



UN Women Kenya Annual Report 2023



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGCCI	African Girls Can Code Initiative
ADP	Annual Development Plan
ADSOCK	Advocates for Social Change in Kenya
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
CREAW	Center for Rights Education and Awareness
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVRC	Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centre
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GVRC	Gender Violence Recovery Centre
HAK	Healthcare Assistance Kenya
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAWJ	International Association of Women Judges
KDHS	Kenya Demographics and Health Survey
KNAP	Kenya National Action Plan
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
P/CVE	Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism
PHR	Physicians for Human Rights
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGBV	Sexual Gender-Based Violence
SOJAR	State of the Judiciary and Administration of Justice
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WEE	Women Economic Empowerment
WEE-CSA	Women Economic Empowerment-Climate Smart Agriculture
WEPS	Women's Empowerment Principles
WHO	World Health Organization
WRO	Women Rights Organisations

FOREWORD



In 2023, significant strides were accomplished in Kenya's pursuit of gender equality. Under the leadership of the Government of Kenya, the country reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality through leadership's Constitutional commitment to push through the not more than two-thirds gender principle in the National Parliament. The collaboration between UN Women and the Government of Kenya has continually strengthened, creating an enabling environment for transformative action.

Kenya's resilience shone brightly. Despite challenges, women and girls stood tall, advocating for their rights, economic empowerment, and safety. Their stories inspire us to dismantle barriers persistently.

Our partnerships extend beyond organisational boundaries. We joined hands with civil society, grassroots movements, and local communities. Together, we amplified our impact, recognising that progress is a collective endeavour.

With immense pride and gratitude, I present the UN Women Kenya Country Office 2023 Annual Report. This succinct yet impactful summary encapsulates the significant strides in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment across Kenya.

In the past year, our collective efforts have yielded significant progress, and I am delighted to share some key highlights:

- 1. Access to Quality Justice Services for SGBV Survivors:** We witnessed a remarkable increase in resolved cases, from 6,043 in 2021 to 8,498 in 2022 and further to an impressive 10,291 in 2023. This underscores our commitment to ensuring survivors receive the support they deserve.
- 2. Gender Equality Results and Financial Commitments:** Our collaboration with UN Agencies through implementing the UNCT gender scorecard action plan has yielded tangible results. We remain steadfast in our pursuit of gender parity.

- 3. **Enhanced Systems for Transparent Allocations to GEWE:** The County Budget Transparency Report 2023 reveals that 81 per cent of county governments have improved public finance management processes. These strides enhance equitable, efficient, and accountable service delivery.
- 4. **Unpaid Care Work:** After years of advocacy, we kick-started the development of the National Care Policy. Recognising the vital role of unpaid care work, we are committed to transformative change.
- 5. **Legal and Policy Frameworks:** Our renewed commitment to the two-thirds gender rule is evident in the 1st Presidential memo to the Speaker of Parliament. We continue to promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality through operational and funded frameworks.
- 6. **Kenya National Action Plan II (2020-2024):** Our localisation efforts remain steadfast. We celebrate the launch of 5 localised county Action Plans, bringing the total to 18. These plans serve as blueprints for progress.

UN Women’s contributions have been pivotal. We empower government institutions, civil society organisations, and women’s rights organisations by strengthening technical and financial capacities, providing strategic advice, facilitating training, and fostering cross-learning. Our partnerships with the Development Partners; our sister UN agencies; our implementing partners; and our government partners, particularly the Ministry of Gender, Culture, The Arts and Heritage, and most importantly, the women and girls of Kenya, amplify our impact.

As we turn the pages of this report, let us celebrate Kenyan women’s resilience, our partners’ dedication, and our team’s unwavering commitment. Together, we shape a future where gender equality is not a distant dream but a reality.

Anna Mutavati
UN Women Country Representative to Kenya



WHERE WE WORK

Women in Decision Making

Nakuru, Kirinyaga, Garissa, Mombasa, Nairobi, Uasin Gishu, Nyeri, Meru, Kisumu, Kakamega, Kwale, Kitui, Turkana, Marsabit, Kericho, Wajir, Kisii, Kajiado, Samburu, Homa Bay, Embu, Bungoma, Vihiga, Bungoma, Mandera, Isiolo, Lamu, Tana River, Kilifi, Narok, West Pokot, and Busia Counties.

Women Count

The programme is implemented at the national level.

Women’s Economic Empowerment

West Pokot, Kitui and Laikipia Counties.

Ending Violence against Women and Girls

Nairobi, Kisumu, Bungoma, Vihiga, Turkana, Kwale, Kitui, Marsabit, Kericho and Bomet Counties.

Women, Peace and Security

Wajir, Mandera, Turkana, Garissa, Tana River, Uasin Gishu, Kakamega, Kisumu, Kilifi, Mombasa, Makueni, Machakos, Nyandarua, Laikipia, Isiolo, Kericho, Busia, Nakuru, Lamu, Isiolo, Wajir, Samburu, Kisii, Embu and Bungoma Counties.

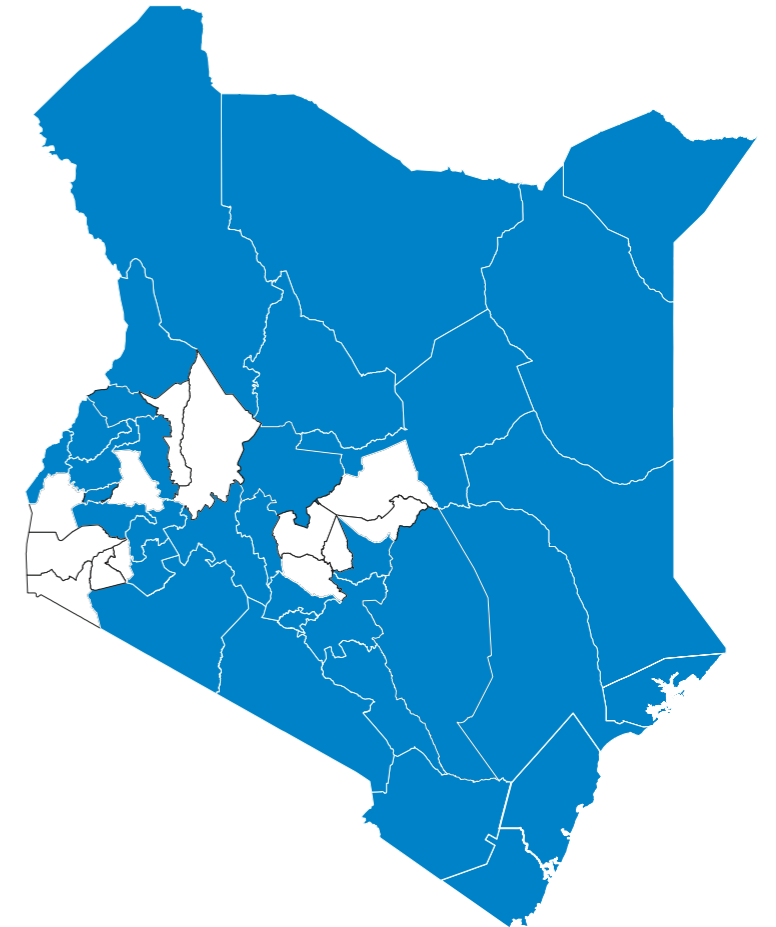
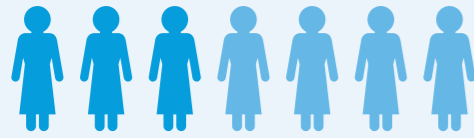


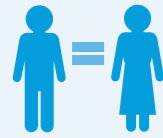
Photo: UN Women Kenya

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Democratic Governance



Out of the **SEVEN** elected county women Governors, **four (57 per cent)** made it to the top ten out of **47 governors**.



UN Women's support enabled **enhanced systems to track and make public allocations to GEWE**, evidenced by the County Budget Transparency Report 2023, availing that **81 per cent (38/47)** of county governments reported improved public finance management processes and systems for equitable, efficient, accountable service delivery.

Women Peace, Security and Gender in Humanitarian Action



Through UN Women's support, **EIGHT counties** successfully localised the KNAP II in 2023 which led to increased numbers of women leaders in peace committees, more secure and resilient communities, and inclusive peace and security processes at the county and community levels.

Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls



UN Women supported the establishment of **12 specialised SGBV courts**, training justice actors, carrying out advocacy, developing national and county GBV laws and policies, conducting annual budget analyses and delivering essential services to survivors increasing the number of filed sexual offences cases from **8,657** (2022) to **8,699** (2023).

Women's Economic Empowerment



Through UN Women's support, **866** rural farmers from **57** beneficiary farmer groups aggregated along **17 value chain** enterprises increased their income from **USD 17,640** in 2022 to **USD 202,174**.

Women who accessed group credits also increased their savings from **USD 55,294** to **USD 89,685**.

Planning and Coordination

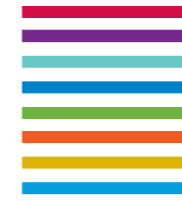


UN Women ensured the **implementation** of the UN Country Team (UNCT) gender scorecard action plan.



Kwale County Assistant Chief Sensitizing Community Women on Peace Measures. Photo: UN Women, James Ochweri

KEY RESULTS



Impact

Overall, Kenya witnessed a significant progress in improving:

- (a) access to quality justice services by SGBV survivors with an increase in the number of resolved cases, from 6,043 (2021)¹ to 8,498 (2022)² and further to 10,291 (2023)³;
- (b) results and financial commitments⁴ to gender equality across the UN Agencies through implementing the UNCT gender scorecard action plan and
- (c) enhanced systems to track and make public allocations to GEWE evidenced by the County Budget Transparency Report 2023 availing that 81 per cent (38/47) of county governments reported improved public finance management processes and systems for equitable, efficient and accountable service delivery.⁵
- (d) Further, Kenya has achieved progress in unpaid care work evidenced by the kick-start of the National Care Policy development after decade-long advocacy efforts, having the legal and policy frameworks in place, operational and funded to promote, enforce and monitor GEWE evidenced by the renewed goodwill to address and implement the two-thirds gender rule⁶ demonstrated by the 1st presidential memo to the Speaker of Parliament. The implementation and localisation efforts of the Kenya National Action Plan II (2020-2024) with a monitoring framework and indicators continued as five localised county Action Plans were developed and launched,⁷ making it 18⁸ in total.

1 State of the Judiciary and Administration of Justice Report (SOJAR) report 2020-2021 p. 278.
 2 SOJAR report 2021-2022 p. 256.
 3 SOJAR reports 2022-2023 p.296, Whole justice system in Kenya 10,222 and SGBV courts 69 cases; in total 10,291 cases.
 4 UNCT Scorecard report 2023. Evidence of the financial commitments will be attached as evidence in early February when finalized.
 5 Two key systems 1) the Control of Budget Management Information System (COBMIS)5 was finalized and is expected to be rolled out to the counties and 2) the Standard Charter of Accounts (SCOA)5 was revised and is waiting for Government Cabinet clearance.
 6 A 2010 constitutional provision stipulating that not more than two thirds of the members of an elective or appointive body shall be of the same gender.
 7 Three on K NAP II on UNSCR 1325 in Turkana, Garissa, and Vihiga and two Gender Responsive Dadaab Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism action plan in Kwale County (P/CVE) Action Plan in Kwale and Garissa.
 8 Samburu, Baringo, Mandera, Kilifi, Kwale, Mombasa, Marsabit, Kitui, Bungoma, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Vihiga, Garissa, Turkana, Taita Taveta, Murang'a, Nakuru and Kisumu.

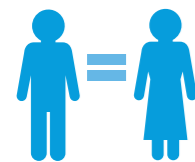
Democratic Governance

UN Women contributed significantly to these achievements by strengthening the technical and financial capacity of the Government, CSO, and WRO partners by providing technical advice on their strategies and facilitating training, cross-learning, and peer-to-peer learning field missions. UN Women continued to partner with UNCT and other UN Agencies⁹ through UN Joint Programmes and programming to contribute to these results.



1. Women leaders elected during the General Election in 2022 emerged in 2023 as trailblazers in service delivery to the people of Kenya. According to a County Track Survey conducted by Infotrak, the women governors were assessed as top performers for development and service delivery.¹⁰ Out of the seven elected county women governors, four (**57 per cent**) made it to the top ten out of **47 governors**.

- UN Women contributed to these results that a few years ago were non-existent by supporting governors during elections, investing in long term capacity building of women leaders, advocating for policy and legislative reforms, engaging media and communities and building partnerships with civil society.



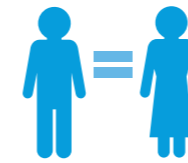
2. Continued momentum in Kenya to push through at least one-third of any elective or appointive government position to be women as per the **2/3rds gender**¹¹ rule in the National Parliament, which H.E. President Ruto committed to actualising during his term.¹²

- UN Women's contribution to this: providing advisory, coordination and financial support to the multi-sectoral working group (MSWG) on the not more than two-thirds gender principle, which executed its mandate by conducting public participation and stakeholder engagement on a proposed framework. In addition, UN Women supported the advocacy of the two-thirds by engaging media stakeholders, development partners, and the UN Country team.¹³



3. Enhanced systems to track and make public allocations to GEWE, evidenced by the County Budget Transparency Report 2023, availing that **81 per cent (38/47)** of county governments reported improved public finance management processes and systems for equitable, efficient, accountable service delivery.

- UN Women contribution to this: UN Women, together with UNICEF and UNDP, has supported the GoK to build two key systems: 1) the Control of Budget Management Information System (COBMIS) was finalised and is expected to be rolled out to the counties and 2) the Standard Charter of Accounts (SCOA) was revised and is waiting for Government Cabinet clearance.



4. Improved availability of gender sensitive data for evidence-based policy making, programming and decision-making by the Government, UN Agencies, and public and private sectors through an update of the National SDGs Indicator Framework and Country Profile on SDG data, which increased the number of gender-relevant indicators from **42 to 44** out of the **80 SDGs**. This will support the preparation for Kenya's 2024 Voluntary National Review.

- UN Women contribution to this: by providing advisory and financial support to updating the National SDGs Indicator Framework and Country Profile on SDG data through the UN Women global Gender and Statistics Programme.

Online harassment risks pushing Kenyan women out of politics

UN Women's recent report "Pambana!" (or "Keep at it" in Swahili) found that name-calling, "blackmail using negative images of women," and other messages were spread online and aimed to instill fear, reduce women's meaningful participation, and undermine their credibility to participate in elections.

Although women make up more than half of Kenya's population, they currently hold only 24.8 per cent of elected seats in the National Assembly and Senate.

In response to the challenges faced by women politicians in Kenya's 2022 elections, UN Women developed social media training sessions to help candidates both find messages that resonate with voters and minimize online harassment. This has helped to amplify their voices and connect with their constituents while countering gender-based violence and inequality.

Kenya has constitutional guarantees of gender equality, as well as a quota mandating that government bodies are not staffed by more than two thirds of either gender. In the December 2022 cabinet and executive-level appointments, 46 per cent of the positions were filled by women.



Governor Fatuma Achani (front centre) is leading a march in Kwale County alongside Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, Aisha Jumwa (left of centre). Photo: UN Women/Luke Horswell

⁹ FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNDP as well as the UN Resident Coordinators Office.

¹⁰ For instance, in Kirinyaga county, the Governor transformed the county's health sector by constructing a modern hospital complex in Kerugoya and in Nakuru County, access to citizens has been made to clean drinking water and agricultural advancements (previously key challenges).

¹¹ The two third gender rule is an affirmative action enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya. It is designed to enhance equality by requiring that not more than two thirds of any elective or appointive position in the government of Kenya shall be of the same gender.

¹² <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2024/03/president-ruto-commits-to-realization-of-two-thirds-gender-rule-before-completion-of-term/>

¹³ In February 2024, the MSWG submitted its final report to the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture, The Arts and Heritage, Hon. Aisha Jumwa. The report, which also includes legal instruments for the actualization of the rule was presented in Parliament by the Speaker of National Assembly and will be introduced for debate.

UN Women is dismantling patriarchal norms that hinder women’s participation in elective positions in Kenya

Alongside a strong team ethic, Governor Fatuma Achari found that civic education projects, supported by UN Women and the Government of Finland, helped changed mindsets among certain constituencies during the 2022 elections in her favor.



Governor Achari. Photo: UN Women/Sharon Kinyanjui

A 16 per cent increase in women-held elective seats was one of the successes of Kenya’s 2022 General Election. But for many women aspirants, old practices and norms continued to undermine their campaigns. The contrast between progress and such norms were on full display in Kenya’s coastal region.

“The next time you speak to me, it will be in the Governor’s office!” were Deputy Governor Fatuma Achari’s parting words to UN Women in 2021, referring to her ambitions to win the Governor seat in the 2022 elections in Kwale County. Her prediction was correct, becoming the first woman ever to do so in the county. Achari’s historic achievement was not easy, enduring a targeted campaign against her as an individual, simply because she is a woman. She explains.

“It was a good experience when I got declared the winner, but before then it wasn’t that nice. The main campaign agenda was not about performance, it was about personality. I was a woman against five other men and their main campaign tool was one of intimidation and using stereotypes. They were attacking me as a person, even my own family. It was all over social media – abuse every single day.”

For Achari, building herself as a brand and gaining trust with her constituents proved to be a more effective approach to winning votes.

“Over the years I have tried to build a brand – I wanted to be sure people associated my name with delivering. We’ve managed to transform girls’ enrolment – giving scholarships for school children in national schools and universities and giving bursaries. We have a budget of 400 million KSH [over US\$3 million] every year to support students in schools.”

Since 2019, UN Women and the Government of Finland have targeted four counties in Kenya to strengthen women’s leadership and political participation. The project has contributed to increases in the number of women candidates on the ballot, the number of women independent candidates and more women selected as presidential running mates compared to 2017. In the target counties of Kwale, Kitui, Marsabit and Turkana, an additional 4 seats were won by women candidates in the 2022 election, compared to 2017.

Bungoma Women’s Peace Network Strengthening Women’s Participation in Peace Process in Kenya

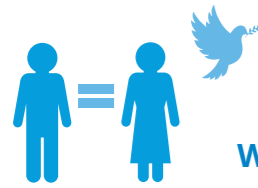


Fleria Mukhula. Photo: UN Women/Luke Horswell

UN Women has offered training sessions to women and communities in various counties in Kenya. For Fleria Mukhula, the sessions helped her to form a peace building network in Bungoma. She says the sessions gave her the courage to go out to the sub-counties and form a network. When conflict breaks out, women and children suffer most, so there’s a need to train and inform women around conflict issues and how to mitigate and respond to them. She organized groups in every subcounty and, from those groups, two women were elected to form the county team. Importantly, the women in her network who got trained actively reached out to train other women in their own wards. In turn, those women also share knowledge in their villages/ households.

With UN Women support, she not only been working with women. During the elections, she worked with local leaders and was elected to run peacebuilding forums and education programmes. This was premised on the fact that youth are often targeted by politicians to incite violence, so she targeted them with bimonthly consultative meetings on peace and security. They established leaders and focal points so they could also share concerns with the authorities. The groups were then committed into a peace deal during elections resulting into peaceful elections in Bungoma in 2022 elections.

Fleria began peacebuilding in 2012 and currently has been acting as chair of the local District Peace Committee for the last three years. She is a member of the National Women’s Peace Committee Network, which has trained women representatives from 33 counties through UN Women’s partnership with the Government of Finland. The project has set out to localize the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda and increase meaningful participation in grassroots peacebuilding.



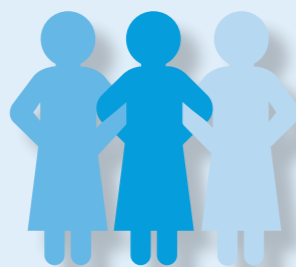
Women Peace, Security and Gender in Humanitarian Action

- The number of women in the county peace committees increased from 33 per cent in 2022 to 34 per cent,¹⁴ which led to gender-responsive policy formulation/implementation, strengthened advocacy for GEWE and collaboration with human rights defenders to enhance service delivery to SGBV survivors.
 - UN Women contribution to this: UN Women strengthened women’s participation through advisory and financial support together with its partners, the Women Mediators Network (UWIANO Platform) and the Women in the Peace Committee Network. In addition, UN Women and its partners¹⁵ provided capacity-building to women leaders in their roles in WPSH.
 - Eight**¹⁶ counties successfully localised the KNAP II in 2023, making it **18**¹⁷ in total, which led to increased numbers of women leaders in peace committees, more secure and resilient communities, and inclusive peace and security processes at the county and community levels. UN Women contributed to this: directly through advisory and financial support to 5 counties, and indirectly through the Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) Secretariat hosted by the SDFGAA.
- In 2023, 30 young women and men¹⁸ from Kakuma Refugee Camp and Turkana host communities were economically empowered due to being trained in automotive repair and maintenance 2023.¹⁹ More specifically, 6 were employed at the UNHCR garage in Kalobeyei on a cash-for-work basis, 11 in mechanic related work in Lodwar, 10 started their own mechanic business in Kakuma, and 3 returned to school.
 - UN Women contributed to this with its partners²⁰ by supporting the building of a garage and building capacity of local and host communities, especially women and girls, to create livelihood opportunities for them. The garage is expected to provide long-term livelihood opportunities for refugees and host community members in Kakuma, which aligns with the Global Compact on Refugees.
- An estimated 365 women registered under the Imara Handicraft Cooperative Society are expected to benefit from a new business incubation centre²¹ through livelihood opportunities. As an example of economic empowerment, 126 refugee women formed a small/medium-sized enterprise with support from UN Women, making a profit of KSh 300,000. In addition, GBV survivors in humanitarian settings are expected to benefit from the establishment of 4 Gender Recovery centres (2 in Kakuma and 2 in Dadaab) and duty bearer capacity building through improved access to essential services, which has been instrumental in strengthening the referral pathway in Kakuma and Dadaab.

Imara Handicraft Cooperative Society

New Business Incubation Centre Launched

365 Women Registered



126 Refugee Women Form a Small/Medium-Sized Enterprise

Profit: **KSh 300,000**

14 Data from the Ministry of Interior.
 15 NCCK, Huria, Wajir Women's Rights Organization, Isiolo Peace Link, Kiunga Bunge Youth Initiative.
 16 Turkana, Garissa, Bungoma, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Vihiga, Muranga and Taita Taveta
 17 Samburu, Baringo, Mandera, Kilifi, Kwale, Mombasa, Marsabit, Kitui, Bungoma, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Vihiga, Garissa, Turkana, Taita Taveta, Murang'a, Nakuru and Kisumu
 18 (21 M, 9 W).
 19 This is in line with the objective to economically empower young women and men through science and technology training and to increase job and income generation opportunities in the manufacturing and engineering fields. Each graduate received an individual automotive start-up toolkit to support them in practicing their acquired skills and providing automotive repair services to clients.
 20 Cooperation for Africa and Overseas Motors Kenya (CFAO, formerly Toyota Kenya Ltd), Toyota Kenya Foundation Registered Trustees, the Gender Sector Working Group, and the humanitarian inter-agency coordination group (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, and CSOs).
 21 Business incubation center workshop which included solarization, electrical wiring, installation of ceiling, water storage. Also childcare room was constructed.

- UN Women contributed to this: together with its partners²², by establishing the new business incubation centre, establishment of a safe space, GBVRCs, police gender desks, and capacity building for service providers on survivor centred approach.

Transforming lives in the refugee camps in Kenya

Bella, 26, is a beneficiary of a UN Women Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection project, implemented by Don Bosco in Kalobeyei settlement, Kakuma, Kenya. The project aligns with SDG 5 as it supports refugee and host communities' women and girls in accessing new sources of income and economic opportunities through skills and livelihoods development and increasing the access of vulnerable women and girls to effective services & protection mechanisms through social spaces in refugee and host communities.

She was forced to move to Kakuma's Refugee Camp with her three children. Arriving without income, they struggled to make the family food rations last. Now she is a tailor, producing clothes and bags that are sold in the camp and to external markets.

Being a refugee is a challenge on its own. When I arrived in Kakuma refugee camp, I didn't have any skills to do generate income and taking care of my family was hard. The rations we get sometimes don't reach to the end of the month and that motivated me to join the women's group so I could earn money. When I joined, I was taught skills in jewelry, basketry, fashion and design and I found that my passion lay in tailoring dresses and making bags.

These skills have really helped me. I can now make some money to buy some extra non-food items and take care of my family.. We sell the clothes and bags we make at our business center in Kalobeyei and at various Don Bosco offices in Kakuma, where customers can pass by and buy the products. Some of our products even get sold in the UN gift shops in Nairobi and soon we will have them online.

I want to learn more so that one day in the future I will open my own shop and teach others and employ them. I see my family happier and healthier because of my work. If we run out of things like cooking oil before the next rations, I am able to buy some for them.



Bella, a beneficiary of the LEAP project, works on a dress at the Kalobeyei Business center. She received training on tailoring through the project and her products are marketed at the center and through implementing partner Don Bosco's network of centers. Photo: UN Women/James Ochweri

22 International Rescue Committee, Don Bosco and Peace Winds Japan.



Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

- Improved access by SGBV survivors to social and protection services, especially related to access to justice, between 2022 and 2023. Data from the State of the Judiciary and Administration of Justice Reports (SOJAR) revealed an increase in the number of filed sexual offences cases, from 8,657 (2022) to 8,699 (2023). SOJAR data also showed an increase in resolved cases from 8,498 (2022) and 10,291 (2023). In addition, the Office of the Chief Justice led establishing and operationalising 12 specialised SGBV courts²³ in Kenya. These results align with the commitments of the Government of Kenya's 12 Generation Equality Forum.
 - UN Women contributed to this with implementing partners²⁴ by supporting establishing and operationalising 12 specialised SGBV courts, training justice actors, carrying out advocacy, developing national and county GBV laws and policies, conducting annual budget analyses and delivering essential services to survivors. More specifically, UN Women worked with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and the Office of the Chief Justice (CJ) to develop two gender-responsive strategies (SGBV and Child Justice) at the national level, creating the convicted Sexual Offenders Electronic Register.

Increase in Filed Sexual Offences Cases:

2022: **8,657**

2023: **8,699**

Increase in Resolved Cases:

2022: **8,498**

2023: **10,291**



Establishment of Specialized SGBV Courts:

12 New Courts Operationalized by the Office of the Chief Justice

- GBV survivors access to essential services increased as per data from the national GBV helpline Health Assistance Kenya- from 4693 (2020), 3205 (2021), and 5689 (2022) to 8,894 (2023).
 - UN Women contributed to this by providing advisory support to the WROs regarding their activities and strategies, building their capacity on M&E and finance, facilitating peer-learning through an EVAWG partners CoP and ensuring funding, which all ensured delivery of comprehensive essential services to GBV survivors.
- The Kenya Demographic and Health (KDHS) survey (2022) launched in 2023 presented a positive trend on ending violence against women and girls, reporting fewer women and girls experiencing violence in 2022 compared with 2014. Prevalence of physical violence increased from 20 per cent to 16 per cent, sexual violence prevalence from 7.6 per cent to 6.42 per cent, and female genital mutilation from 21 per cent to 15 per cent.

²³ Shanzu, Kibera, Makadara, Meru, Nakuru, Kiambu, Machakos, Kisii, Kitale, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya.
²⁴ Advocates for Social Change in Kenya (ADSOCK), World Vision, Action Aid, Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK 1195), International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), Center for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), Wangu Kanja Foundation, the Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC), and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR).

UN Women supports establishment and operationalization of 12 specialized SGBV courts

UN Women and other partners advocated for the establishment of specialised sexual and gender based violence courts which have been finally established with ongoing plans to increase the number beyond the current 12. The Hon. Chief Justice Martha Koome, while responding to the specialised needs of women and girls who are GBV victims acknowledges that;

“The biggest problem we have encountered is the time it takes for cases to be completed. No survivor wants to come to court for 5 years. They want to forget, adjust, and carry on with their lives. Therefore we need specialised courts that are trauma-informed in all of the country's GBV hotspots. We must be aggressive on ensuring we establish specialized courts with the necessary technology to deal with these matters efficiently.”

In addition to GBV, the Chief Justice has recognized the interconnectedness of women's economic agency when it comes to inequality. “Targeting commercial activities that enable women to empower themselves economically is another priority as these issues are interlinked. Small claims courts are another necessary pathway to promote access to justice in trade and commerce. Women are often those with small businesses. We want to establish 100 small claims courts, if we can get those 100 courts operating it would really make a difference.”

- UN Women contributed to this by providing advisory support to include a GBV module in the KDHS survey 2022 to inform and strengthen research, data collection and utilisation for evidence-based programming. UN Women did this by supporting the design, implementation, analysis and reporting of the GBV and FGM modules.
- The legal and policy environment of the GBV in Kenya was further strengthened in 2023, with the continued revision of the Sexual Offences Act (2006), the revision of the National GBV Policy (2014)²⁵, and the development of 13 specific County GBV policies.²⁶ These achievements align with the Government's 12 GBV prevention and response commitments under the Generation Equality Forum. The rescue centres for the survivors were also established due to these efforts.
 - UN Women contributed to this, together with implementing partners²⁷, by providing technical expertise for developing gender-based violence (GBV) laws and policies, conducting annual budget analyses²⁸, enhancing institutional capacities²⁹ by offering training to duty bearers³⁰ and contributing to advocacy efforts.

²⁵ In alignment with commitments from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) and the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) 12 Commitments from 2021

²⁶ Samburu, Isiolo, Narok, Kisii, Migori, Kajiado, Garissa, Meru, Kisumu, Kitui, Kwale, Marsabit, and Turkana. More specifically, Kwale County passed the GBV Act in October 2023 and Garissa's gender policy was domesticated.

²⁷ ADSOCK, Wangu Kanja, World Vision, Action Aid, HAK 1195, International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and CREAW

²⁸ Action Aid.

²⁹ IAWJ, Action Aid.

³⁰ ADSOCK, World Vision, Wangu Kanja, Action Aid, CREAW, IAWJ.



Photo: UN Women Kenya

Equipping the community for GBV breakthroughs in Kenya



Communities in Marsabit are now mobilizing to protect girls from child marriage. Photo: UN Women/Joel Mwamkonu

UN Women's partnership with World Vision, supported by the Government of Finland, has raised awareness among individuals and organisations in Loiyangalani and neighbouring communities on prevention and response methods of GBV. The project has reached over 12,000 individuals with training and public forums in Marsabit County.

Nicholas Mutua, Sub-County Police Commander in Loiyangalani explains that in the town alone, he is seeing a marked change in the community's attitudes to GBV:

"Following the community engagement by our partners, we are seeing a much more collaborative effort to fight GBV. This year alone we have already received around 10 reported cases. This suggests the community are taking action. This can be seen as a breakthrough as such incidents would previously be handled via internal traditional mechanisms. It has also helped bridge a gap between citizens and law enforcement on such matters."

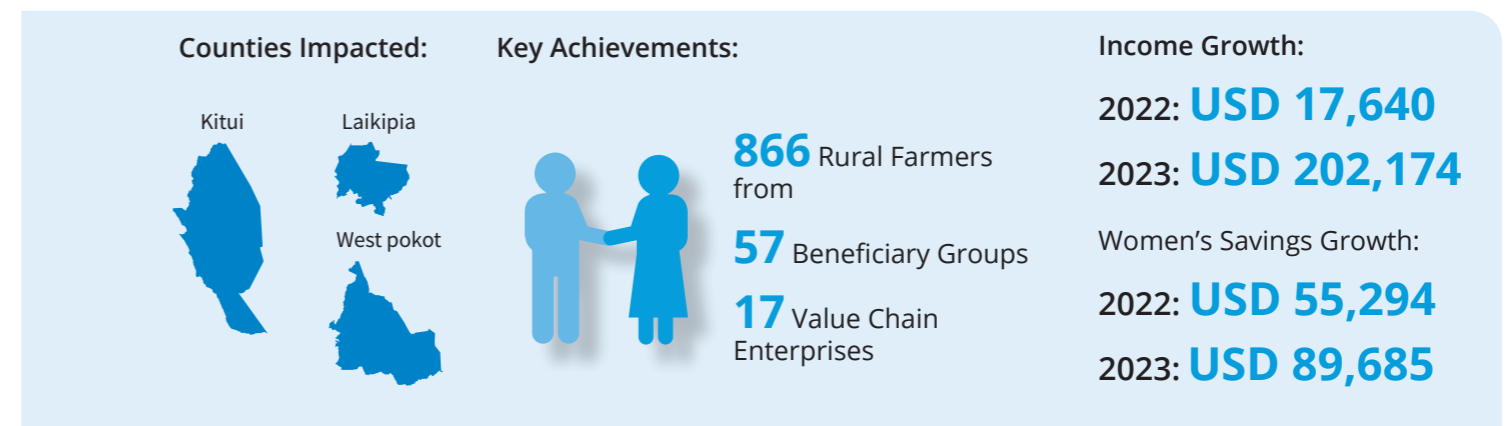
- All 47 counties developed and adopted gender responsive County Integrated Development Policies (CIDPs) III, which is expected to lead to increased budget allocations and focus on gender-related activities at the county level, benefitting the lives of women and girls on the ground.
 - UN Women contributed to this by supporting Laikipia, West Pokot and Kitui Counties in the development of CIDPs III and Annual Development Plans (ADP), as well as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) policy guidelines, which aim to improve rural women farmers' livelihoods and food security. To achieve this, UN Women, with partners,³¹ conducted sensitisation campaigns and advocacy efforts and built the capacity of county government staff. UN Women also empowered rural women to engage in planning processes and advocate for gender-responsive CSA inclusion.

31 Anglican Development Services Eastern, Hand in Hand Eastern Africa and Village Enterprise



Women's Economic Empowerment

- In 2023, rural farmers increased their productivity and household-level income, nutrition, and food security. For example, in Kitui, Laikipia and West Pokot Counties, 866 rural farmers³² from 57 beneficiary farmer groups aggregated along 17 value chain enterprises increased their income from USD 17,640 in 2022 to USD 202,174. Women who accessed group credits also increased their savings from USD 55,294 to USD 89,685.
 - UN Women contributed to this in partnership with FAO by training the women farmers in climate smart agriculture (CSA) and income generation through CSA.



- After decades of advocacy efforts, Kenya achieved progress in unpaid care work, as evidenced by the kick-start of developing the National Care Policy. The policy is expected to help recognise, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work among individuals³³, the private sector, and the government and reward and represent paid care work through favourable employment policies, decent jobs, and social protection. The Care Policy is expected to be validated by the Government of Kenya in 2024.
 - UN Women contributed by partnering with the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action (SDfGAA) and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. UN Women supported the development through the drafting process, including by bringing on board a consultant, co-organising the above-mentioned events and building the capacity of government officials and key stakeholders. Further, UN Women generated data that informed the National Care Policy through advisory support to the KNBS' Time Use Survey and Needs Assessment.

32 Women 734, male 132.
33 Men, women, boys, girls.

Through community dialogues and local radio shows, over 100,000 individuals will be reached with discussions that promote a more equal society. West Pokot is one of the counties targeted by UN Women and FAO's climate smart agriculture project.

27 self-help groups have been set up by the Women's Economic Empowerment through Climate Smart Agriculture (WEE-CSA) project.

For Avia Munyao, she has been able to plant drought-tolerant crops, like sorghum, on her farm. From one acre of sorghum, she harvested 15 bags. She sold one bag at Ksh 70 [US\$ 0.5] per kilogram as seeds to other farmers, the remaining 14 bags are in the aggregation stored to be sold to Kenya breweries.

She also planted six acres of green grams and harvested 65 bags. She sold all the green grams at Ksh 120 per kg [US\$1], this gives approximate KSH 702,000 [US\$ 5,850]. From the sale of the green grams she bought an additional 10 goats to add to her flock and used the funds for other family engagements.

The project has also enabled her to adopt the Zai pits, a technology which is deemed to conserve water better than traditional plating techniques. The other farmers in the neighborhood who planted conventionally got nothing. She complemented this with a kitchen garden which, apart from providing nutritious vegetables for her family, creates income as she also sells to her neighbors. This can earn around KSH 100 [US\$1] per day.

The project is supported by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).



Avia Munyao, WEE-CSA Beneficiary. Photo: UN Women

4. In a bid to address the Digital Gender Divide, break societal stereotypes and encourage young women and girls to get into the ICT sector, UN Women sponsored 97 girls³⁴ between the ages of 17 and 25 through the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI) and in partnership with Siemens, a six-months mentorship was provided. As a result, 21 out of 97 girls have enrolled in scholarships³⁵ and data analysis courses³⁶, which significantly impacts the AGCCI Initiative.

- UN Women contributed to this by providing financial and technical support by running the call to applications and shortlisting the final 100 girls from all 47 counties. The agency also partnered with key stakeholders to ensure a smooth run of the two coding camps, including Siemens.

Bridging the Digital Gender Divide



97 Girls Sponsored (Ages 17-25) through the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI)

Partnership with Siemens - 6-Month Mentorship Provided

21 Girls Enrolled in Scholarships and Data Analysis Courses



Trainer with students during Kenya's first AGCCI Coding Camp. Photo: UN Women/Clinton Awii

³⁴ The girls were drawn from the 47 counties (1 per county, excluding Nairobi) in Kenya and included 2 PWDs and 95 girls from urban informal settlements.

³⁵ African Centre for Women, Information and Communications Technology (ACWICT) Coursera.

³⁶ At Luxtech Academy.

5. The value of funds disbursed to women under Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) increased from USD 163,766 in 2021/22 to USD 180,143 in 2022/23. AGPO is part of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Article 227 on the fair, equitable, transparent and cost-effective public procurement of goods and services, Article 55 on affirmative action and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015.

- UN Women contributed to this by increasing women’s uptake of the AGPO program in Kilifi, Kajiado, Marsabit, Isiolo, Busia, and Samburu through capacity-building training and the development and dissemination of a simplified AGPO bidders manual. In addition, training and creating awareness of the African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to 164 women farmers and 20 Government officers in Kitui, Laikipia and West Pokot.

Empowering Women Through AGPO



Funding Growth:

USD 163,766 (2021/22)

USD 180,143 (2022/23)

6. The number of companies that signed up for Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and committed to gender-responsive processes, products and services at the workplace, marketplace and the community increased from 74 in 2022 to 89 in 2023.

- UN Women contributed to this by convening WEPs signatories, providing advisory support to them in applying women empowerment principles, advocating for new companies to join the WEPs, and supporting WEP signatories to seize business opportunities by employing innovative practices and technologies.



Planning and Coordination

1. There were remarkable gender-mainstreaming results achieved within UN Kenya in 2023 through **implementing the UN Country Team (UNCT) gender scorecard action plan**. The UNCT Kenya conducted its annual UNCT gender equality scorecard assessment and reporting exercise **where 5 out of 5 assessed indicators improved from approaching minimum requirements in 2022 to meeting³⁷ and exceeding³⁸ minimum requirements with Kenya, thereby recording 100 per cent compliance with QCPR Indicator 1.4.15.³⁹** The improvement also put UNCT Kenya on the global map as it exceeded the QCPR target of 60 per cent.⁴⁰

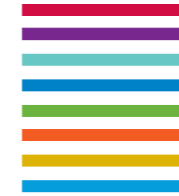
- UN Women contributed to this by leveraging its coordination mandate and the role as secretariat to several GEWE groups, helping to create synergies between the various GEWE groups and bringing the stakeholders together.



Photo: UN Women Kenya

37 1 indicator.
 38 Four indicators.
 39 Fraction of UNCTs that conducted the annual UNCT-SWAP in the past year and met or exceeded at least 75% of the UNCT-SWAP standards.
 40 Up from 33.3% in 2022 to 66.7% in 2023.

EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED



Key lessons learned by Kenya Country Office in 2023:

Cross-learning and Synergies: Pursuit of synergies and facilitation of cross learning among implementing partners, beneficiaries, geographical areas and between UN Women thematic areas is necessary to increase operational efficiency, use resources effectively, harness the unique strengths of individual partners, avoid 'silo-approaches' and further enhance results.

Inclusive Approach and Male Engagement: Implementing the "Leaving No One Behind" principle requires specific budget allocations and resources to support marginalized groups like persons with disabilities (PwDs) and women in hard-to-reach areas. Involving men in programming plays a crucial role in promoting women's economic empowerment and challenging socio-cultural barriers, enhancing community-level behavior change and support for women's rights.

Integration and Sustainability: Coherence and close collaboration across Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) thematic areas (Women's Political Participation, Gender and Statistics, Women Peace and Security, Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, Women's Economic Empowerment) enhances project results and ensures holistic benefits for beneficiaries. Long-term support and adaptability supported also by development partners are critical for sustaining normative changes and responding effectively to emerging challenges.

Media Engagement: Strategic engagement and utilization of media (legacy and social media) can enable effective awareness towards tackling retrogressive and harmful socio-cultural practices that sustain violence against women and limit their participation in politics and in peace and security initiatives.

Collaboration with Private Sector: Linkages and partnership with private sector institutions is integral to creating sustainable socio-economic opportunities for women and girls through direct job placement, marketing and labor markets. KCO should draw more on Women Empowerment Principle (WEPs)^[1] members and mobilize funds, including gender bonds. More guidance on private sector resource mobilization from HQ is needed.

Photo: UN Women Kenya

^[1] Home | WEPs

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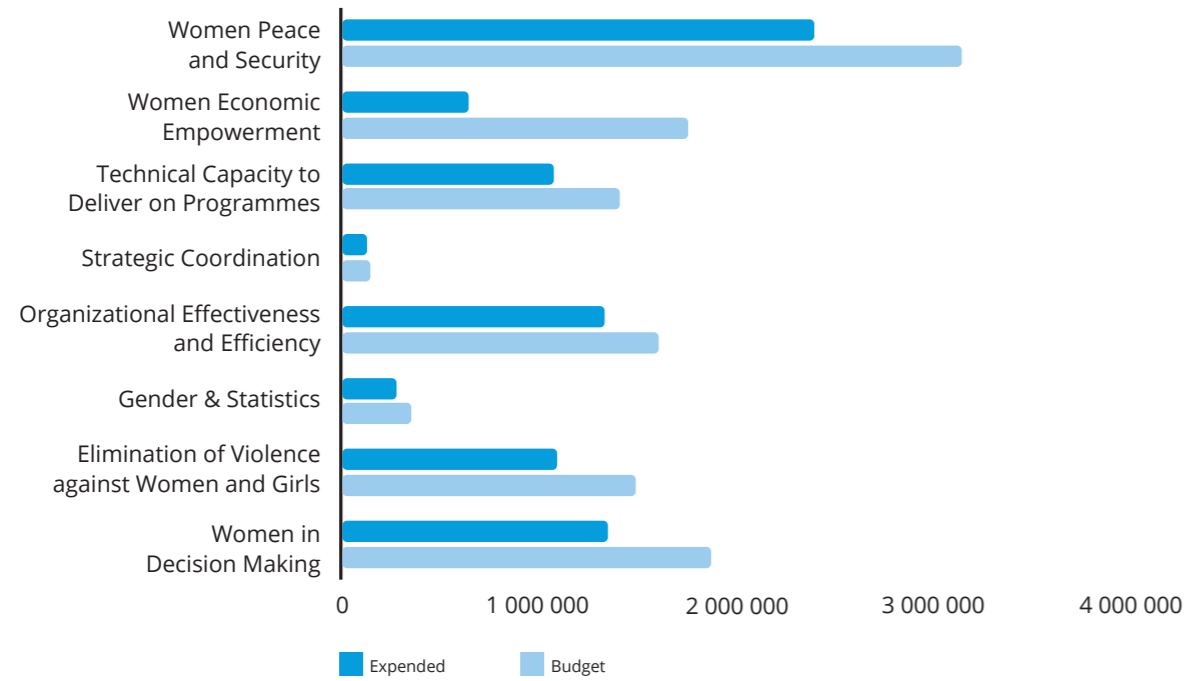
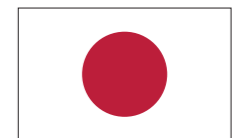


Photo: UN Women Kenya

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