

# UN WOMEN ESARO COORDINATION STRATEGY 2026–2029 AT A GLANCE

ACCELERATING SYSTEM-WIDE GENDER EQUALITY IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



## WHAT THIS STRATEGY DOES

The ESARO Coordination Strategy (2026–2029) strengthens how the UN system works together to deliver gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) across East and Southern Africa.

It positions UN Women as a regional coordination leader, ensuring:






- ◆ Coherent UN action on gender equality and empowerment of women
- ◆ Stronger accountability for gender equality results
- ◆ Aligned investments on gender equality
- ◆ Measurable results for women and girls

## REGIONAL COORDINATION FOOTPRINT

### ESARO








UN Women Country Offices with full Representative/Representation

-  Coordination Support to RC and UNCTs
-  GTG Leadership
-  Joint Programming Integrating Gender Equality
-  Policy Engagement
-  Capacity Building



No Physical Presence Countries

-  Regional Coordination Support on Gender Equality
-  Support to RC Office and UNCTs
-  GTG Facilitation
-  UNSDCF Technical Support
-  Knowledge Sharing

NPPC Coverage: **East Africa** (Djibouti, Eritrea); **Southern Africa** ( Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Madagascar, Zambia); **Indian Ocean Island States** (Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles)

# STRATEGIC GOAL

A coordinated, accountable, and gender-responsive UN system accelerating gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in East and Southern Africa.

## ESARO COORDINATION VALUE PROPOSITION

### What ESARO Delivers



Regional Leadership and Convening Power



Technical Support to UNCTs and RCs



Direct Support to NPPCs



Accountability Tools ( SWAP, GEM)



Regional Partnerships (AU, RECs)



Knowledge and Learning Platforms

### Why It Matters



Aligns UN system and partners around shared GEWE priorities



Strengthens gender integration in UN planning frameworks



Ensures no country is left behind despite no in-country presence



Drives performance, transparency and financing for GEWE



Aligns global commitments with regional policy frameworks



Scales good practices across countries



## CORE COORDINATION MECHANISMS

**UN Women's coordination is operationalized through established inter-agency platforms and accountability tools that enable joint planning, implementation, and monitoring of gender equality commitments. These mechanisms—such as Gender Theme Groups, UNCT-SWAP, and the Gender Equality Marker—ensure coherence, avoid duplication, and strengthen system-wide accountability across the UN system.**



**Gender Theme Groups (GTGs)**



**UNCT - SWAP Gender Scorecard**



**Gender Equality Marker (GEM)**



**Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA)**



**Regional Coordination Platforms (RCPs/OIBCs)**

- ◆ Drive coherence
- ◆ Enable joint action
- ◆ Ensure accountability
- ◆ Connect regional -> country levels



## SIX THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The strategy focuses on six priority areas that reflect the most pressing gender equality challenges in East and Southern Africa while aligning with global commitments. These thematic areas serve as entry points for coordinated UN action, joint programming, and policy engagement to deliver transformative results for women and girls.

Women's Economic Empowerment ; Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action

Gender-Responsive Governance and Leadership

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Gender Data and Statistics



## HOW THE STRATEGY DELIVERS RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION MODEL

### PHASE 1 (Years 1-2) – Build Foundations

- Strengthen GTGs across all UNCTs
- Deploy SWAP and GEM tools
- Integrate gender in CCAs and UNSDCFs
- Build UNCT and partner capacity
- Establish regional knowledge platforms

### PHASE 2 (Years 3-4) – Scale Impact

- Expand joint UN programmes
- Strengthen partnerships with RECs
- Increase financing for GEWE
- Scale coordination models across countries
- Strengthen monitoring, evaluation and learning



## ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESULTS TRACKING



% UNCTs with functional GTGs



% UNSDCFs integrating GEWE



% UNCTs meeting SWAP Standards



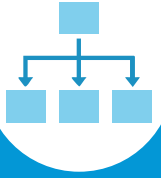
% Financing Tracked through GEM



% Joint Programmes Advancing GEWE

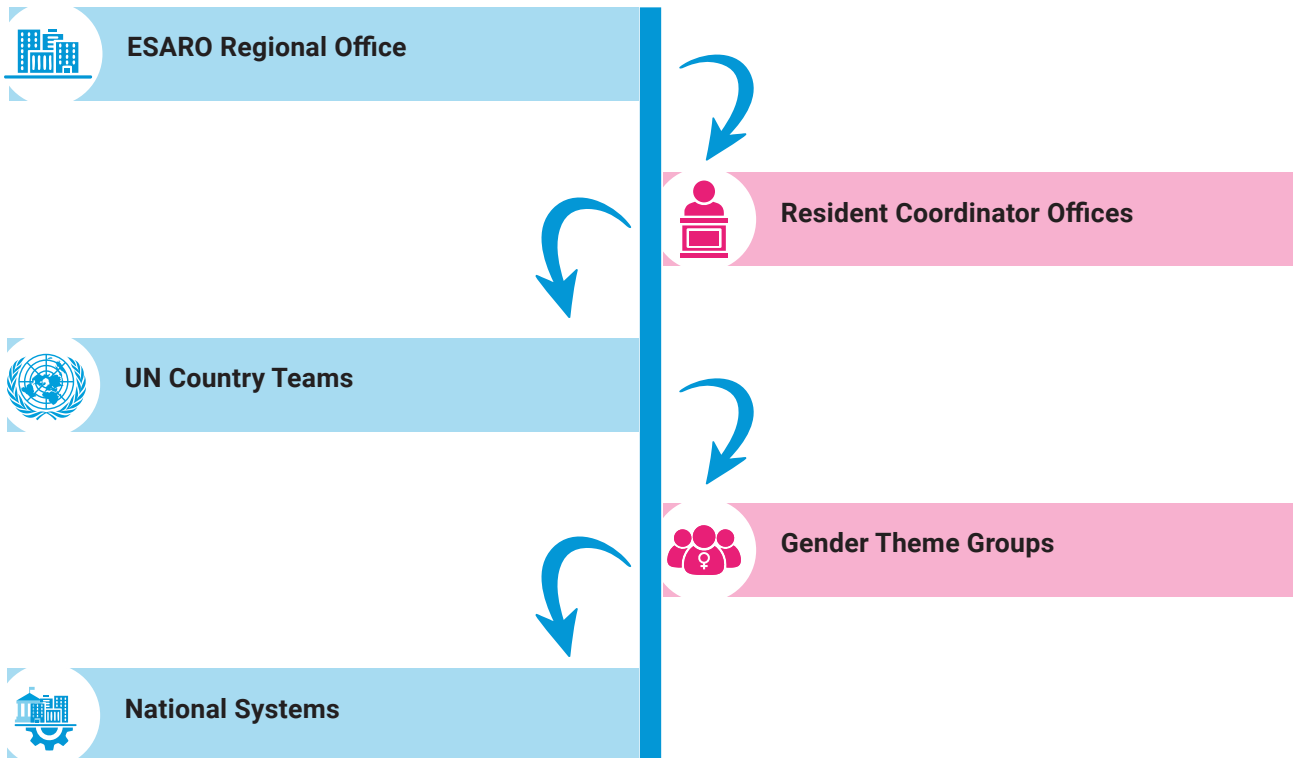
### Aligned with

- ◆ UN Women Global Coordination Strategy
- ◆ Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP)
- ◆ Clarion Call to Action



## NPPC COORDINATION MODEL







The NPPC coordination model enables UN Women to deliver its coordination mandate in countries without a physical presence through direct regional support. By working through Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams, and Gender Theme Groups, ESARO ensures continuous gender integration, accountability, and system-wide coherence across all countries in the region.



- ◆ Ensures continuity without in-country presence
- ◆ Strengthens RC-led coordination
- ◆ Enables cost-effective regional support
- ◆ Delivers system-wide GEWE results



# STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

Investment Area	Focus
 Coordination mechanisms	GTGs and regional platforms
 Capacity building	UNCTs, governments, CSOs
 Partnerships and advocacy	Regional and national engagement
 Monitoring and learning	Accountability systems
 Knowledge and communication	Regional platforms
 Operational support	Staffing, missions, coordination

1



## KEY PARTNERS

African Union

UN Agencies

Regional Economic Communities  
(SADC, IGAD, EAC, COMESA)

Civil Society and Women's Rights  
Organizations

Resident Coordinator System

Private Sector

Development Partners

## 2



### EXPECTED RESULTS BY 2029

- Stronger UN system coordination on gender equality
- More gender-responsive UN country programming
- Increased financing for GEWE
- Stronger regional and national partnerships
- Accelerated progress on SDG 5

## 3



### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

UN Women Strategic Plan

Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP) and Clarion Call to Action

Agenda 2030 (SDGs)

African Union Agenda 2063

UN Women exists to advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. As the lead UN entity on gender equality, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviours and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. We keep 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.