created a Gender Equality Coordinator position. WCARO has positioned four such regional coordinators in Chad, Gabon, Ghana and Burkina Faso.

The mandate of the Gender Equality Coordinator is to:

- Provide technical and policy advice to the RC and UNCT on the integration of gender equality perspectives into UN programmes and activities, particularly the Cooperation Framework. This supports effective and coordinated action.
 - Support UNSDCF monitoring and reporting results on GEWE.
 - Support the management and coordination of all aspects of gender equality programming in country as required, including programme development to be managed and implemented by UNCT, as well as continued monitoring of implementation and reporting.
- Facilitate and guide UNCT efforts to ensure that Member States, regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, media and other relevant actors take gender equality concerns into account and engage women's CSOs in the UNSDCF process and implementation.
 - Support the UNCT in engaging in intergovernmental and normative work related to gender equality and women's empowerment.
 - Facilitate and guide inter-agency capacity-building for gender mainstreaming.
 - Support the RC and UNCT in promoting gender equality and women's human rights through joint advocacy and communications.
 - Coordinate and lead inclusive resource mobilization efforts to ensure that gender equality interventions in the country are funded sufficiently.



Credit: UN Women

Coordination Mandate in Non-Programme Presence Countries

Country	Presence in the Country	Domains of intervention	2024-2025 Menu of Services
Benin	Representation by Regional Director	EVAW	Coordination mandate, support to GTG EVAW: Muskoka project implementation jointly with UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO Education Plus Programme: joint advocacy with UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO
Burkina Faso	Gender Equality Coordinator	Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPSHA)	Implementation of a joint United Nations programme for the Liptako-Gourma region and the Austria-funded project on Strengthening Women's Leadership for Peace. The implementing partner in Burkina is the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). EVAW: Muskoka project implementation jointly with UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO Support to the UNCT Resource Mobilization Strategy
Cabo Verde	Representation by Regional Director	Data, WPP, support to Gender Observatory	UNCT-SWAP UN Women is the co-chair for the Gender and Human Rights Working Group in Cabo Verde (inter-agency coordination). UNSCF 2023-2027 support CCA reviews Research into gender issues
Chad	Gender Equality Coordinator	WPSHA	Implementation of activities of a regional programme on peace and security aimed at training women mediators, as well as defense and security forces, and building a peace house.
Congo Brazzaville	Representation by Regional Director	EVAW	Support for the updating of the National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 and its dissemination. UNCT-SWAP and GTG coordination mandate.
Equatorial Guinea	Representation by Regional Director	WPPL	GTG support UNCT-SWAP UNSDCF and gender mainstreaming
Gabon	Gender Equality Coordinator	WEE, EVAW and WPSL	Gender Observatory Relations with ECCAS and implementation of the MoU Beijing+30 New national action plan on UNRS 1325

Country	Presence in the Country	Domains of intervention	2024-2025 Menu of Services
The Gambia	Representation by Regional Director	Women's political participation and leadership (WPPL), WEE	Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) project, joint programmes, UNCT-SWAP
Ghana	Gender Equality Coordinator	Data, EAW	Gender Country Profile Women Economic Empowerment projects
Guinea	Representation by Regional Director	WPPL	EVAW: support to RCO on the Safe Cities project framework. Support (with UNDP) for women's political participation
Guinea Bissau	Representation by Regional Director	WPPL	GTG support
Mauritania	Representation by Regional Director	WEE and WPS PBF project	PBF and joint programming GTG support Implementation of the UNSDCF/stand-alone outcome on gender equality
Sao Tome and Principe	Representation by Regional Director		GTG support for the UNCT-SWAP Support to Gender parity UN Strategy
Togo	Representation by Regional Director	EVAW	Implementation of Muskoka jointly with UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO

In order to standardize UN Women's presence in the WCA region, WCARO will fully align with the new UN Women Presence Governance Policy and UN Women Presence Governance Procedures with respect to the roles and responsibilities based on staffing setup, delivery and available resources. WCARO will use existing resources and capacity to increase portfolio size, prioritize core investments and seek further resource

mobilization. Constant programme management, monitoring, reporting and oversight will be provided. Functional offices will gradually be set up in all countries based on multi-year strategic planning processes framed by the CCA/UNSDCF; UN Women's presence, contributions and strategic notes; and annual and biennial work planning processes.

Regional and Thematic Coordination

Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Humanitarian Action (HA)

Ensuring a 'One UN' approach to humanitarian-development-peace-human rights collaborations, the Regional Coordination Strategy prioritize a regional approach to avoid spillover effects and differentiated approaches to development aid and will be guided by UN principles upheld by regional entities (e.g., ECOWAS and the AU).

With the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) as a general framework, WCARO supports UN Security Council Resolution 1325, strengthens capacities of regional women-led civil society networks, and supports the operationalization of the African Women Leadership Network's 25 chapters and the G5 Sahel Women's Platform.

WCARO works with community leaders to remove barriers to women's participation in negotiations, peacebuilding and recovery processes. Actions will include reinforcing partnerships with the G5 Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, Liptako-Gourma Authority, the African Union, Alliance Sahel and ECOWAS.

Through the joint programmes on Women's resilience in the Lake Chad Basin and in the Sahel, WCARO pursues the advancement on GEWE in collaboration with regional institutions such as ECOWAS, ECCAS, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, G5 Sahel and African Union to ensure gender-responsive and inclusive (disability) strategies and plans of action that contribute to strengthening the resilience of women and girls in conflict- and disaster-affected countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal).

WCARO contributes to strengthening the capacities of and dialogue among stakeholders, including women's rights organizations. This includes organizing trainings, international forums and workshops.

G5 Sahel

In 2016, UN Women signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the G5 Sahel for the institutionalization of gender, capacity-building of security bodies for better protection of women against violence, and support for advocacy initiatives of the G5 Sahel Women's Platform. UN Women developed a regional programme for accelerating the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda for better prevention of conflicts and for peace consolidation in the Sahel region (2019-2021). It is implemented in partnership with the G5 Sahel Secretariat and with funding from the Government of Japan. The five respective ministries in charge of social and women affairs and gender in the G5 Sahel countries play a key role in supporting the operationalization of G5 Sahel Women's Platform.

At the programmatic level, the partnership with G5 Sahel has led to: i.) the creation of the G5 Sahel Women's Platform, with a regional coordination and national hub in each of the five countries and a three-year strategic plan, ii.) the creation of a parliamentary women's caucus for the G5 Sahel, iii.) a knowledge product on gender and violent extremism in the Sahel region, iv.) capacity-building training on early warning and the fight against violent extremism, v.) a high-level dialogue on women leadership for peace and security in the Sahel region in partnership with UNOWAS and AU.

At the institutional level, WCARO supported the G5 Sahel in elaborating gender guidelines for gender mainstreaming and TORs for a gender expert to be recruited with USAID funding.

WCARO will extend its coordination with the G5 Sahel to include all thematic areas: women, peace and security; humanitarian action; DRR; governance; women's economic empowerment; and gender statistics, which will be linked to the G5 Sahel pillars (such as the resilience pillar) and which are central to COVID-19 recovery. This will be done through an updated MoU extended to other relevant thematic areas.

Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

WCARO is engaged with the LCBC, the sub-regional entity mandated with the management of the Lake Chad Basin and its shared water resources, preservation of the ecosystems and promotion of regional integration, peace, security and development in the Lake Chad Region.¹⁰ The LCBC has adopted a Stabilization Strategy and established a related Task Force with several clusters. WCARO participates in the Humanitarian and Development cluster, as well as the DRR cluster with a focus on prevention and recovery.

WCARO's priority is gender mainstreaming of the LCBC Stabilization Strategy to ensure that women and girls equally benefit from it and its projects and fully participate. UN Women brings its gender expertise, particularly within the resilience pillar, and will support the recruitment of a gender expert in Chad as requested by the LCBC, if adequate resources will be available.

Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI)

WCARO collaborates with the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI)¹¹ and supports the elaboration of national DRR strategies, which include climate change, conflict and insecurity, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Within CADRI, a gender tool was developed by UNFPA. WCARO provides technical support to DRR country strategies and strengthens CADRI's internal capacities in gender mainstreaming in DRR programming and in the effective application of the gender tool.



Credit: UN Women

¹⁰ <https://cblt.org/>

¹¹ A global partnership composed of 20 organizations working towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing countries with capacity development services to help them reduce climate and disaster risk. CADRI provides countries with a mechanism to mobilize and pool expertise to complement in-country expertise in and beyond the United Nations System (<https://www.cadri.net/>)

COORDINATION IN WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Thirteen (13) countries in WCA are in crisis or in a post-crisis context and in humanitarian settings. In crisis in the Sahel: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger. In crisis in Central Africa: CAR, Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Guinea and Nigeria. Post-conflict: Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In risk of conflict: countries on the coast or in Central Africa (Congo Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea and Togo).

UN Women's intervention

Support to COs includes technical advice in capacity-building for WPSHA staff, the development of programmes and resource mobilization.

Advocacy and coordination interventions include positioning gender and women's empowerment in key regional strategic plans (e.g., UNISS and LCBC), strategy and advocacy, and participation in different regional foras on WPSHA.

Support to Humanitarian Country Teams and IASC's Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap).

Partnerships with key regional organizations and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), UNOWAS, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and UN Agencies, as well as ECOWAS, ECCAS, G5 Sahel, LCBC, AU and the Liptako-Gourma Authority.

Partnerships with regional women's organizations such as Plate-Form, the Peace and Security Network for Women in the ECOWAS Region (REPSFECO) and GFJPSO.

Regional and cross-border programmes

Provide technical support to regional flagship programmes on WPS for the Sahel, regional programmes for Central Africa region, regional programmes for the LCBC, and the Gender in Resilience (GIR) and Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Participation (LEAP) regional programmes.

Youth in WPS

Foster leadership and resilience of young women and girls through the Second Chance Education (SCE) programmes on resilience and DRR and programmes supporting the implementations of NAPs in different countries.

Opportunities for UN Women positioning on Coordination

Positioning UN Women's Women, Peace and Security interventions in NPP through a GIHA regional specialist and four GIHA specialists at country level.

Coordination for GIHA groups, coordination on the Resolution 1325 and National Action Plans in all countries, influencing UNSDCF in the integration of a peace and security outcome.

Positioning UN Women as new member of the IASC.

UNISS

Established in 2013 at the request of the Security Council, the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) was a response to the crisis in Mali at that time and is aimed at addressing structural problems in the Sahel that make the region vulnerable to conflict, resulting in poverty and underdevelopment exacerbated by weak governance. The UNISS strategy promotes an integrated and aligned regional approach to activities by the UN system to tackle the aforementioned issues.

Since 2017, the UN has been strengthening its support to the Sahel through a Support Plan articulated around the following strategic priorities to address cross-cutting and root causes of crisis in the region:

cross-border cooperation for stability and development; preventing and resolving conflicts; preventing violent extremism and crime, and promoting access to justice and human rights; promoting inclusive and equitable growth and increasing access to basic quality services; building resilience to climate change, and decreasing natural resource scarcity, malnutrition and food insecurity; promoting access to renewable energy; and empowering women and youth for peace and development in the Sahel.

These priorities and all their activities are implemented under three pillars: Governance, Resilience and Security, involving all Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) working in the Sahel.

UNISS Pillars and the involved Agencies, Funds and Programmes:

Governance	UNDP, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNOWAS, UNODC, UN Women, UNHCHR, ILO, UNCDF, UNV, IOM, UNESCO, OCHA, UNOPS
Resilience	WFP, UNODC, OHCHR, UNICEF, ILO, UNHCR, UNESCO, FAO, IOM, UNCDF, UNEP, WHO, UNDP, UN Women
Security	UNODC, UNIDO, UNICEF, DPPA, UNOWAS, OCHA, IOM, WFP, UNESCO, UNV



Credit: UN Women

EVAW

In WCA policy and strategic work on prevention of VAWG at the regional level is framed by the Regional Prevention Strategy on EVAWG. This has been implemented with three interconnected strategies focused on: (i.) strengthening the normative framework; (ii.) strengthening the women's movement through coalition building and transformative feminist action; and (iii.) changing the social norms to address the root causes. There is increased awareness on EVAWG because of UN Women's regular convening of platforms and spaces for dialogue, exchange of knowledge, and promising practices, as well as joint initiatives for EVAWG at the regional level.

WCARO action is framed by the 2022-2025 Strategy on UN Women's engagement with the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA, aka Conseil des Autorités Traditionnelles D'Afrique or CONATA in French). Partnerships have been shaped with feminist women's rights organizations and COTLA/CONATA to strengthen their institutional capacities, resilience, coalition-building, networking, and leadership. The strategy seeks to articulate the pathway for how UN Women's engagement with the Council and individual traditional leaders can bring about the necessary changes to social norms to support gender equality and uphold the rights of women and girls across Africa.

Through COTLA/CONATA, traditional and cultural leaders are directly engaged in the harmonization of customary norms with statutory laws, and they facilitate a shift in the social and cultural norms in Niger, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. This has enabled the reduction of child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices and has encouraged other traditional leaders to lead interventions in support of these changes. Traditional leaders have also been engaged in improving legislation and policies in parliament in Sierra Leone and advocated for social justice for victims of gender-based violence through the legal/judicial systems in Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

EVAWG programmes continue strengthening partnerships with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in the implementation of the Common Agenda in Central Africa for the Promotion and Empowerment of Women.

WCARO's EVAW unit is also involved in different coordination mechanisms, such as the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) (inter-agency coordination), support provided to the Resident Coordinator in EVAWG-related issues. Adoption of a Common Agenda for Progress with the Regional Economic Commissions, ECOWAS and ECCAS has been crucial for defining common actions and raising funds.



Credit: UN Women

Women's Economic Empowerment

WCARO is engaged in discussion with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat¹² with regards to its work on women's economic empowerment, specifically around the formulation of a protocol in collaboration with UN Women's East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). WCARO works closely with financial institutions (such as the African Development Bank or AfDB), as well as with RECs (e.g., ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (also known by its French acronym,

UEMOA), and intergovernmental institutions (e.g., the Climate Fund). WCARO also offers support around the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPS). Opportunities with the African Union will be developed by strengthening the positioning with liaison offices. Innovative partnerships are developed with global funds, action coalitions and universities in order to advance research in new thematic related to WEE, such as unpaid care, innovation, finance and climate change.

Gender Statistics

The Women Count Programme delivers strong coordination among different institutions and facilitates partnerships with regional institutions such as the African Development Bank in the elaboration of Gender Country Profiles. Since 2017, over 75 gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data collection initiatives were supported through the Women Count Programme, including surveys and administrative data, contributing to the increase in the availability of gender-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Support to gender Country Profiles is particularly key for the advancement of data on SDGs in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB).

WCARO works closely with the African Economic Commission, the African Statistical Commission, UEMOA and Paris 21 through its Gender Statistics unit to develop gender indicators and coordinate and

provide technical support to Country Gender Equality Profiles as an important source of data for CCA and Cooperation Frameworks.

Together with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank, UN Women is supporting the development and launch of the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics Phase III five-year strategic plan that aims to guide gender statistics work and coordination across the continent, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure that the scarce resources allocated are used efficiently. UN Women is also supporting the development of the Southern Africa Development Community's first-ever gender statistics strategy that will contribute to improving the harmonization of gender statistics production in the region.



Credit: UN Women

12 <https://afcfta.au.int/ens>

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

WCA Regional Coordination Community of Practice (WCA CoP)

WCARO provides bilateral support to Country Offices on a regular basis (and also upon request) in terms of the coordination mandate. Support includes providing technical support and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming, gender accountability tools and mechanisms (UNCT-SWAP, GEM, PSEA), and UN programmatic principles; a review of strategic documents under a gender mainstreaming perspective; a review of GTG documents; and tools and support for reports to treaty bodies (e.g., CEDAW, UPR, etc.).

WCARO facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practices, leveraging collective support through the regional Community of Practice (CoP) West and

Central Africa Coordination Network. The Network aims to provide a common space through an online platform in order to create synergies and strengthen UN Women's coordination efforts, as well as strengthen the nexus. It also serves as platform for capacity-building initiatives, joint activities during international days, retreats, elaboration of regional knowledge products, coordination tools and templates, organization of regional webinars on topics related to coordination and stimulating internal capacity-building with regards to skills useful within the coordination mandate and peer-to-peer learning.

GiHA experts Groups

Created in 2020 by WCARO's WPSHA unit, the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Experts Network is a community of practice that builds technical expertise and leadership on how to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into humanitarian contexts in West and Central Africa. The GiHA Experts Network includes both UN agencies and international and national NGOs. It is chaired by UN Women. UN Women also co-chairs the Secretariat with Oxfam.

The GiHA Experts Network acts as a regional knowledge management and experience sharing platform for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction. The Network:

- Supports the collection, capitalization and dissemination of tools, guidelines and policies on gender issues in humanitarian action.

- Facilitates regional analyses on humanitarian action and gender to feed into regional plans, regional stabilization frameworks and other regional strategic processes.
- Provides technical support to Country Offices in needs analysis and the development of strategic documents, resource mobilization and capacity development, building on existing mechanisms such as the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap).¹³
- Strengthens advocacy for the effective participation of local, national and regional women's organizations in humanitarian action.
- Strengthens gender mainstreaming throughout humanitarian action's planning documents (Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans).

¹³ GenCap is an IASC initiative created in 2007 by OCHA in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). It seeks to facilitate and strengthen capacity and leadership of humanitarians to undertake and promote gender-sensitive programming to ensure the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men of all ages and backgrounds are taken into account in humanitarian action at the global, regional, and country levels. GenCap's goal is to ensure that all women, girls, boys and men of all ages and backgrounds, affected by natural disasters or conflict, are able to access assistance and support that cater to their distinct needs and experiences.

GiHA also enables building multi-stakeholder partnerships with local humanitarian action stakeholders (including CSOs and women-led organizations) in line with the localization of humanitarian aid approach promoted by IASC in the framework of the Humanitarian Summit–Grand Bargain 2.0.¹⁴ GiHA works in synergy with GenCap in order to strengthen humanitarian actors’ capacities in the region (including CSOs), ensuring continuity in the support provided at the country level by GenCap experts deployed in the field

WCA Regional Gender Theme Group

WCARO established the Regional Gender Theme Group (RGTG) for West and Central Africa in 2016. Its purpose is to support the implementation of the gender equality agenda in the region through:

Regional Advocacy

- Supporting joint activities for specific international days/events related to gender equality.
- Ensuring that the gender equality agenda is systematically integrated and promoted throughout regional UN Development Group (R-UNDG) priorities for the region and in collaboration with National Gender Thematic Groups.

Coordination and Partnerships

- Supporting joint initiatives and strengthening inter-agency partnerships aligned to key priorities and emerging issues in the region, specifically with RECs and regional bodies.

on a short-term basis and following up on all thematic areas related to GEWE after their departure.

Also, opportunities appear for WCARO to support capacity-building initiatives in applying the Gender and Age Marker (GAM) utilized in the GenCap framework to create linkages and synergies with interventions in development settings in order to foster the humanitarian-peace-development nexus.

- Promoting gender equality and mainstreaming in collaboration with national thematic groups, UNCTs and other key stakeholders in the UNSDCF processes.
- Liaising with existing regional platforms (e.g. RECs, regional coordinating mechanisms, civil society fora) to increase gender equality and mainstreaming in policies and programmes at the regional level.

Capacity-building and Knowledge Management

- Promoting inter-agency capacity-building and knowledge management on gender equality through the development of a common platform and a community of practice to specifically facilitate information sharing on gender trends in the region and encourage an exchange of good practices.

UN Women Regional Directors act as the RGTG Chair, and UN Women has served as the Secretariat since 2016. The chair and co-chair roles rotate and are elected on an annual basis as per the updated RGTG terms of reference.

14 <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain>

COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL BODIES

DCO

The 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) places a strong emphasis on the fundamental importance of promoting gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. The QCPR calls upon all entities of the UN Development System (UNDS) to continue to promote women's empowerment and gender equality by enhancing and accelerating gender mainstreaming through the full implementation of the UNCT performance indicators for GEWE (the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard) and calls on UN entities to draw on gender expertise, including in UN Women, to assist with gender mainstreaming in the preparation of the UNSDCF.

The reform of the UNDS, mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations in Resolution A/RES/72/279, involves a set of far-reaching changes in the way the UNDS works, including a new generation of Cooperation Frameworks, a UNCT configuration exercise

and a new vision for the Resident Coordinator system. The reform enables Resident Coordinators to provide full-time, independent leadership for UN system coordination at the country level, working collaboratively with the UNCT, guiding strategic policy and enabling innovative partnerships and investments for the SDGs.

The DCO provides management and oversight of the RC system, including managing the RCs and their offices and providing advisory services to UNCTs; promoting policy, analytical and operational coherence across the RC system; and communicating collective United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) analysis and positions toward achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The DCO strives to ensure the provision of a coherent approach across countries in the deployment of additional advisory capacity in RCOs to support and guide UNCTs.



Credit: UN Women

WCARO collaborates with the United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) Africa office in supporting RC/UNCTs in gender mainstreaming Cooperation Frameworks and CCAs and collaborates in capacity-building initiatives at the country level. WCARO also supports quality assurance processes as a member of the Peer Support Group (PSG).

WCARO provides regular high-quality support to WCA countries, ensures quality assurance processes and consistent follow-up on ongoing processes, provides technical guidance, and enhances the capacities of UNCTs, GTGs and results groups.

Table of Cooperation Frameworks (CFs) and CCAs supported by UN Women in 2022-2024

CFs Designed in 2022	New CFs Designed in 2023	New CFs to be Designed in 2024
Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan, Togo, Zambia	Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, The Gambia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles	DRC, Djibouti, Mali, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Ethiopia [Congo Brazaville and Liberia scheduled for 2025 and 2026]

Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs) and Opportunity and Issued-Based Coalitions (OIBCs)

Strategic Vision

The Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) fosters collaboration on sustainable development across UN development system entities operating at the regional and sub-regional levels by promoting and facilitating OIBCs to respond to regional, sub-regional, cross-border or common development issues to accelerate actions towards the achievements of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 on the continent.

The Africa RCP provides optimal solutions to address Africa’s transformational goals by promoting joint actions to address gaps in SDG implementation, including those identified through the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the High-Level Political Forum; by discussing major regional strategic developments and issues, as well as pathways to address them and align regional and global agendas accordingly to avoid duplication of effort and upscale collaboration; promoting regional coherence with the policies agreed to by UN System Chief Executives

Board for Coordination (CEB)’s High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and the UN Sustainable Development Group; and promoting inter-agency joint actions, strategies, and coalitions in support of regional integration and collaboration, regional and sub-regional initiatives and programmes, and transboundary and common issues.

The Africa RCP seeks to foster cross-pillar collaboration and joint inter-agency strategies and actions, through the reinforced OIBCs. Critical to its work is the engagement and collaboration with key strategic regional partners such as the African Union Commission and Secretariats of the RECs, which will be anchored around the AU-UN Framework on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, as well as the AU-UN Framework for Enhanced Partnership on Peace and Security in Africa.

WCARO and ESARO are part of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform and in the OIBCs to enhance joint programming and facilitate synergies and collaboration at the regional level. Clustered around

cross-cutting policy issues, the OIBCs are broad, multi-partner platforms that coordinate UN responses to cross-cutting challenges in the region.



Credit: ECOWAS

UN Women (WCARO and ESARO) are co-conveners of three out of the six OIBCs [Strengthened Integrated Data and Statistical Systems for Sustainable Development and The Africa We Want (OIBC 1); Innovation, Digitalization, Youth and Transforming Education (OIBC 3); and Towards Peace, Security, Respect of Human Rights, and Forced Displacement (OIBC 5)]. Clear opportunities for accountability, knowledge sharing, and technical support in thematic areas, including

youth, climate change, data, economic transformation, and peace, as well as opportunities for reinforcing regional collaboration are to be developed for targeted countries. This strategic positioning will facilitate timely, demand-driven mobilization of expertise and results-oriented responses to changing regional and country needs, avoiding both siloed approaches and overlaps.

Table: New configuration of IOBCs in 2023

OIBCs AND TASKFORCES	CO-CONVENERS	PARTICIPATING AGENCIES
OIBC 1 – Strengthened Integrated Data and Statistical Systems for Sustainable Development and The Africa We Want	ECA, UNFPA, UN Women	FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNWOMEN, WFP, WHO
OIBC 2 – Ensuring effective and efficient macroeconomic management and accelerated inclusive, economic transformation and diversification	ECA, UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP	FAO, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV, UN Women, WFP, WHO
OIBC 3 – Innovation, Digitalization, Youth and Transforming Education	ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, ITU, UN-HABITAT, WHO, UN Women	ECA, FAO, ILO, UNDP, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNV, UNESCO, UN Women, WFP, WHO
OIBC 4 – Fostering Climate Action, Resilience and Food Systems	FAO, UNDP, UNEP, ECA	ECA, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDRR, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNIAIDS, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNV, WFP, WHO
OIBC 5 – Towards Peace, Security, Respect of Human Rights, and Forced Displacement	OHCHR, UNODC, UNDP, UNHCR, UNOAU, UN Women	ECA, FAO, ILO, OCHA, IOM, OHCHR, UNDRR, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNV, UN Women, WFP, WHO
OIBC 6 – Sub-regional Initiatives and Strategies (cross-cutting)	SRSBs/SEs	All participating Agencies

MENU OF SERVICES FOR OIBCS

- Knowledge generation in the contextual application of: Carbon markets and domestication in Africa, Debt swaps, Blue bonds, Sustainable budgeting, Blended finance facilities
- Provide demand-driven support and policy advice, normative support and technical capacity in gender issues with other UN entities (in particular in OIBCs 1, 4 and 5) to regional and sub-regional organizations, RCs and UNCTs for CCAs and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. Align and strengthen entities' country programme documents or Strategic Notes as relevant.
- Participate in high-level regional political dialogues, particularly around women, peace and security and humanitarian settings.
- Promote a region-by-region change management process.
- Coordinate and transparently share policy-relevant tools and knowledge products.
- Support effective and efficient management at the regional level, aligned with the region-by-region approach.
- Provide inputs to the Regional System-Wide Results Report, which will be prepared and presented by each region.
- Integrate indicators of OIBCs into UN Women planning processes and align with gender equality accelerators.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Created by the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action for the Development of Africa and the Abuja Treaty, the RECs¹⁵ are regional groupings of African states with the goal of facilitating regional economic integration between members of the individual regions and through the wider African Economic Community (AEC).

ECOWAS

UN Women and ECOWAS relations are framed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2019, which expired in 2022 and is to be updated and renewed.

UN Women's relations with ECOWAS are led by the UN Women Representative in Nigeria and under the general supervision and direction of the UN Women Regional Director of WCA.

The UN Women and ECOWAS partnership is framed by the 2015 Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region and other international and regional instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality; the empowerment and advancement of women; human rights; peace and security through the Protocol on African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the African Union Gender Policy and the Fund for African Women.

Composition and mandate

ECOWAS is composed of the ECOWAS Commission, Court of Justice and Parliament. The ECOWAS Commission is mandated by Member States of the ECOWAS region through a treaty signed in 1975 by the Heads of State and Government. Through its convening authority and political mandate, the Commission fosters regional development and economic integration, including regional peace and security interventions to lead the development and implementation of regional policies and programmes for regional and country-level solutions.

The RECs are closely integrated with the AU's work and serve as building blocks. In the region covered by WCARO, there are two RECs that are part of the AU: ECOWAS and ECCAS. WCARO engages directly with them, particularly with ECOWAS.

The ECOWAS Parliament or 'Community Parliament', established under Articles 6 and 13 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty of 1993 with the initial Protocol establishing the Parliament signed in 1994, is the Assembly of the Peoples of the Community. The Parliament is mandated to serve as a forum for dialogue, consultation and consensus for Representatives of the people of West Africa with the aim of promoting integration.

The ECOWAS Community Court of Justice or 'ECOWAS Court', created pursuant to the provisions of Articles 6 and 15 of the 1993 ECOWAS Revised Treaty as the principal legal organ of the Community, is primarily responsible for resolving disputes related to the interpretation of the Community's Treaty, Protocols and Conventions.

Strategic Vision

The Revised ECOWAS Treaty on Women and Development stipulates the formulation, harmonization, coordination and establishment of appropriate policies and programmes for enhancing the economic, social and cultural conditions of women, as outlined in the ECOWAS Gender Policy and Strategic Framework for Action approved in 2005.

Additionally, ECOWAS—through its Early Warning Mechanism, the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, the Ministry of Human Development and Social Affairs and its ECOWAS Gender Development Centre—undertakes initiatives for the protection of women's rights, women's socio-economic inclusion and women's participation in peace, security and humanitarian action, including conflict prevention, management, resolution and peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts.

¹⁵ <https://au.int/en/organs/recs>

This action is framed by the 2015 Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region linked to the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063 and by the Action Plan of the 'Women, Peace and Security' component of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework for 2012-2017 and 2017-2020 for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on Women, Peace and Security, as well as other relevant regional policies and related action plans.

The Early Warning Department (EWD) is working to decentralize the Early Warning Centres in Member States. The Early Warning and Response Network has 77 Field Monitors that need to be gender-sensitive. EWD has identified gender as a key component. The EWD is also particularly concerned with the displacement of women and children from transhumance conflict. ECOWAS is currently developing a Contingency Plan to address issues of migration. Opportunities for UN Women to engage are in gender mainstreaming in these national Early Warning Centres and assessing gender issues in each Member State.



*Caption: UN Women delegation's visit to ECOWAS in March 2023.
Credit: UN Women Nigeria*

MENU OF SERVICES OF UN WOMEN IN ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH ECOWAS

Institutional capacity-building on GEWE

Gender-responsive planning and budgeting, institutional gender analyses and mainstreaming of ECOWAS policies and practices across the three institutions (Commission, Parliament and Court).

Policy development and technical support

Jointly develop gender-responsive and gender-sensitive policies and strategies at the regional, national and sub-national levels to effectively promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the sub-region. Strengthen the WPS programme, and enhance women's leadership and participation in political, peace and security processes.

Strengthen technical cooperation between the EC-ECOWAS, Court of Justice and Parliament and UN Women.

Evidence-based high-level advocacy

High-level advocacy on issues, including sufficient financing for gender equality; gender-responsive policies, laws and budget; and increased women's representation at high-level engagements.

Generation of gender-disaggregated data and regional research

Increase and enhance collection of gender-disaggregated data to inform evidence-based policies, strategies and high-level advocacy.

Commission research related to GEWE at the regional and national levels to similarly inform evidence-based policies, strategies and high-level advocacy.

ECCAS

Scope and mandate

UN Women's partnership with ECCAS is normatively founded on the revised ECCAS Treaty (2020) and the ECCAS Indicative Strategic Plan (2021 -2025), which provide a global regional and subregional framework for the rights of women and girls and call on ECCAS Member States to allocate substantial budgetary resources for the implementation and monitoring of interventions aimed at preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.

Strategic Vision

UN Women has strengthened its partnership with ECCAS, organizing a High-Level Conference on the Promotion of Women's Rights and their Empowerment, held in Gabon in May 2023 under the theme 'Building a Common Agenda in Central Africa'. The outcome Declaration and the final Communiqué include recommendations on five key areas: (i) women's participation in peacebuilding and peacekeeping processes; (ii) updating legal and policy frameworks in favor of gender equality; (iii) massive investment in women's economic empowerment; (iv) universal access to quality education for girls and women; and (v) strengthening mechanisms to protect women's rights and combat gender-based violence in Central Africa with a specific focus on the elaboration of the ECCAS regional convention to prevent and respond to VAWG.

MENU OF SERVICES OF UN WOMEN'S PARTNERSHIP WITH ECCAS

Institutional capacity-building on GEWE

Promote the active participation of women entrepreneurs in intra-African trade through the inclusive implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area and its sub-regional component.

Accelerate the operationalization of the ECCAS Network of Women Mediators and ensure the establishment of a Technical Secretariat dedicated to this structure.

Support gender-responsive budgeting regional Initiatives.

Policy development and technical support

Support the implementation of legal frameworks on gender in ECCAS countries.

Support audits of national and regional gender institutions.

Encourage regional trade by organizing cross-border fairs and cross-border trade fairs for women.

Evidence-based high-level advocacy

Promote peace, security and stability in the Member States of the Community.

Support the active participation and leadership of women and girls in all political, social, cultural and economic spheres.

Encourage the various ministries of the Member States to work together on prevention of, mitigation of and response to violence against women and girls.

Generation of gender-disaggregated data and regional research

Encourage research and development of innovative microfinance products.

Provide training in gender statistics to ECCAS staff and Member States.

Implement data collection operations to ensure that gender is taken into account at every stage of the statistical process.

Resource mobilization strategy

Set up a Regional Humanitarian Fund for Central Africa to support a coherent humanitarian response to sub-regional emergencies.

Accelerate the operationalization of the Fund for women's empowerment and women's entrepreneurship through a multi-stakeholder partnership at the sub-regional, regional and global levels.

FUNDING FRAMEWORK

In order to implement the Regional Coordination Strategy, WCARO will need adequate financial resources to cover the interventions at the country, regional and global levels, as well as the evaluation costs.

WCARO, together with the Regional Partnership and Resource Mobilization Units, will work to: (1.) progressively increase funding to UN Women’s coordination mandate and (2.) support offices in leveraging the coordination mandate to raise funds for the normative and programmatic mandates. This will be achieved through:

- Technical support to offices in strategically positioning of UN Women’s unique expertise and comparative advantage on gender mainstreaming within the UN System and to key regional bodies (such as RECs);
- Technical support to offices in leading or participating in UN joint resource mobilization efforts from multiple donors, including : traditional donors (development and humanitarian aid), development finance institutions, mechanisms that are conducive to joint programming (PBF, CERF, Elsie Fund, SDG Funds, WPHF...), private sector (including through corporate social responsibility, impact investing and other innovative financing mechanisms);
- Participation in key UN strategic platforms such as the UNISS : participation in their strategic positioning

activities to donors and partners in the Sahel region, and in UNISS resource mobilization group to identify joint resource mobilization opportunities;

- Leadership in the Regional Gender Theme Group (RGTG) to identify joint resource mobilization opportunities;
- Leveraging on the deployment of the GEF in the region to build strategic partnerships for innovation and resource mobilization;
- Budget accountability and GEWE coordination.
- Proactively take the lead in the creation of gender-focused pool funding mechanisms to catalyze investments from UN agencies, donors and stakeholders on GEWE and coordination work. At the UNCT level, including in countries where UN Women is not present, important opportunities for funding for coordination appear in joint programming and pooled mechanisms, such as the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MTPF) and the SDG Fund, which ask for a GEM2 and GEM3 to UNCTs when presenting call for proposals. The Gender Equality Marker and UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard will be entry points for seeking resources.

ECCAS and AU are important partners to work with leveraging in the Coordination role. The Gender Directorate of AU and the MoU signed with ECCAS could facilitate entry points for raising funds and joint interventions with regional bodies. CSW is an important forum for not only political negotiations but also for the implementation of political commitments to advance the GEWE agenda.

Estimated costs for the implementation of the coordination strategy are:

Resources USD/Year	2024	2025	2026
CORE	45,000	45,000	45,000
NON-CORE	150,000	150,000	150,000
TBM	500,000	500,000	500,000

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Monitoring of the Strategy will be ensured by the Regional Coordination Specialist, leveraging regional policy advisors who will provide information for the reporting and communication of results. A monitoring committee will be created with at least five staff from different units, including the Communication Unit, the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Unit, the EAW Unit and one external unit. The

committee will meet at least once per year in order to assess the Strategy's implementation and formulate lessons learned and orientations aimed at adapting its implementation to the changing context of WCA. The Regional Strategy will be subject to a mid-term and a final evaluation aligned with Corporate evaluation from the Strategic Note of WCA.






Credit: UN Women



ANNEX I



Entry points on Coordination per country where UN Women is present



OFFICE TYPE BASED ON WORLD BANK INCOME CLASSIFICATION.

■ High income ■ Upper-middled income ■ Lower-middle income ■ Low income

COUNTRY	EXPECTED KEY RESULTS ON COORDINATION BY THE END OF 2025
 <p>MALI</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Buy From Women Platform strengthened. 2. A women leaders' roster to facilitate women's nominations developed. 3. Advocacy for the allocation of a budget line to Gender Committees (Gender Responsive Budgets) undertaken.
 <p>NIGERIA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A platform for female heads of UN agencies and diplomatic missions to drive UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard recommendations and GEWE priorities established. 2. Operational National Coordination Mechanism established for implementing Nigeria's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. 3. Zonal GEWE Coordination Platforms established in all the six geopolitical zones, enhancing engagement with sub-national stakeholders. 4. \$25 million private sector-led GBV fund established through a collaborative partnership with technical assistance from the Nigeria CO. 5. UNCT-SWAP and support to GTG and HCT. 6. Access to GBV services for survivors facilitated. 7. Increased investment in the relevant structures, including Gender Theme Group, Gender Technical Team (GTT), Development Partners Group on Gender (DPGG), and the new zonal coordination platforms established in each of the six geopolitical areas, and the implementation of UNCT-SWAP Scorecard recommendations and the Action Plan, among other things. 8. Intensify resource mobilization: The Nigeria CO will foster partnerships with current donors, explore new funding opportunities with bilateral/multilateral donors, intensify collaboration with the private sector, and continue to work with Ministries of Finance/ Budget/Planning to implement GRB 9. Joint Programmes in the UNSDCF (2023 to 2027) to develop joint programmes across the CO's thematic areas (at least four joint programmes in WEE, WPS, DRR, HA, Governance, EVAW).
 <p>LIBERIA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpillar coordination and recruitment of a P3 for coordination. 2. Coordination mandate (GEM, UNCT-SWAP and support to GTG 2.o). 3. Coordination among partners. 4. UNSDCF Results Group 1. 5. Joint programmes: PBF with UNFPA, UNDP and OHCHR, and EU Spotlight 2.o. 6. Establish a Civil Society Advisory Group. 7. Co-chair the Cooperation Partners Group. 8. Strengthen coordination across Ministries and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

COUNTRY	EXPECTED KEY RESULTS ON COORDINATION BY THE END OF 2025
 <p>NIGER</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)/Coordination mandate. 2. Peaceful prevention mechanism for electoral violence against women in place. 3. Gender coordination reinforced (joint programming, GEM, UNCT-SWAP) and support given to GTG and results groups. 4. Enhanced coordination mandate within the UN by leading and reinforcing the GTG/human rights. 5. Ensure the mainstreaming of gender in Provincial Peace Committees (PCCs), including in its implementation and M&E. 6. Reinforced operational support by diversifying response through a stronger presence in communities in collaboration with other UN agencies and with the full participation of local authorities, traditional and religious leaders, men and youth, as well as the private sector to promote innovations for women. CSOs, primarily women and feminist organizations, will be the local implementors. 7. Participating in and developing joint programmes: PBF GPI. 2.0, PBF Sud Maradi, PB Projet Tahoua and JP –RWEE and total amount is \$2,336,458—62 percent of the total 2024 budget.
 <p>CAMEROON</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UN Women leads GTG. 2. UN Women co-leads UNSDCF 2.2 group. 3. There are more joint programmes with other UN Agencies. 4. UN Women will continue to advocate and sensitize UNCT to be more involved in UN joint programmes. 5. Ensure that at least 15 percent of the budgets of other UN agencies is allocated for GEWE. 6. Annual report of the UNCT-SWAP is in progress. 7. National Gender Policy (NGP): UN Women, together with the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family and other UN Agencies, will coordinate the dissemination of the NGP, which is the reference document for gender equality in Cameroon (SDG 5.1). 8. Family code: UN Women will continue to advocate government for validation and dissemination of the Family Code. 9. Against GBV: Normative support on GBV with AfDB and UNFPA to the MINPROFF and Min Justice in the support of victims. 10. Gender mainstreaming in national policies: UN Women will continue to provide technical and financial support to mainstream gender in national policies. 11. Gender-responsive Budgeting: As a result of UN Women’s advocacy and technical capacity-building for government focal points, the Minister of Finance has signed a circular recommending the mainstreaming of gender in budget plans for all Government entities. UN Women will continue to build capacities of different ministerial stakeholders so they can mainstream gender in their planning (SDG1.2).

COUNTRY	EXPECTED KEY RESULTS ON COORDINATION BY THE END OF 2025
 <p>CAR</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the programmatic relevance, agency and positioning of UN Women in humanitarian interventions, within the HCT and in the field. 2. Operationalize the Women Count Program to strengthen the use of gender statistics to enhance GEWE, including leveraging data collected by UN Women. 3. Leverage UN Women’s existing HDP nexus approach and interventions to deliver results in a context where humanitarian needs, conflict pockets and stabilization opportunities co-exist. 4. Strengthen the positioning and capacity of the EVAWG portfolio, leveraging evidence, positioning and strategic partnerships. 5. Reinforce coordination mandate. Support to UNSDCF and GTG are in place and support to GenCap provided.
 <p>DRC</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dissemination of sectoral strategies (e.g., regarding GBV, WEE, WPP, UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250). 2. International standard reports (Beijing plus 30, UNSCR 1325, etc.). 3. Review of national gender policy. 4. Key partnerships: Ministry of Gender, women’s associations/movements, the ONE UN Gender Team and GTG, Government, women’s organizations, UN agencies, donors, private sector. 5. Gender coordination mechanisms at national and provincial levels. 6. Social impact campaigns to celebrate CSW, International Women’s Day, 16 Days of Activism and other international days. 7. Building the capacity of women and Government stakeholders in advocacy, gender, gender-sensitive planning and budgeting. 8. Support national initiatives to promote gender equality. 9. Social norms and behaviours regarding GEWE and WEE are improved. 10. The role of women and youth in peacebuilding processes is enhanced. 11. Coordination mandate (GEM, UNCT-SWAP and support to GTG and HCT), including development of action plans ongoing (One UN, One + One, GTG). 12. Normative actions (financial support of the World Bank in resource mobilization and joint programmes on WEE).
 <p>SENEGAL</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Senegal CO will maintain their position as the primary coordinator and convener of stakeholders for GEWE issues within the UNCT. 2. Senegal CO will continue to provide leadership on gender issues within the UNCT, GTGs (human rights and disability, MPTF, PSEA, migration, youth) and participate in Gender Equality Forums (GEF), the Programme Committee, and the Results Group of the Cooperation Framework (CCA/UNSDCF). It will also support accountability mechanisms (UNCT, UN-SWAP, GEM, etc.), positioning GEWE as a cross-cutting acceleration axis, facilitating work on CEDAW, Universal Periodic Review, the National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and Beijing +25. 3. Through its triple mandate, the CO will raise awareness and advocate for the inclusion of gender in public policies, strategic planning within the UNCT (CCA/UNSDCF, joint programmes), and strengthened partnerships with national and international institutions and the private sector. 4. Foster partnerships on GEWE and raise funds for coordination.

COUNTRY	EXPECTED KEY RESULTS ON COORDINATION BY THE END OF 2025
 COTE D'IVOIRE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the partnership on GEF and financing for gender equality among national stakeholders (private sector, foundations) and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire's financial and technical partners, including the UNCT. 2. Under its coordination mandate, the CO will increase its support to the RCO and to the UNCT by retaining a dedicated expert for gender coordination. This will reinforce the CO position and the credibility in its coordination mandate on the ground. 3. Chair the GTG and Result Group.
 SIERRA LEONE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 26 percent of the CO budget is comprised of joint programmes (GIM, Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework UBRAF, PBF). 2. UN partnership for the implementation of the GEWE policy through mainstreaming gender into Ministries. 3. UN Women leads Gender Theme Group, co-chairs the Gender Development Partners Group (GDPG), and chairs the Secretariat of the Women Political Participation and the Technical Working Group. 4. CO currently leads the integration of gender in the new UNCDF. 5. CO will continue coordinating the Inter-Agency Team (IAT) and GTG in implementation of the Action Plan of the UNCT-SWAP. 6. Organize a growing women's movement.



Credit: Sao Tome and Principe

ANNEX II

Alignment of UN Women indicators with OIBCs framework

SP/SN indicator	Related OIBC indicator
Action area: Women's political participation	
Gender Equality accelerator: Women's equal participation in decision-making and institutions	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.6 Number of legal and policy frameworks that promote gender balance in decision-making institutions and processes. <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.f Number of institutions that have increased capacities to design and implement institutional reforms/strategies/policies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment. <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.5.f Number of initiatives developed and implemented to prevent, monitor and mitigate violence against women in politics and in public life (including gender equality advocates in civil society organizations, especially women's organizations, working on gender equality and women's empowerment). <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.5.e Number of women and girls, including women and girls living with and/or affected by HIV, with increased capacities to participate in public life and exercise leadership. <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.7.8 Number of UNCTs implementing UN system commitments and advocacy on women's equal participation in elections and temporary special measures in their support to Member States. 	<p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Work with relevant national stakeholders to facilitate constitutional making and review as well as provide support to a legitimate and consensual electoral process</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Support the implementation of the regional strategy and plan of action to combat hate speech</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Jointly collaborate in the 2023 SDG Summit scheduled during the High-Level Political Forum to review progress on the implementation of Agenda 2030</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Jointly Commemorate the UDHR 75 Initiative in line with proposed theme</p>

SP/SN indicator	Related OIBC indicator
Action area: Women’s political participation and women’s economic empowerment	
Gender Equality accelerator: Gender-responsive budgeting and financing	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.6 Number of legal and policy frameworks that promote gender balance in decision-making institutions and processes. <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.f Number of institutions that have increased capacities to design and implement institutional reforms/strategies/policies that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.5.f Number of initiatives developed and implemented to prevent, monitor and mitigate violence against women in politics and in public life (including gender equality advocates in civil society organizations, especially women’s organizations, working on gender equality and women’s empowerment). <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.5.e Number of women and girls, including women and girls living with and/or affected by HIV, with increased capacities to participate in public life and exercise leadership. <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.7.8 Number of UNCTs implementing UN system commitments and advocacy on women’s equal participation in elections and temporary special measures in their support to Member States. 	<p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Support capacity development of national and sub national actors on Business and human rights and convening of annual African BHR Forum</p>
Gender Equality accelerator: Transforming care economy	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.1 SDG indicator 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location. <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.e Number of partners that have increased capacities to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment through national and/or local (multi) sectoral strategies, policies and/or action plans. <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.2.d Number of tools introduced that support innovative financing and accountability, including those related to digital financing, for gender equality. <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.3 Number of countries where multisectoral systems, strategies or programmes are implemented to advance women’s equal access to and use of services, goods, and resources, including social protection. <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.6.2 Number of national plans and strategies that integrate gender statistics as an objective or strategy. 	

SP/SN indicator	Related OIBC indicator
Gender Equality accelerator: Decent work and entrepreneurship	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.3 Number of countries where multisectoral systems, strategies or programmes are implemented to advance women’s equal access to and use of services, goods and/resources, including social protection. <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.d Number of women accessing information, goods, resources and/ or services through UN Women-supported platforms and programmes in humanitarian and development settings. <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.a Number of institutions with strengthened capacities to improve the provision of essential services, goods and/or resources for women. <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.5 Number of national and/or local (multi)sectoral strategies, policies and/or action plans that are adopted with a focus on gender equality. <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.2.a Number of partners with capacities to integrate gender equality into fiscal laws/policies/standards. 	<p>OIBC 2:</p> <p>Formulation of AfCFTA strategies, including greening trade aspects</p> <p>OIBC 2:</p> <p>Implementation of AfCFTA strategies</p>
Gender Equality accelerator: Women’s climate action and green/blue economies	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.2 SDG indicator 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; (b) Share of women among owners or rights bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure. <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.3 Number of countries where multisectoral systems, strategies or programmes are implemented to advance women’s equal access to and use of services, goods and/resources, including social protection. <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.a Number of institutions with strengthened capacities to improve the provision of essential services, goods and/or resources for women. <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.e Number of partners that have increased capacities to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment through national and/or local multisectoral strategies, policies and/or action plans. <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.2.d Number of tools introduced that support innovative financing and accountability, including those related to digital financing, for gender equality. 	<p>OIBC 4:</p> <p>Knowledge generation in the contextual application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon markets and domestication in Africa - Debt swaps - Blue bonds - Sustainable budgeting - Blended finance facilities

SP/SN indicator	Related OIBC indicator
Gender Equality accelerator: Prevention of and response to violence against women and girls	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.3.f Number of countries with a process to design and implement VAW prevention strategies, or with VAW prevention interventions, based on global norms and standards (output). <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.b. Number of countries supported to develop and/or implement guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures to strengthen EAWG services in line with the global Essential Services Package (output). <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.4. Number of laws that were adopted, revised or repealed to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.e Number of countries with multi-stakeholder initiatives in place to prevent and respond to sexual violence, including sexual harassment in public and/or private spaces (output). <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.1. Number of countries where there has been an increase in the number of women who access services after experiencing violence or discrimination (outcome). 	<p>OIBC 3:</p> <p>Support the implementation of regional commitments for healthy, educated and thriving adolescents and young people, in response to unintended pregnancy, HIV, cancer and NCD prevention, GBV and COVID-19 through education and health programmed</p> <p>OIBC 3:</p> <p>Support the formulation of youth and gender responsive national policies and create opportunities for youth to more actively contribute to the policy development process including incorporation of Adolescent Health in all policies and strategies using Guidance 2.0</p>
Gender Equality accelerator: Women, peace and security	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.3.f Number of countries with a process to design and implement VAW prevention strategies, or with VAW prevention interventions, based on global norms and standards (output). <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.b. Number of countries supported to develop and/or implement guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures to strengthen EAWG services in line with the global Essential Services Package (output). <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.4. Number of laws that were adopted, revised or repealed to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.e Number of countries with multi-stakeholder initiatives in place to prevent and respond to sexual violence, including sexual harassment in public and/or private spaces (output). <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.1. Number of countries where there has been an increase in the number of women who access services after experiencing violence or discrimination (outcome). 	<p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Key Strategic Output 1: Building capacities to prepare Joint trends analysis with the African Union Commission and Member States on transnational organized crime flows, drug trafficking trends, drug demand, and other trends that affect the security and safety of African Governments and the people of the region</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Work with UNCTs to incorporate joint trends analysis in the Common Country Analysis (CCAs) of the UNCTs in the region – with particular attention to the Sahel</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Promoting and enhancing regional support, coordination, evidence and advocacy on preventing and responding to political transitions</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Support for the implementation of the Lake Chad Regional Stabilization Facility</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Support for the implementation of the Liptako-Gourma Stabilization Facility</p>

SP/SN indicator	Related OIBC indicator
Gender Equality accelerator: UN Women leadership, empowerment, access and protection (LEAP) in humanitarian crisis	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.7.6 Percentage of HCT response plans and strategies that demonstrate the integration of gender equality. <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.7.a. Number of thematic inter-agency mechanisms/teams that effectively address gender mainstreaming in priority Areas. <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.6.c Number of gender statistics and sex disaggregated data collection initiatives, including in emerging areas, conducted or analyzed. <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.5.d. Number of civil society organizations working on gender equality and women's empowerment, especially women's organizations, that have strengthened capacities to exercise their leadership role towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.d. Number of women accessing information, goods, resources and/or services through UN Women-supported platforms and programmes in humanitarian and development settings. 	<p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Support to local as well as formal and informal conflict prevention, and reconciliation platforms and processes at the national and sub-national levels including those focusing on women and youth-led organizations, support to mediation and dialogue at national and sub-national levels, including those involving faith-based organizations</p>
Gender Equality accelerator: Women's resilience to disasters	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.4: Number of laws that were adopted, revised or repealed to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.5: Number of national and/or local (multi)sectoral strategies, policies and/or action plans that are adopted with a focus on gender equality. <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.1.a: Number of governments that undertake national review processes in response to global intergovernmental outcomes. <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.c: Number of women's organizations with increased capacities to deliver and/or monitor the quality of services, resources and goods for women in humanitarian and development settings. <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.4.d: Number of women accessing information, goods, resources and/or services through UN Women-supported platforms and programmes in humanitarian and development settings. 	<p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Cross-border governance and the resilience of populations are strengthened</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>A cross-boundary approach to prevent violent extremism is sharpened through concerted (cross-regional, multi-country) interventions between Regional Economic Commissions and other regional institutions</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Advocacy with the AU and RECs on preventative development approaches to address violent extremism based on the findings of the PVE series of reports</p>

SP/SN indicator	Related OIBC indicator
Gender Equality accelerator: Women Count	
<p>Core indicator #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - o.6.1: Percentage of gender-specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators with available data. <p>Core indicator #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - o.6.2: Number of national plans and strategies that integrate gender statistics as an objective or strategy. <p>Core indicator #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - o.6.3: Number of countries demonstrating use of gender statistics, analysis, and policy-relevant research. <p>Core indicator #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - o.6.a: Number of inter-agency coordination mechanisms governing the production of multi-level disaggregated gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data, that were established or Strengthened. <p>Core indicator #5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - o.6.c: Number of gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data collection initiatives, including in emerging areas, conducted or analyzed. 	<p>OIBC 1:</p> <p>Update the platform with additional key indicators, more data points and a geospatial component</p> <p>OIBC 1:</p> <p>Promote data use (UNCTs, members states, etc.) through dissemination and outreach, communicating timely updates and developing summaries/articles</p> <p>OIBC 1:</p> <p>Launch and disseminate UN Africa Data and Statistics Strategy and roll it out to country level</p> <p>OIBC 1:</p> <p>Implement three capacity-strengthening initiatives for Member States and UNCTs – data disaggregation, geospatial and forecasting</p> <p>OIBC 5:</p> <p>Jointly collaborate in the 2023 SDG Summit scheduled during the High-Level Political Forum to review progress on the Agenda 2030</p>



**UN WOMEN IS THE UNITED NATIONS
ENTITY 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.**

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; all women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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