



Scaling Up Generation Equality at regional and national levels

Report on the Inaugural Dialogue

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Background	4
Objectives of this report	4
Key findings and progress	5
1. Asia-Pacific region	6
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina	7
3. Burkina Faso	8
4. Kazakhstan	9
5. Kenya	11
6. Tanzania	12
Recommendations for Scaling Up Generation Equality at Regional and National Levels	13

Conclusions	15
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Introduction

Photo: UN Women/Rashid Hamis Kindamba



This report summarizes the discussions, outcomes, and recommendations from the Generation Equality Dialogues “Advancing Generation Equality Through Local Action: Scaling up Generation Equality at national and regional levels” held on September 12, 2024. This dialogue brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, all committed to advancing gender equality through concrete, localized actions. This report will serve as a resource for participants and relevant stakeholders in participating countries, providing actionable insights, lessons learned and recommendations to drive forward the Generation Equality agenda at national and regional levels.

Background

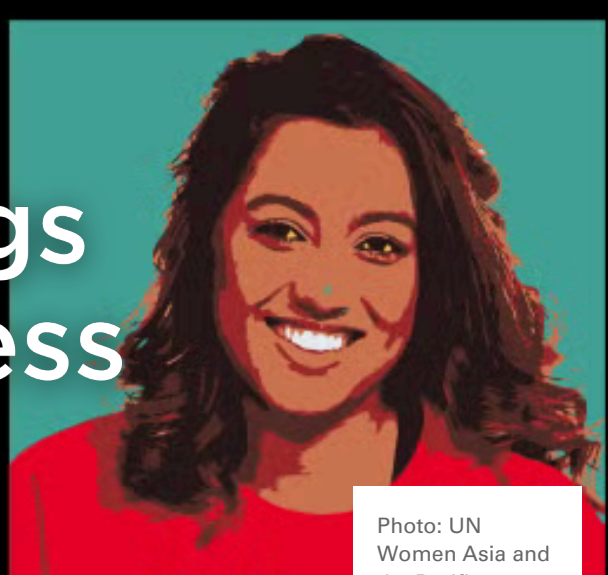
Generation Equality is a global initiative focused on accelerating gender equality by fostering political commitment, investment, and cross-sectoral collaboration. Through intergenerational, multi-stakeholder alliances, Generation Equality mobilizes organizations from all areas of society to advocate, innovate, and take decisive action toward gender equality. Central to its mission is the localization of the model - ensuring that impactful actions reach the grassroots, community, and regional levels for lasting, sustainable outcomes and local solutions drive change.

Following the 2023 [Generation Equality Midpoint Moment](#), stakeholders emphasized the critical need to deepen localization efforts to maximize effectiveness. This commitment to scaling up Generation Equality was underscored in the [Generation Equality 2023 Accountability Report](#), particularly through the Case Study on [Localization](#), and will align with the objectives and strategies outlined in the Action Coalitions. In response, a 2024 Dialogue Series has been organized to expand on these findings and align with the [Global Acceleration Plan](#) set forth by the Action Coalitions. This dialogue series offers a forum for stakeholders to assess progress, celebrate achievements, tackle challenges, and exchange key lessons on scaling up Generation Equality efforts.

This first dialogue, “Scaling Up Generation Equality to Advance Gender Equality at National and Regional Levels,” serves as a foundational meeting where participants from champion countries -including Tanzania, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Asia Pacific 30for2030 network - share their experiences and develop actionable steps to support localized Generation Equality efforts. Key stakeholders engaged in this dialogue included representatives from national governments, civil society, youth and adolescent groups, academia, the private sector, international organizations, media, and philanthropic organizations. This diverse group of participants provided a holistic perspective on the challenges and opportunities for advancing Generation Equality.

Objectives of this report

- Provide the summary of different approaches to scaling up action for Generation Equality at regional, national and sub-national level.
- Build awareness for the work being advanced by Commitment Makers and Signatories in the same region/countries.
- Share recommendations and actionable plans discussed at the Dialogue to scale up action for Generation Equality at national, subnational, and local levels, ensuring that strategies are practical, context-specific, and sustainable.



Key findings and progress

Photo: UN
Women Asia and
the Pacific

Asia-Pacific region:

Youth-led advocacy for Generation Equality

The Asia-Pacific “30 for 2030” Youth Network was born out of Generation Equality and brings together young decision-makers, eminent civic and business innovators, feminists, entrepreneurs, technology pioneers, educators, activists, artists, journalists, and more. The network acts as a voluntary advisory community and an accelerator of exceptional people with the vision, courage, and influence to drive positive change for a gender-equal world. The youth-driven network supports post-Generation Equality Forum engagement, UN Women and key partners, including the GEF Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers, by advising and co-creating on global advocacy initiatives.

Key Initiatives:

The Asia Pacific 30 for 2030 Youth Network has been instrumental in advancing Generation Equality in the region, focusing on key advocacy areas that include Gender-Based Violence, Economic Empowerment, Feminist movement building, Women, Peace, and Security, and support for marginalized groups, including LGBTIQ+ individuals and people with disabilities. Through a youth-driven, inclusive approach, the network contributes to a gender-equal future in Asia Pacific.

Challenges:

The network faces participation issues due to digital divides, language barriers, and visa restrictions. Additional resources from the central body (UN Women) and its allies could further bolster the network’s capabilities.

Successful outcomes:

The network has successfully strengthened its presence and influence in regional advocacy for gender equality. By leveraging its collaborative structure, the Asia Pacific 30 for 2030 Youth Network has fostered an environment for resource-sharing and joint initiatives, building a foundation for continued action and impact.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

bridging gender equality with youth engagement

Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant progress in localizing Generation Equality at the national level through a structured approach encompassing robust partnerships, focused action coalitions, and extensive youth engagement. The office organized local chapters of 4 Action Coalitions with a total of 23 commitment makers across governmental institutions, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and creative media platforms. Led by the Generation Equality Organizing Committee and co-chaired by the Agency for Gender Equality, this effort has included multi-stakeholder collaboration across government entities, CSOs, and the youth advisory board, emphasizing a cohesive strategy to implement national Generation Equality commitments.

Key accomplishments:

Bosnia and Herzegovina successfully localized four Action Coalitions (ACs) that focus on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Economic Justice and Rights (EJR), and Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ). Key initiatives included scaling up HPV immunization in Sarajevo Canton, piloting a Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) handbook, and conducting Bosnia's first baseline study on the care economy. The Action Coalition on FACJ produced the first report on gender data gaps in climate, environment, and biodiversity legislation, strengthening data-driven advocacy. Establishing a Generation Equality Organizing Committee with representatives from Resident Coordinator's office, UN agencies, civil society, and government is recommended to enhance coordination and ensure thematic leadership.

Notable progress:

Bosnia and Herzegovina's mid-point events demonstrated successful mobilization, gathering over 130 stakeholders from government, the international community, private sector, NGOs, academia, and media. The event recognized 23 commitment makers, who were honoured for their dedication to advancing Generation Equality. Another event focusing on youth engagement brought together 40 young people to discuss Action Coalition priorities, while a dialogue with the private sector fostered further collaboration on campaign goals.

Challenges:

The country's complex governance structure and the need for extensive consultations with international actors created resource strains. Recommendations include utilizing existing coordination mechanisms, such as the Gender Theme Group and the International Working Group on GE, to ensure constant information exchange and the effective onboarding of commitment makers. Employing sufficient human resources for campaigning and localization efforts is also crucial.

Successful outcomes:

Engagement events gathered over 130 stakeholders, demonstrating Bosnia and Herzegovina's capacity to unite diverse groups under a shared agenda for gender equality.

Burkina Faso:

Advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights

Burkina Faso has demonstrated a strong commitment to localizing Generation Equality by advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights through a series of coordinated actions at the national and regional levels. In collaboration with other West African countries, Burkina Faso participated in discussions leading to eight key regional commitments that aim to broaden sexual and reproductive health policies over the coming decade. To ensure actionable progress, a regional roadmap, built on the four main pillars of the action coalition, was developed. Each participating country, including Burkina Faso, established an operational plan for 2022–2026, outlining clear steps to implement these goals.

Key accomplishments:

Accomplishments in Burkina Faso have included the integration of multi-sectoral stakeholders, such as various government departments, technical partners, and civil society organizations, with the establishment of a national multi-stakeholder monitoring committee. Notable achievements across the initiative include training and equipping village midwives and community health workers, constructing health posts for internally displaced people, engaging parents' associations on positive social norms, and revising the Persons and Family Code.

Notable progress:

The creation of community health clubs and the training of over 7,000 young girls and local focal points in producing menstrual hygiene kits have strengthened grassroots engagement. Comprehensive sexuality education and menstrual hygiene management have also been incorporated into school curricula, ensuring sustainable impact through education.

Challenges:

Despite these successes, Burkina Faso has faced several challenges in scaling up its commitments. Key difficulties include the need for greater financial mobilization, challenges in adapting strategies to the region's security context, and leveraging the full results of prior interventions.

Successful outcomes:

Burkina Faso's approach emphasizes the power of grassroots health initiatives, underscoring the role of multi-stakeholder collaboration in advancing reproductive health rights. Furthermore, the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration - including partnerships with ministries, civil society, and financial partners - has proven instrumental in aligning efforts. Empowering community-based health workers through delegated responsibilities has been essential for localizing initiatives and extending services to those in need. These outcomes affirm Burkina Faso's proactive approach to strengthening Generation Equality objectives and advancing reproductive health rights across the region.

Kazakhstan:

Advancing Gender Equality Through Multistakeholder Partnerships

Kazakhstan is a dedicated partner in the Generation Equality initiative and has made significant progress by aligning its national policies with global commitments to advance gender equality. Guided by the President's address at the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, Kazakhstan joined the Action Coalitions on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Economic Justice and Rights. The establishment of the National Action Coalition Secretariat, in cooperation with UN Women, shows Kazakhstan's commitment to fostering gender equality as a foundation for sustainable development. At the strategic level, Kazakhstan has developed a multistakeholder framework involving government bodies, civil society organizations, youth-led initiatives, and private sector partners. This inclusive governance model ensures the effective localization of global Generation Equality commitments, fostering broad-based ownership and participation.

Key accomplishments:

Kazakhstan became the **first country in Central Asia to address GBV through the Spotlight Initiative**. This programme focuses on prevention, response, and survivor support, setting a regional benchmark for tackling GBV in the country. Furthermore, the government has established entrepreneurship centers for women across the country, providing training and resources to over 9,000 women. Investments in childcare support have further enabled women to achieve both personal and professional empowerment.

In 2023, Kazakhstan launched the Central Asian Alliance to End GBV with nearly half a million dollars in annual national budget funding. This initiative unites governments, civil society, and the private sector from across Central Asia, creating a network of over 500 civil society actors dedicated to preventing GBV. In the same year, Kazakhstan hosted the regional midpoint Generation Equality Forum, focusing on bridging the digital gender gap and enhancing women's roles in innovation. Following this event, Kazakhstan joined the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, hosting the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation.

Notable progress:

Kazakhstan has achieved a 60% reduction in its gender inequality index, reflecting substantial progress in various sectors. The country introduced a 30% quota for women and youth in parliament and local representative bodies, ensuring increased representation in decision-making processes. The share of women in managerial roles within state and quasi-state bodies has significantly increased, further advancing gender equality in governance.

Challenges:

Despite notable achievements, challenges persist. Financial constraints, entrenched social norms and coordination gaps among stakeholders hinders the implementation of the Generation Equality commitments. Addressing these requires enhancing financial resources to scale up gender equality initiatives.

It also requires involving cultural, religious, and community leaders to address social norms that hinder progress and streamlining efforts among government bodies, civil society organizations, and the private sector to avoid duplication and fragmentation.

Successful Outcomes:

Kazakhstan's commitment to gender equality has yielded significant outcomes. The establishment of GBV Response Centers and dedicated gender desks at police stations has improved support for survivors. Through the Central Asian Alliance to End GBV, Kazakhstan has catalyzed regional collaboration, fostering shared learning and resources. Initiatives addressing the digital gender gap have increased women's participation in technology and innovation sectors, driving inclusive economic growth.



Photo: National Volunteers Network/Kuralay Zharkymabyeva

Kenya:

Addressing gender-based violence through community mobilization and male engagement

Kenya is a co-leader of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and has developed a robust, multi-tiered governance structure to fulfil its commitments. At the highest level, the National Advisory Committee - comprised of representatives from the Office of the President, key cabinet secretaries, and UN agencies - guides the implementation of Generation Equality initiatives, mobilizing resources and securing political support. The National Steering Committee, which includes the State Department for Gender, various ministries, partners, civil society organizations, and private sector entities, oversees the national-level execution of these commitments. At the community level, County GEF Committees, consisting of both state and non-state actors, implement GEF goals locally, submitting regular reports to the National Steering Committee. The GEF Secretariat coordinates these efforts across national and county levels, developing annual work plans, organizing quarterly meetings, and ensuring the continuity of Generation Equality activities across Kenya.

Key accomplishments:

Key accomplishments include the establishment of a National Advisory Committee involving the Office of the President, key ministries, and the UN, along with a National Steering Committee, County GEF Committees, and a GEF Secretariat to coordinate activities.

Challenges:

Financial constraints, persistent social norms, and fragmented local coordination present obstacles. Key recommendations include engaging with local cultural, religious, and community structures to adapt initiatives to reflect local values, enhancing budgetary allocation for effective localization of GEF initiatives, and fostering continuous engagements for experience-sharing and collaboration.

Successful outcomes:

Outcomes include the establishment of Gender-Based Violence Response Centers (GBVRCs) in all county health facilities, gender desks at police stations, and partnerships such as the Jasiri Fund to aid GBV survivors. Efforts to engage men have notably reduced community acceptance of physical violence, and dialogues with Maasai 'Morans' on the impacts of FGM have shifted cultural attitudes. Judicial reforms, like establishing GBV courts and virtual hearings, have improved access to justice.

Securing political goodwill from the highest to the local level has proven crucial. Aligning GEF commitments with local authorities' goals and embedding them into annual work plans ensures sustained budgetary allocation. Moreover, leveraging political campaigns to include GEF commitments in politicians' manifestos can garner public support and accountability. Utilizing data for evidence-based decision-making further strengthens the case for political engagement.

Tanzania:

Pioneering economic justice and women's economic empowerment

Tanzania has made substantial progress in localizing the goals of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), with a focus on economic justice and rights. As a GEF Global Champion and co-leader of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights, Tanzania has adopted a multifaceted approach to foster gender equality and women's economic empowerment. The country's commitments include increasing women's economic opportunities by transforming the care economy, expanding access to decent work in both formal and informal sectors, enhancing women's control over productive resources, and promoting gender-responsive economic stimulus packages.

Key accomplishments:

Central to Tanzania's approach has been the establishment of a comprehensive governance and advisory structure to monitor and guide the implementation of GEF commitments. The National GEF Advisory Committee, comprising 25 members from both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, plays a critical role in providing high-level insights and recommendations to the President on GEF progress. This structure is further supported by the Tanzania Generation Equality Program (TGEP), a multi-sectoral initiative spanning from 2021 to 2026. TGEP is coordinated by the Ministry of Gender and serves as the primary mechanism for implementing Tanzania's GEF commitments, ensuring a cohesive approach across regions and sectors.

Progress and Initiatives:

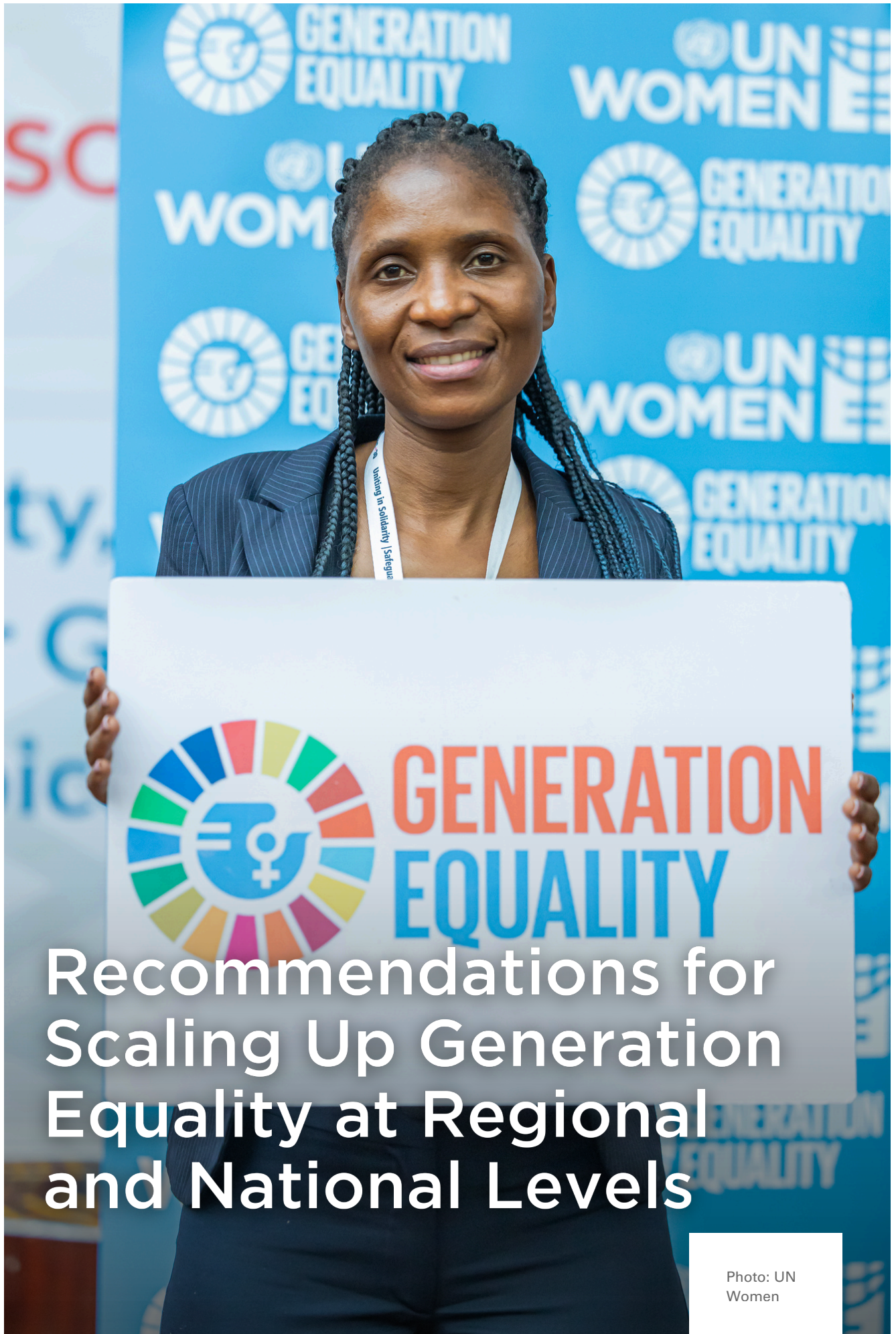
Progress has been made to strengthen local governance have led to the appointment of GEF focal points within Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in 26 regions and 184 councils on the mainland, alongside 5 regions and 6 councils in Zanzibar. This network of focal points is instrumental in promoting awareness, facilitating data collection, and driving implementation of GEF initiatives at the community level.

Challenges:

Fragmented coordination among stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, and government) and reliance on manual data systems have hindered efficiency. To address this, Tanzania plans to launch a GEF website and a multi-stakeholder dashboard to streamline collaboration. Additionally, utilizing the gender macro working group for macro policies that include representatives of different stakeholders is recommended.

Successful outcomes:

Progress has been made to strengthen local governance have led to the appointment of GEF focal points within Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in 26 regions and 184 councils on the mainland, alongside 5 regions and 6 councils in Zanzibar. This network of focal points is instrumental in promoting awareness, facilitating data collection, and driving implementation of GEF initiatives at the community level.



Recommendations for Scaling Up Generation Equality at Regional and National Levels

Photo: UN
Women



Recommendations for Scaling Up Generation Equality at Regional and National Levels

These recommendations aim to create a sustainable, inclusive framework for the effective localization of Generation Equality. This report highlights substantial progress and challenges across participating countries, showcasing a diverse set of strategies tailored to national contexts. Each country's experience reaffirms the value of collaboration, localized governance, and community engagement in driving the Generation Equality agenda. The actionable insights from this dialogue provide a roadmap to strengthen and sustain these efforts globally.

Governments

- Budget allocation: Allocate sufficient funds for the effective localization of the Generation Equality, as it is resource intensive.
- Political goodwill: Establish early rapport with political leaders to ensure their buy-in, fostering support for GE initiatives from the outset.
- Engage with local cultural, religious, and community structures to reflect and respect local values.
- Adopt a multi-sectoral approach by involving key stakeholders through a clear governance structure. This improves ownership and coordination as well as resource mobilization.
- Functional monitoring committees: Create a national committee to track commitments and progress, supporting transparency and accountability.
- Involve ministerial Leadership: Secure ongoing commitment from ministerial heads to lead and promote GE actions across departments.

For Civil Society and Youth

- Engage Local and Cultural Structures: Work with cultural, religious, and community groups to adapt GEF initiatives in ways that respect and reflect local values.
- Continuous Engagement and Sharing: Regularly convene with diverse stakeholders to exchange experiences, best practices, and challenges, promoting cross-learning and adaptation.
- Bridge digital gaps by using offline initiatives to increase inclusivity, especially for those affected by the digital divide, language barriers, or geographic restrictions.
- Support joint initiatives to co-create campaign products and resources, fostering shared ownership.

International Partners and Donors

- Encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships: Foster partnerships among government, civil society, religious groups, private sector, and financial partners to reinforce multisectoral approaches and shared accountability.
- Provide flexible funding: Enable dynamic funding arrangements to meet the needs of various GE local initiatives that may require adaptive budgeting.
- Amplify local stories, voices, and solutions; leverage local knowledge, foster connections, and strengthen coordination among stakeholders.

Countries Seeking Localized Processes

- Adopt a multi-sectoral approach: Engage diverse stakeholders through a structured governance framework to strengthen ownership, coordination, and mobilize resources effectively.
- Formalize mechanisms for impact measurement: Develop standardized tools for monitoring and measuring the effectiveness of GEF activities, ensuring accountability.

Generation Equality Stakeholders

- Establish Generation Equality Committees or Communities of Practice to enhance coordination, involving all stakeholders - UN agencies, civil society, youth activists, the private sector and government. The coordination can be led by different stakeholders on a rotational basis.
- Use existing coordination mechanisms, such as Gender Theme Groups, to act collectively and ensure constant exchange of information among stakeholders.
- Employ sufficient human resources to ensure proper localization of Generation Equality.
- Create comprehensive plans to onboard new commitment makers and sustain joint collaboration.



Conclusion

Photo: UN Women



Conclusions

The Generation Equality initiative has made significant progress in creating a sustainable, inclusive, and scalable framework for advancing gender equality at local, national, and regional levels. This report demonstrates that multistakeholder engagement, political commitment, robust governance, and localized adaptation are critical components in ensuring effective implementation of Generation Equality objectives. Through the collective actions of champion countries like Tanzania, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and youth-led networks in the Asia Pacific region, key insights and strategies have emerged, revealing both successes and areas for improvement in localizing gender equality goals.

Several countries have successfully integrated Generation Equality priorities into national policies and frameworks, with Tanzania and Kenya serving as notable examples in economic justice and GBV. In contrast, countries like Burkina Faso have excelled in advancing sexual and reproductive health, while Bosnia and Herzegovina have leveraged youth and stakeholder's engagement to strengthen their commitment to gender equality. Additionally, youth networks, such as the Asia Pacific 30 for 2030 Youth Network, have underscored the importance of inclusive, youth-driven leadership to maintain momentum.

While substantial progress has been achieved, challenges remain. Common barriers include inadequate data infrastructure, fragmented coordination among stakeholders, resource constraints, and persistent cultural norms that slow progress in areas such as GBV and economic equality. Addressing these challenges will require enhanced funding, streamlined coordination mechanisms, and continuous engagement across all levels.

The recommendations outlined in this report pave the way for Generation Equality stakeholders to further enhance their collective impact, making gender equality a reachable, sustainable goal across diverse contexts. By deepening localization, encouraging inclusive participation, and fostering strong political and financial support, we move closer to creating a world where gender equality is realized at all levels.



Photo: Courtesy of WILDAF Tanzania

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

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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