



GENDER ALERT NO. 4

THREE YEARS OF WAR: SUDANESE WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES OF HUMANITARIAN AND LOCAL PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS

 UN
WOMEN 

 FOR ALL
WOMEN
AND GIRLS

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THREE YEARS OF WAR: SUDANESE WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES OF HUMANITARIAN AND LOCAL PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS

Sudan Country Office

UN Women

Port Sudan, 2026



ACRONYMS LIST

AU	African Union
EER	Emergency Response Room
EU	European Union
FBA	Folke Bernadotte Academy
GBV	Gender-based violence
GBV AoR	Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility
GiHA Working Group	Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group
HNRP	Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan
IDP	Internally displaced persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INGO	International non-governmental organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LAS	League of Arab States
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SHF	Sudan Humanitarian Fund
SPLM-N	Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WAG	Women's Advisory Group
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene
WLO	Women-led organization

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Three years of war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has disproportionately affected Sudanese women and girls. They face repeated displacement and severe violations of human rights, including widespread and systematic sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), which have become defining tactics of this war. Ninety-four per cent of women-led organizations (WLOs) surveyed by UN Women in March 2026 report that conditions for women and girls have deteriorated since the start of the conflict, with 83 per cent indicating a significant worsening.

While women are paying the highest price of the conflict, they have been excluded from mediation and diplomatic efforts to end the war. Over the past three years, none of the formal peace negotiations have included a single Sudanese woman negotiator.

Yet, on the frontlines of the war, women have performed incredible, lifesaving work – advocating for peace and providing humanitarian assistance – much of which has gone unrecognized. Across the country, women have initiated grassroots peace initiatives. These include combating hate speech, urging fighters to lay down their weapons, mediating conflicts among internally displaced persons (IDP) as well as between them and host communities, and liaising directly with warring parties to negotiate the flow of food and access to healthcare, alongside continuing to demand meaningful representation in the formal peace processes. These organizations provide frontline support, including assistance to survivors of sexual violence, organizing local food distribution, and providing psychosocial support to those in need. This work – delivered through WLOs and women’s response rooms – has sustained communities where formal systems have failed.

However, women-led organizations continue to face major obstacles. Ninety-nine per cent of WLOs surveyed by UN Women report implementation

challenges linked to funding shortages, lack of supplies, insecurity, and administrative impediments caused by authorities. Eighty-five per cent report having been impacted by funding reductions or cuts in 2025.

Despite these challenges, locally led initiatives demonstrate that, even in the most difficult circumstances and in the absence of formal inclusion in peace processes, women are actively shaping peacebuilding efforts, bridging humanitarian access, and advocating for gender-sensitive solutions across Sudan. Without their inclusion, sustainable peace in Sudan will remain unattainable.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Conflict parties** must immediately cease hostilities, ensure safe civilian movement, guarantee humanitarian access, protect civilians, women peacebuilders and humanitarian workers, and hold perpetrators to account for all violations of international law, including sexual and gender-based violence, and ensure women and girls’ access to survivor centered justice.
- 2. Humanitarian actors** must prioritize women’s needs through integrated services (gender-based violence response, health, livelihoods) and meaningfully include WLOs in coordination and decision-making processes.
- 3. Mediators and peace actors** must guarantee at least 40 per cent women’s representation, ensure systematic inclusion of women’s priorities in negotiations, and provide clear mechanisms, capacity-strengthening support, and formal roles as signatories in agreements.
- 4. Donors** must provide flexible, multi-year funding to WLOs, remove barriers to accessing funding, and invest in their capacity to lead protection, humanitarian, and peacebuilding efforts.

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION

As the war enters its fourth year, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continues to intensify and spread, including in Darfur, Kordofan, Blue Nile, and White Nile regions. The conflict – marked by widespread human rights violations, some of which may amount to war crimes¹ – has resulted in the world’s worst humanitarian and displacement crisis for women and girls. In 2026, an estimated two-thirds of the population – including 17.1 million women and girls – need humanitarian assistance². Of these, 8.1 million are women of reproductive age³. Women and girls make up half of the more than 8.9 million people who are currently internally displaced and the nearly 4.5 million Sudanese refugees who have fled to neighboring countries⁴.

Humanitarian needs are not only immense in numbers but in their severity. Millions of women and girls lack access to basic needs, such as water, food, healthcare, and adequate shelter, while protection risks remain dire and access to aid and lifesaving services is severely constrained. Women and girls with intersecting vulnerabilities – such as internally displaced women and girls, women-headed households, and those with disabilities – have been

particularly affected by the conflict, with WLOs reporting internally displaced women and girls as the most severely affected group⁵.

Between 1 January and 15 March 2026 alone, drone attacks across the country reportedly killed over 500 civilians, including women and children, damaged or destroyed critical infrastructure such as hospitals, and displaced large numbers of people⁶. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 132,000 people have been displaced in the Kordofan region alone since October 2025, and more than 28,000 in the Blue Nile State since January 2026⁷. A recent mapping shows that South Kordofan is now the main hotspot for gender-based violence (GBV) outside Darfur⁸.

1. Reported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan.

2. OCHA. Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026.

3. WHO. 3 February 2026. Sudan: WHO Health Emergency Appeal 2026. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/sudan-who-health-emergency-appeal-2026>.

4. IOM DTM. 12 April 2026. Sudan Displacement and Return Snapshot Update 4. Available from: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-displacement-and-return-snapshot-4?close=true>, and UNHCR. 31 March 2026. Protection Brief: Gender-Based Violence. Sudan situation. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-situation-protection-brief-gbv-situation-march-2026>.

5. UN Women survey. March 2026.

6. OHCHR. 24 March 2026. Sudan: Sharp increase in civilian deaths as a result of growing drone warfare. Available from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2026/03/sudan-sharp-increase-civilian-deaths-result-growing-drone-warfare>

7. IOM DTM. 11 March 2026. Focused Flash Alert: Kordofan Region (5). Available from: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-focused-flash-alert-kordofan-region-5?close=true>, and IOM DTM. 7 April 2026. Focused Flash Alert: Blue Nile State (1). Available from: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-focused-flash-alert-blue-nile-state-1?close=true>.

8. Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility. 26 February 2026. Gender-Based Violence in Sudan: Crisis Overview and Response Priorities in 2026. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/gender-based-violence-sudan-crisis-overview-and-reponse-priorities-2026>

PURPOSE OF THE GENDER ALERT

This Gender Alert explores the disproportionate impact of three years of war on women and girls and highlights the critical leadership role Sudanese women are playing in sustaining communities, delivering humanitarian assistance, and advancing peacebuilding and mediation efforts. It also underscores a persistent gap between women's essential role on the ground and their exclusion from decision-making and formal peace processes.

METHODOLOGY

The data presented in this report is drawn from two focus group discussions with 14 women peacebuilders and activists across Sudan and a survey of 85 women-led and women's rights organizations, both gathered by UN Women in March 2026. These provided insights into Sudanese women's participation in humanitarian response, peace initiatives, and mediation efforts, as well as the key barriers they continue to face.

The analysis is complemented by a review of existing literature and data from the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), including reports from the United Nations Security Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, cluster updates and plans, and data from the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Working Group⁹.

Findings are based on the triangulation of these sources to capture both lived experiences and broader trends affecting women and girls across Sudan.



In 2026, 17.1 million women and girls require humanitarian assistance



Of these, 8.1 million are women of reproductive age



Women and girls make up half of the 8.9 million IDPs and the 4.5 million refugees in neighbouring countries



South Kordofan is now the hotspot for gender-based violence outside Darfur

9. GiHA Working Group in Sudan is co-chaired by UN Women, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and CARE.

THE DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF THE WAR ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

The conflict has had a devastating impact on Sudanese women and girls. They have been subjected to unimaginable atrocities, including sexual violence and starvation. These atrocities have been compounded by humanitarian access blockades and ongoing instability – leaving many women and girls cut off from essential humanitarian services, humanitarian assistance, and basic supplies across critical areas, such as protection, health, and food security.

Ninety-four per cent of women-led organizations (WLO) surveyed by UN Women report that the situation of women and girls has worsened since the start of the war, with 83 per cent reporting a significant deterioration¹. Seventy per cent of WLOs report having witnessed a significant increase in the lack of basic and essential services, such as food, shelter, sanitation, health care, and education during 2025, while the figure stood at 63 per cent in early 2026².



83% of Sudanese frontline workers report that the situation of women and girls has significantly worsened since the war started

“The conflict has significantly reshaped gender roles, with many women becoming primary providers and heads of households. At the same time, women and girls are facing multidimensional poverty and lack

adequate access to protection services that meet their needs”, noted a Sudanese woman working on the frontline of the response³.

Currently, more than 4.3 million women and girls remain internally displaced in Sudan⁴. Millions more have fled to neighbouring countries. Women and children constitute the majority of people living in displacement sites, where conditions are challenging and access to water, sanitation, and other essential needs is limited⁵. Displaced women and girls are at particular risk of violence, exploitation, and trafficking along displacement routes and in overcrowded displacement sites.

70%

of WLOs witnessed a significant increase in the lack of basic and essential services, such as food, shelter and sanitation in 2025

1. UN Women survey. March 2026.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. IOM DTM. 12 April 2026. Sudan Displacement and Return Snapshot Update 4. Available from: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-displacement-and-return-snapshot-4?close=true>.

5. UNFPA. March 2026. Situation Report on Sudan: January to February 2026. Available from: <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/unfpa-situation-report-sudan-january-february-2026#:~:text=Nearly%20three%20years%20into%20the,health%20facilities%20and%20mobile%20clinics>.

In recent months, women have reported horrifying accounts of systematic sexual violence along exit routes from El-Fasher, and similar concerns have been raised in the Kordofan and Blue Nile regions⁶.

Food insecurity in Sudan remains unprecedented, and the risk of famine persists in Kordofan and Darfur⁷. This year, an estimated 28.9 million people, including 13.6 million women and girls, need food and livelihoods support⁸. Across the country, some 4.2 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are expected to face acute malnutrition in 2026, representing a 13.5 per cent increase compared with 2025⁹.



4.2 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are expected to face acute malnutrition in 2026

Women and girls often eat last and least during times of crisis, frequently going hungry. For instance, in South Kordofan, 51 per cent of displaced households reported that at least one member had gone a day and night without eating in the past four weeks prior to data collection, while in West Kordofan the figure stood at 35 per cent, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)¹⁰.

CARE's analysis from Kordofan and Darfur shows that women are likelier to adopt negative coping mechanisms to deal with limited food, such as reducing food diversity or cutting entire food groups, with women from South Kordofan reportedly only having one meal a day¹¹.



In 2026, 13.6 million women and girls need food and livelihoods support

Currently, nearly 40 per cent of health facilities across Sudan are non-functional, leaving millions of women and girls without access to essential healthcare¹². Numerous attacks on health facilities – including maternity wards – and threats against health workers have further undermined healthcare provision. Between 20 March and 2 April 2026 alone, two hospitals in East Darfur and White Nile were reportedly attacked, resulting in the destruction of their maternity wards¹³.

Even where services remain available, access for women and girls is far from guaranteed. Gaps in awareness persist, with nearly one-third of women-headed households reporting limited knowledge of available maternal and reproductive health services¹⁴.

6. For example: OHCHR. 13 February 2026. "They were shooting us like animals": RSF final offensive and capture of besieged El Fasher (24-30 October 2025). Available from: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/sudan/2026-02-13-rsf-offensive-fasher-capture-1-en.pdf>, and Protection Cluster. 2 April 2026. Protection Alert – Blue Nile State, Sudan. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/protection-alert-blue-nile-state-sudan-2-april-2026>.

7. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. 5 February 2026. Famine threshold for acute malnutrition surpassed in two more North Darfur localities, crisis worsening in Greater Kordofan. Available from: <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/countries-in-focus-archive/issue-143/en/>, and Famine Early Warning Systems Network. February 2026. Famine thresholds no longer met, but credible risk of Famine persists in parts of Sudan. Available from: <https://fews.net/east-africa/sudan/food-security-outlook/february-2026>.

8. OCHA. Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026.

9. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. 5 February 2026. Famine threshold for acute malnutrition surpassed in two more North Darfur localities, crisis worsening in Greater Kordofan. Available from: <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/countries-in-focus-archive/issue-143/en/>.

10. IOM DTM. 11 March 2026. DTM Sudan Focused Flash Alert: Kordofan Region (5). Available from: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-focused-flash-alert-kordofan-region-5?close=true>.

11. CARE. 2 September 2025. Research Brief: Conflict, Agriculture, and Women in Sudan. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/research-brief-conflict-agriculture-and-women-sudan>.

12. WHO. 3 February 2026. Sudan: WHO Health Emergency Appeal 2026. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/sudan-who-health-emergency-appeal-2026>.

13. MSF. 2 April 2026. Strike on Al-Jabalain hospital results in 10 fatalities, including 7 medical staff. Available from: <https://www.msf.org/sudan-strike-hospitals-results-10-fatalities-including-7-medical-staff>, and OHCHR. 24 March 2026. Sudan: Sharp increase in civilian deaths as a result of growing drone warfare. Available from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2026/03/sudan-sharp-increase-civilian-deaths-result-growing-drone-warfare>.

14. GiHA Working Group. 26 December 2025. Key Gender Findings from the 2025 Sudan Multi-Sector Needs Assessment.

At the same time, insecurity, long and unsafe travel distances, financial constraints, stigma, and information barriers continue to prevent many from seeking care¹⁵.

According to the WLOs surveyed, limited access to essential services, particularly health care, is the most pressing challenge facing women and girls in the Kordofan region, and the second most significant concern in the Darfur region as of early 2026¹⁶.

Access to essential services and livelihood opportunities has also sharply deteriorated. According to Save the Children, millions of children in Sudan have been out of school for over 500 days, marking one of the longest education disruptions globally¹⁷.

As a Sudanese woman frontline responder explained, “the conflict has led to widespread school dropouts due to poverty and displacement,” adding that “many women are now forced into marginal or informal work, where they face various types of violations and extortion, including by security actors.”¹⁸



In 2026, 12.7 million people, mostly women and girls, require support for gender-based violence

“MANY WOMEN ARE NOW FORCED INTO MARGINAL OR INFORMAL WORK, WHERE THEY FACE VARIOUS TYPES OF VIOLATIONS AND EXTORTION, INCLUDING BY SECURITY ACTORS”

At the same time, protection risks have escalated significantly. An estimated 12.7 million people, predominantly women and girls, require support related to sexual and gender-based violence in 2026¹⁹. This is up from an estimated 3.1 million in 2023, and an increase of more than 500,000 people since 2025. It is nearly double the number in 2024 and four times higher than before the conflict²⁰. According to the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR), incidents of gender-based violence have increased across domestic violence, harassment, exploitation, and sexual violence²¹. Deepening insecurity and economic hardship are also driving harmful coping mechanisms. There has been a reported increase in practices such as female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage, while some reports also indicate that some women and girls face pressure to exchange sex or labor for food, shelter, or basic survival needs²².

Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-key-gender-findings-2025-sudan-multi-sector-needs-assessment-december-2025>.

15. Sudan Protection Cluster. 13 January 2026. Sudan Protection Cluster - Humanitarian Needs Response Plan 2026. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-protection-cluster-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-january-2026>.

16. UN Women survey. March 2026.

17. Save the Children. 22 January 2026. Sudan: Children have lost about 500 days of learning due to war in one of the world's longest school closures. Available from: <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/sudan-children-have-lost-about-500-days-learning-due-war-one-worlds-longest-school-closures>.

18. UN Women survey. March 2026.

19. Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility. 26 February 2026. Gender-Based Violence in Sudan: Crisis Overview and Response Priorities in 2026. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/gender-based-violence-sudan-crisis-overview-and-response-priorities-2026>.

20. Data from the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility in Sudan.

21. Ibid 19.

22. The Women's Refugee Commission, Global Refugee Youth Network, and Hopes and Actions Foundation. 20 June 2025. Futures on Hold: How War and Displacement Are Impacting Young Sudanese Women. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/futures-hold-how-war-and-displacement-are-impacting-young-sudanese-women>.

“WOMEN’S BODIES HAVE BECOME PART OF WAR STRATEGIES”

Overwhelming evidence points to sexual violence being systematically used as a tactic of war²³. While official figures represent a fraction of the scale of sexual violence due to severe underreporting linked to fear of stigma and retaliation among others, witness accounts point to a far more widespread targeting of women and girls, some as young as one-year-old²⁴. A Sudanese woman frontline responder noted that “women’s bodies have become part of war strategies”²⁵.

More than two-thirds of WLOs surveyed by UN Women also report witnessing a significant increase in sexual violence during 2025, and half of respondents report witnessing a significant increase in sexual violence in 2026²⁶.

In 2025, OHCHR identified more than 500 victims of sexual violence, including rape, gang rape, sexual torture, and slavery, sometimes resulting in death²⁷. Between January 2024 and November 2025, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provided care to more than 3,396 survivors of sexual violence across North and South Darfur, 97 per cent of whom were women and girls²⁸. According to MSF, nearly all (95

per cent) survivors in North Darfur and more than two-thirds (68 per cent) in South Darfur were reportedly assaulted by armed individuals²⁹.

Reports show that many women have been abducted for ransom using sexual violence, held in inhumane conditions, subjected to sexual slavery, or asked to demand exorbitant ransom payments for their release, at times reaching up to USD 10,000³⁰. Reports also show that women have been raped in front of their family members, intervening male relatives have been killed, and sexual violence has been accompanied by brutal violence, such as beating and whipping, while others have been subjected to invasive and degrading body searches at checkpoints³¹.

MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS

of frontline responders report having witnessed a significant increase in sexual violence during 2025

In February 2026, the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan established that the atrocities committed in and around El-Fasher during the takeover of the city, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, present indications pointing to genocide³².

23. Reported by the United Nations, including OHCHR and the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan alongside non-governmental organizations, such as the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa.

24. UNICEF has reported the rape of 16 children under the age of five, including four one-year old babies. See more: UNICEF. 3 March 2025. Children as young as one reported among survivors of rape during Sudan’s violent conflict. Available from here: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/children-young-one-reported-among-survivors-rape-during-sudans-violent-conflict>.

25. UN Women survey. March 2026.

26. Ibid.

27. OHCHR. 26 February 2026. High Commissioner Türk on Sudan: Let aid in and keep weapons out. Available from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2026/02/high-commissioner-turk-sudan-let-aid-and-keep-weapons-out>.

28. Médecins Sans Frontières’. 31 March 2026. “There is something I want to tell you - Surviving the sexual violence crisis in Darfur”. Available from: <https://www.msf.org/report-surviving-sexual-violence-crisis-darfur>.

29. Ibid.

30. For example: OHCHR. 13 February 2026. “They were shooting us like animals”: RSF final offensive and capture of besieged El Fasher (24-30 October 2025). Available from: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/sudan/2026-02-13-rsf-offensive-fasher-capture-1-en.pdf>; OHCHR. 18 December 2025. “Three days of terror with no safe refuge”: RSF offensive on Zamzam IDP camp, El Fasher (11-13 April 2025). Available from <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/sudan/ohchr-sudan-rapid-support-forces-zamzam-idp-camp-north-darfur-3-days-safe-refuge-offensive-april-terror-1-en.pdf>; Independent International Fact Finding Mission for the Sudan. 17 February 2026. Sudan: Hallmarks of Genocide in El-Fasher. Available from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc6177-sudan-hallmarks-genocide-el-fasher-report-independent>, and OHCHR. 7 November 2025. Sudan: UN experts appalled by reports of mass atrocities, unlawful killings and sexual violence in El Fasher Available from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/11/sudan-un-experts-appalled-reports-mass-atrocities-unlawful-killings-and>.

31. Ibid.

32. Independent International Fact Finding Mission for the Sudan. 17 February 2026. Sudan: Hallmarks of Genocide in El-Fasher.

WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATIONS AT THE FRONTLINES OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Sudanese women and women-led organizations (WLOs) are paying the highest price of the conflict while simultaneously serving as first responders to the humanitarian crisis. They operate as both frontline and last-mile responders, particularly where formal systems have collapsed, and international actors face access restrictions. A mapping by the GiHA Working Group identified 89 WLOs actively engaged in humanitarian response across Sudan.

In 2025 alone, the 85 women-led organizations surveyed by UN Women provided support to more than 17.5 million people in need, 67 per cent of whom were women and girls¹. The majority of these organizations (between 72 and 78 per cent) provided protection services, including gender-based violence prevention and response, psycho-social support, or awareness raising, and around half provided food and livelihoods programmes².

Women-led organizations are essential to successful humanitarian response because of their capacity to provide culturally sensitive services and navigate complex local dynamics, but also because they are often the only actors able to operate in insecure, remote, or hard-to-reach areas³. WLOs surveyed by UN Women report that their participation is driven by the urgent needs they witness every day and guided by their lived experiences.

One woman working as a frontline responder noted, “what drives me to work is my sense of responsibility toward my community, especially in the difficult

In 2025, the 85 surveyed WLOs provided support to more than

17.5 MILLION PEOPLE

conditions it is going through, and my desire to create real change that contributes to improving the lives of the most affected groups. I am inspired by seeing the direct positive impact of our work on women, girls, and local communities.”

Sudanese women also play a central role as part of an estimated 20,000 volunteers across 700 Emergency Response Rooms (ERR), a type of grassroots mutual aid network which is often led by youth and women within the communities they serve⁴. Within these efforts, women’s response rooms stand out as a powerful example of women’s leadership in their communities and their commitment to ensuring that the specific needs of women and

1. UN Women survey. March 2026.

2. Ibid. Other services include WASH, shelter and non-food items, multipurpose cash, health, education.

3. UNFPA and GBV AoR. 8 September 2025. Frontline Resilience – Mapping the Role and Needs of Women-Led Organizations in Sudan. Available from: <https://sudan.unfpa.org/en/publications/frontline-resilience-%E2%80%93-mapping-role-and-needs-women-led-organizations-sudan>.

4. Cordaid. 25 February 2026. ‘We’re Already There’: Sudan’s Community-Led Response to the World’s Largest Humanitarian Crisis. Available from: <https://www.cordaid.org/en/news/emergency-response-rooms-sudan/>.

girls are not overlooked. These women’s groups, which were originally informal coffee gatherings for women to share their experiences, now provide targeted support to women and girls. They monitor, document, and respond to cases of sexual violence, offer medical and psychosocial support, and support displaced women and girls through awareness campaigns on mental health and seasonal diseases, as well as distribute hygiene supplies, and provide recreational activities for out-of-school children⁵.

As one Sudanese woman frontline responder explained, “humanitarian assistance was arriving without considering gender needs, so we began addressing this issue. We formed a women’s group and started engaging with men and humanitarian organizations to advocate for gender-sensitive aid and for women’s involvement in this issue. As a result of our discussions with humanitarian organizations, sanitary pads began to be included in distributions and were distributed through women’s groups. This was really important for us.”⁶



83% of WLOs participate in at least one coordination forum at national or regional level



72% of them are members of the protection cluster

WLOs are also contributing to humanitarian coordination mechanisms and advocating for more gender-responsive humanitarian assistance, including through the Women’s Advisory Group (WAG) to the Humanitarian Country Team, for which UN Women serves as the secretariat.

“AS A RESULT OF OUR ENGAGEMENT, SANITARY PADS BEGAN TO BE INCLUDED IN DISTRIBUTIONS AND WERE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH WOMEN’S GROUPS. THIS WAS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR US”

The WAG provides a formal platform for women leaders and WLOs to directly influence humanitarian policy, coordination, and funding decisions. It has engaged in key national processes – including the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) and localization strategy – ensuring that women’s perspectives inform response priorities, protection strategies, and accountability frameworks at the highest level.

Eighty-three per cent of WLOs surveyed by UN Women report participating in one or more coordination forums at either national or regional level, with 72 per cent being members of the protection cluster⁷. Many of them (between 31 and 38 per cent) also report being part of the health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and emergency shelter and non-food item clusters⁸.

5. New Humanitarian. 28 January 2025. “Strength in solidarity”: How mutual aid is helping women survive Sudan’s war. Available from: <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2025/01/28/how-mutual-aid-helping-women-survive-sudan-war>.

6. UN Women focus group discussion. March 2026.

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid. WLOs also report being part of other coordination forums and clusters.

WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATIONS LEADING LOCAL MEDIATION AND PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS

Across Sudan, women and women-led organizations are leading grassroots peace initiatives and conflict prevention and mediation efforts, often adopting innovative ways to advocate for peace. UN Women's survey shows that nearly half of the 85 WLOs surveyed play a role in community mediation and peacebuilding, and a third in conflict resolution.

At the community level, women-led organizations have countered hate speech by training media personnel and organizing trust-building activities among communities, and mediated disputes among IDPs as well as between IDPs and host communities. They have also worked with young men to urge them to lay down their weapons and prevent them from joining armed groups. One WLO alone helped over 110 young people disarm, with some returning to their studies and others relocating safely abroad¹. WLOs have trained women in peacebuilding, negotiation, and community dialogue, and facilitated their participation in community peace committees that provide platforms to address tribal tensions, resource disputes, and local conflicts².

WLOs have also adopted innovative ways to advocate for peace, from using art and creative advocacy for peacebuilding, to transforming traditional cultural influencers such as Hakamat singers - who once used their voices to mobilize communities for war into advocates for peace - and introducing digital and technological tools for community peace initiatives and advocacy³.

NEARLY HALF

of the 85 WLOs surveyed play a role in community mediation and peacebuilding

UN Women, in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), has delivered negotiation and mediation training series to prepare women leaders for formal peace processes, political dialogue, and transitional governance. These programmes strengthen skills in negotiation, advocacy, and structured dialogue, enabling women to engage more effectively in both local and national decision-making spaces.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how women's leadership bridges community-level mediation and formal peace processes, shaping both immediate responses and longer-term peace and governance outcomes.

1. UN Women focus group discussion. March 2026.

2. Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. 2026.

3. Ibid.



Sudanese women interviewed by UN Women have negotiated directly with the SAF and the RSF for local ceasefires and access

Sudanese women interviewed by UN Women further report having negotiated directly with the SAF and the RSF for local ceasefires and access. According to them, this led in one case to “a few days without aerial bombardment” and in another case to “the flow of food and access to healthcare in a besieged town”⁴.

In one example, a woman-led organization launched a women’s peace initiative to open roads. A group of 13 women negotiators went through numerous rounds of negotiations with the SAF to get permission to meet with representatives of the RSF and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N) to negotiate the opening of roads for women, children, and people with medical needs:

“We started dialogue with the Sudanese Armed Forces. It was very difficult. We met with them under extremely hard wartime conditions. We had more than five, six, seven meetings with them to convince them that we as women were suffering from the siege and road closures. Women were giving birth without anesthesia. [...] There were children dying from malnutrition and chronic illness. There was also an ambulance [...] carrying a woman who needed kidney dialysis; she died on the way because they were not allowed to pass. All this pushed the women in the initiative to confront the armed forces [SAF] strongly and insist on being allowed to meet both RSF and the SPLM-N in order to save lives.”

After successful negotiations led by these women, the SAF approved meetings between the women mediators and the RSF representatives. These women then successfully persuaded the

RSF representatives to meet with them; some of them headed to the RSF areas, and others to SPLM-N areas:

“Four women travelled through very difficult terrain – valleys and forests. [...] They met the commander there and stayed for two or three days as his guests, convincing him that the road had to be opened and that treatment and food for children had to be allowed through. One of the results was that goods started to flow. After a short time, women and children began moving through the southern road [...] by tuk-tuk. It was very difficult, but it became a route for treatment and access to doctors. [...]”.



WLOS have adopted innovative ways to advocate for peace, from using art for peacebuilding, to transforming traditional cultural influencers, such as Hakamat singers, to advocates for peace

4. UN Women focus group discussion. March 2026.

FUNDING SHORTAGES, SECURITY RISKS, AND A LACK OF INFLUENCE LIMIT REACH

Despite women and WLOs' critical role in responding to the humanitarian crisis and local peacebuilding and conflict resolution, they continue to face significant challenges, including severe funding shortages, increasing security risks, and limited influence in decision-making. These constraints are disrupting their ability to sustain essential services and continue to resolve conflicts.

Eighty-five per cent of WLOs surveyed by UN Women were affected by funding reductions or cuts in 2025¹. According to them, this resulted in a reduction in services specifically targeting women (almost 57 per cent) and overall availability of services (47 per cent). The latest available data from 2024 also shows that WLOs received less than three percent of humanitarian funding directly in Sudan². War-related disruptions, including the destruction of offices, loss of records, unstable internet, disrupted banking systems, and staff shortages have created administrative barriers for local actors seeking international and humanitarian funding³.

99%

of WLOs have faced implementation challenges in the past year, linked to funding shortages, security risks, and administrative impediments

Ninety-nine per cent of the surveyed WLOs highlighted that they had faced implementation challenges over the past year, linked to funding shortages, lack of supplies, security risks, and administrative impediments caused by authorities⁴. In the Kordofan and Darfur regions, the main challenges reportedly relate to administrative impediments, such as organizational registration with different levels of authorities, introduction of new requirements, and inconsistent or delayed permit approvals⁵.

One Sudanese woman frontline worker noted that “after three years of conflict in Sudan, women and girls are the most affected, yet they are also at the forefront of the response. We do not ask for sympathy—we demand direct, flexible funding for local women-led organizations, strengthening protection and psychosocial support services, and ensuring women’s meaningful participation in decision-making. We also call for the inclusion of women’s emergency rooms within coordination structures.”

1. 53 per cent of the surveyed WLOs reported having received direct funding from international partners in 2025. UN Women survey. March 2026.

2. In 2024, OCHA reported that 3 per cent of Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) allocations went directly to women-led organization according to a Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group analysis of all SHF funding 2024.

3. UN Women and OCHA study. January 2026.

4. UN Women survey. March 2026.

5. Ibid.

“WE DO NOT ASK FOR SYMPATHY— WE DEMAND DIRECT, FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR LOCAL WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATIONS AND ENSURING WOMEN’S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING”

Security risks, including the risk of arrest, detention, and kidnapping of women humanitarian workers and women activists, and gender-based violence during movement, continue to restrict women-led organizations’ ability to operate. One in 5 WLOs surveyed by UN Women reported having received targeted intimidation or threats⁶. In the Kordofan region, WLOs continue to provide humanitarian aid and services to women and girls, often with a great personal risk, including kidnappings of women humanitarian workers and women activists⁷.



78 gender-related humanitarian incidents affecting WLOs were documented between June - November 2025



Nearly half of them directly restrict women’s leadership or access to assistance

Between June and November 2025, the GiHA Working Group documented 78 gender-related humanitarian access incidents affecting women-led organizations across Sudan⁸. These incidents included threats, harassment, surveillance, interference with programming, movement restrictions, denial of access, arbitrary administrative barriers, and reputational targeting. Such incidents directly disrupted the delivery of life-saving services – including GBV response, case management, safe spaces, psychosocial support, and sexual and reproductive health services – while placing women humanitarians at heightened personal risk. Nearly half of all documented incidents directly restricted women’s leadership or women’s access to assistance⁹.

Women also continue to face challenges in meaningful participation in decision-making processes, and many remain sidelined or marginalized from decision-making. Seventeen per cent of WLOs surveyed by UN Women report that they do not participate in coordination mechanisms, effectively excluding them from influencing decisions and representing their interventions¹⁰. A key contributing factor is limited familiarity with humanitarian coordination structures, including the cluster system, and their role in shaping humanitarian responses.

To address these challenges, UN Women has mapped more than 100 WLOs across Sudan to facilitate their participation in different coordination platforms. UN Women has also identified key constraints to WLOs’ access to funding (administrative requirements, risk compliance, and limited transparency) and supported the strengthening of their organizational capacities to improve their eligibility for future funding.

6. UN Women survey. March 2026.

7. GiHA Working Group. 24 March 2026. Gender Alert: Escalation of hostilities in Kordofan. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/gender-alert-escalation-hostilities-kordofan>.

8. GiHA Working Group. December 2025. Gendered Humanitarian Access Impediments Affecting Women, Girls and Women-led Organizations.

9. Ibid.

10. UN Women survey. March 2023.

THE EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM OFFICIAL PEACE PROCESSES

While women are paying the highest price of the conflict, they have been excluded from mediation and diplomatic efforts to end the war. Over the past three years, none of the formal peace negotiations have included a single Sudanese woman negotiator.

Over the past three years, states, intergovernmental organizations, and regional organizations have undertaken several, often fragmented, diplomatic initiatives and mediation efforts to end the conflict. The most notable of these have been the Jeddah peace process led by the United States and Saudi Arabia in 2023, the Geneva talks led by the United States alongside Saudi Arabia and Switzerland in 2024, the Geneva proximity talks led by the United Nations in 2024, and the current Quad-led mediation efforts to achieve a ceasefire and the supporting Quintet process to facilitate a Sudanese-led civilian dialogue¹. Although gender provisions of the Juba Peace Agreement set a 40 per cent quota for women in decision-making positions², none of the formal peace negotiations over the past three years have included a single Sudanese woman negotiator.

A Sudanese woman peace advocate highlighted that, “the international community and international mediators have failed Sudanese women. They have shown that they are not committed to including women in the formal peace processes. They have the leverage and they have decided not to use it.”



Over the past three years, none of the formal peace negotiations have included a single Sudanese woman negotiator

In September 2025, the Quad proposed a phased peace plan, which was rejected by the SAF and endorsed by the RSF. The proposal did not include any reference to the role or rights of women³. In February 2026, the United States Senior Advisor on Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs announced that progress was being made with both the SAF and the RSF towards an agreement on a comprehensive peace plan that would include an immediate humanitarian truce, sustained humanitarian access and protection of civilians, a permanent ceasefire, a political transition to a civilian-led government, and post-war reconstruction⁴. However, no formal agreement has been signed to date, and it remains unclear whether women’s participation and rights will be reflected in any future agreement.

1. The Quad is formed by the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates. The Quintet comprises of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the League of Arab States (LAS), the United Nations (UN), and the European Union (EU).

2. Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan Between the Transitional Government of Sudan and the parties to Peace Process. 3 October 2020. Available from: <https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/default/files/document/files/2024/05/juba20agreement20for20peace-20in20sudan.pdf>.

3. U.S. Department of State. 12 September 2025. Joint Statement on Restoring Peace and Security in Sudan. Available from: <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/09/joint-statement-on-restoring-peace-and-security-in-sudan/>.

4. For instance. Sudan Tribune. 4 February 2026. US advisor says Quad reaches peace deal for Sudan. Available from: <https://sudantribune.com/article/310226>.

“THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIATORS HAVE FAILED SUDANESE WOMEN. THEY HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY ARE NOT COMMITTED TO INCLUDING WOMEN IN THE FORMAL PEACE PROCESSES. THEY HAVE THE LEVERAGE AND THEY HAVE DECIDED NOT TO USE IT”

The 2023 Jeddah talks did not include any women negotiators nor sufficiently consult women’s organizations⁵. While the talks culminated in a declaration signed by both parties, including a commitment to prevent sexual violence⁶, this agreement was immediately broken, and the talks were suspended by the end of the year. A delegation of 15 Sudanese women joined the 2024 Geneva talks and conducted advocacy meetings with several key stakeholders and delegates of Member States, but these talks failed to secure the participation of both sides. Women’s participation, when included, has often been limited to margins rather than meaningful decision-making, with consultations occurring on the sidelines of peace talks rather than as part of negotiations.

The United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) alone have convened several consultations with Sudanese women over the past three years. Most recently, with the support of UN Women, a delegation of 10 Sudanese women participated in consultations on the margins of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in February 2026 as part of the Quintet process.

In parallel, consultations have also taken place inside Sudan, including in Khartoum and Port Sudan, ensuring that the perspectives of women directly affected by the conflict are reflected alongside those of Sudanese women displaced across the region.

Earlier initiatives also sought to engage Sudanese women. The AU High-Level Panel on Sudan, which included Dr. Speciosa Wandira-Kazibwe as one of its three members, committed to engaging women to help ensure their inclusion in a civilian-led political transition. The Panel convened the Kampala Conference in October 2023 and the Sudan Women’s Peace Dialogue in July 2024, which gathered 110 women from diverse backgrounds. These consultations culminated in a communiqué articulating their key demands, including parity in all peace and governance processes and the centrality of women’s rights and security in any decisions about Sudan’s future⁷.



Sudanese women’s message has been clear: participation at every stage of the peace process is mandatory and must be meaningful, not limited to advisory consultations

5. UN Women. 9 April 2025. For lasting peace in Sudan, women must lead peace efforts. Available from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2025/04/for-lasting-peace-in-sudan-women-must-lead-peace-efforts>.

6. U.S. Department of State. 11 May 2023. Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan. Available from: <https://2021-2025.state.gov/jeddah-declaration-of-commitment-to-protect-the-civilians-of-sudan/>.

7. African Union. 25 November 2023. Communiqué of the 1185th meeting of the PSC, held at the Ministerial level on 15 November 2023, on the Situation in Sudan. Available from: <https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1185th-meeting-of-the-psc-held-at-the-ministerial-level-on-15-november-2023-on-the-situation-in-sudan>, and UN Women. Communiqué adopted at the Sudan Women’s Dialogue. 11 July 2024. Available from: <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2024/07/communique-adopted-at-the-sudan-womens-dialogue>.

Throughout these consultations and convenings, Sudanese women’s message has been clear: participation at every stage of the peace process is mandatory and must be meaningful, not limited to advisory consultations⁸. Sudanese women have also called for a formal coordination mechanism to ensure that women’s perspectives and priorities are systematically reflected in ongoing mediation and political processes.

Despite their exclusion from formal peace processes, Sudanese women activists have continued to demand meaningful access, influence, and participation in efforts to end the conflict. Women’s groups and networks have mobilized independently to advance peace, engaging with both conflict parties and the sponsors of diplomatic initiatives, creating spaces for coordination and joint advocacy. Among the variety of these networks are the Peace for Sudan Network⁹ and the Mothers of Sudan campaign, which were established by Sudanese women as a response to the ongoing conflict and seek to amplify women’s voices and promote peaceful solutions to the crisis¹⁰.

These locally led initiatives demonstrate that, even in the absence of formal inclusion, women are actively shaping peacebuilding efforts, bridging humanitarian access, and advocating for gender-sensitive solutions across Sudan.

The Peace for Sudan network

The Peace for Sudan network comprises of 49 WLOs and peace initiatives from across the country. The network, which was originally supported by UN Women but now operates independently, advocates for women’s participation in peace efforts, while its members continue to provide assistance to displaced women and girls and survivors of sexual violence amid the ongoing conflict. Since the beginning of the conflict, the platform has produced multiple statements, including one addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General, and has actively engaged in high-level advocacy meetings to demand peace and meaningful inclusion of women, calling for at least 50 per cent representation in peace processes. Many of these efforts have been organized in cooperation with UN Women and the African Union, including the May 2023 virtual high-level meeting, the Kampala Conference in October 2023, and the Sudan Women’s Peace Dialogue in Kampala in July 2024. The Network’s “Kampala Feminist Declaration” has shaped key regional and international policy discussions, including the AU Women’s Dialogue in Uganda, the AU-IGAD Inter-Sudanese Political Dialogue in Addis Ababa, and the 2024 Geneva peace talks. As a result, a technical committee has been established to ensure women’s voices are reflected in discussions on Sudan’s path toward sustainable and equitable peace.

8. This has been emphasized throughout the consultations with Sudanese women by the United Nations and convenings organized by the United Nations and the African Union.

9. See more: UN Women. 22 May 2023. African Women Leaders unite in solidarity with women in Sudan. Available from: <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2023/05/african-women-leaders-unite-in-solidarity-with-women-in-sudan>; UN Women. 25 October 2023. Sudanese women advocate for peace at conference in Uganda. Available from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2023/10/sudanese-women-advocate-for-peace-at-conference-in-uganda>; and UN Women. 17 July 2024. Sudanese women call for urgent protection amid escalating conflict. Available from: <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2024/07/sudanese-women-call-for-urgent-protection-amid-escalating-conflict>.

10. Other women-led initiatives include the Women Against War Network, the Women and Children Organization for Development and Peace, Women call to Resist War and Demand its End Initiative, Eastern Sudan Women’s Initiative to Stop the War, Women’s Call Initiative for Rejection and Cessation of War, Women in the Field, Ceasefire Initiative - Darfur Sector, Solidarity of Mothers in Gezira for Shelter, Eastern Sudan Women’s Alliance, and the Darfur Women’s Platform.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONFLICT PARTIES

Immediately cease all acts of violence, hold perpetrators to account for all human rights violations, including sexual violence, and ensure the protection of women, girls, men, and boys in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Ensure unimpeded, safe, timely, and sustained humanitarian access to affected populations and uphold respect for humanitarian operations and personnel.

Ensure safe and non-discriminatory movement of civilians, particularly women and girls, attempting to seek safety or leave areas of active conflict.

Protect women humanitarian and peace workers, women health workers, women volunteers, women human rights defenders, women-led organizations' staff, women journalists, and activists from threats, attacks, killings, and reprisals.

Prevent and prohibit conflict-related sexual violence, including by issuing clear command orders, and ensure access to survivor-centered services and justice.

PEACE ACTORS AND MEDIATORS

Ensure at least 40 per cent representation of women in all diplomatic and peace initiatives, decision-making bodies, community committees, and coordination structures at all levels.

Take concrete measures to ensure women's inclusion and the consideration of their priorities in the peace processes, including the establishment of a formal coordination mechanism to ensure women's perspectives and priorities are systematically reflected in ongoing mediation and political processes

Provide capacity-strengthening and training for women peacebuilders and establish safe and accessible platforms for coordination and the development of a unified women's agenda and peace priorities.

Ensure gender equality and women's rights are explicitly embedded in negotiation agendas and peace agreements, and guarantee women's participation as signatories to final agreements, demonstrating ownership of the peace processes.

Ensure accountability mechanisms are integrated into peace processes to address violations, including conflict-related sexual violence and other gender-based crimes.

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

Prioritize cross-sectoral interventions centering women's needs and empowerment, such as GBV response, dignity kits, mental health and psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), women's participation in accountability to affected people mechanisms, and emergency livelihoods for women and girls.

Expand regional humanitarian coordination mechanisms to include local WLOs and women's emergency rooms and build feedback mechanisms where these actors can share information with decision-makers and regional cluster leads.

Ensure the systematic, safe, and meaningful participation of women and WLOs in all humanitarian negotiations and advocacy platforms addressing the Sudan crisis, including global, regional, and in-country forums/negotiation platforms such as the Humanitarian Country Team, regional refugee response meetings, and cross-border coordination mechanisms.

Systematically engage and consult with women on the ground and ensure their safe, dignified, and equitable access to aid is protected from any exploitation.

Mitigate gender-related barriers for women accessing assistance and services by adapting interventions to women's needs, expectations, safety risks and social norms.

Increase direct partnerships with WLOs in service delivery, not only as implementing partners but as decision-makers in programme design and prioritization.

DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Increase direct, flexible, multi-year funding directly to WLOs, through simplified and accessible funding modalities, recognizing their critical role in conflict-resolution, peacebuilding, and emergency response.

Ensure funding mechanisms are transparent and accessible, addressing administrative barriers that currently limit WLOs from receiving direct support.

Provide capacity strengthening and training opportunities for WLOs, focusing on negotiation and mediation, emergency protection, case management, humanitarian architecture, as well as institutional support.

Meaningfully consult local partners to ensure their perspectives shape program design and decision-making. Treat women and women-led and women's rights organizations as equal partners, respecting their expertise, and lived experience.

Track and report on funding allocations to WLOs, including through gender-responsive and localization indicators, to ensure accountability.

Apply sustained political and diplomatic pressure to ensure women's meaningful inclusion in all Sudan-related peace initiatives and processes.

UN WOMEN EXISTS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

As the lead United Nations entity on gender equality and secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, we shift laws, institutions, social norms and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. Our partnerships with governments, women's movements and the private sector, coupled with our coordination of the broader United Nations, deliver lasting changes. We make strides in four areas: leadership, economic empowerment, freedom from violence, and peace, security and humanitarian action.

UN Women keeps the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.

