

**SYNTHESIS REPORT ON THE**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**  
**BEIJING DECLARATION AND**  
**PLATFORM FOR ACTION**



UN Women East and Southern Africa Office

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BEIJING+25

# SYNTHESIS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION



**EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE  
UN WOMEN**

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>BPfA</b>	Beijing Platform for Action
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>ESAR</b>	East and southern Africa region
<b>FGM</b>	female genital mutilation
<b>GEWE</b>	gender equality and women's empowerment
<b>GRB</b>	gender-responsive budgeting
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>ICT</b>	information and communications technology
<b>MMR</b>	maternal mortality ratio
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>SACCO</b>	savings and credit cooperative
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>STEM</b>	science, technology, education and mathematics
<b>TVET</b>	technical and vocational education and training
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>VAW</b>	violence against women
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, is the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace. To mark its twenty-fifth anniversary, United Nations member states undertook comprehensive national reviews of the progress made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the current challenges. To complement the review process, UN Women undertook the production of a report that celebrates the achievements, highlights key challenges, and identifies priority areas for future action in the East and southern Africa region (ESAR).

This report, based on an analysis of country reports and other relevant documents, offers a snapshot of regional trends in terms of achievements and challenges in the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and makes some recommendations for future action. The report acknowledges and affirms the essential linkages between commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in the BPfA and those in global and regional instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Maputo Protocol, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

## Progress Made in the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

Poverty reduction and women's economic empowerment is a priority in the region. Strategies range from medium-term strategic interventions in education and training to short-term programmes. At the strategic level, countries are promoting girls' education and participation in non-traditional technical courses, as well as promoting women's enterprises through financial inclusion and access to cheaper financial credit, information and communications

technology (ICT), and public procurement contracts. Also important is legislation on land rights and workers' rights, including establishing a minimum wage. In the short-term category are social protection measures, including cash transfers and public works programmes. The Ethiopia initiative is particularly instructive. Participants in the public works programmes earn income, 20 per cent of which they commit to save. After three years, the savings are released, with a government top-up grant, as start-up capital for a business or asset acquisition. Many women are organized in savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs). Ethiopia, for instance, reports that 13.4 million women saved 3.2 billion birr through such small-scale microfinance associations during 2017 and 2018. In Malawi, over 3,000 village loans and savings groups, with a membership of 4.5 million individuals in the rural areas – mainly women – have over 5 billion kwacha or US\$7 million in circulation.

Countries report an array of policies and strategies designed to ensure the provision of quality educational and training services for girls, including those with disabilities and those from hard-to-reach areas. Through these initiatives, which range from offering universal free education, scholarships and meals at school to "readmission policies" that allow pregnant girls to return to school after delivery, each country is committed to narrowing the gap between boys and



Photo: UN Women

girl in education. The results of the policies can be seen in increased enrolment, retention and completion rates at different school levels; more girls in science and technical subjects; and a reduction in early marriages.

The region reports improved maternal health due to increased antenatal care and deliveries in health facilities. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) for Botswana, Namibia and South Africa is below 200/100,000, while in Seychelles and Mauritius it is below the 2030 target, at 53/100,000 and 61/100,000 respectively. South Sudan reported the

highest MMR in the region, at 789/100,000. Regarding HIV and AIDS, UNAIDS estimates that there were approximately 800,000 new HIV infections in the ESAR in 2018, a 28 per cent decrease from the number of new HIV infections in 2010. The rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV decreased from 18 per cent in 2010 to 9 per cent in 2018 (UNAIDS). Botswana, Eswatini, Uganda and Namibia have the highest coverage of prevention of mother-to-child transmission activities, at over 90 per cent, and the highest levels of awareness and testing (UNAIDS).

Countries reported having strengthened legislation

criminalizing sexual violence, domestic violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). Zambia has operationalized the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Fund, to provide for compensation of gender-based violence survivors. There are programmes for training officials in the criminal justice system, mobilizing traditional and faith-based leaders to address negative social norms and harmful practices, and adopting and strengthening multisectoral responses and referral pathways for violence against women (VAW) survivors. Survivor/victim-friendly special courts for fast-tracking sexual offence trials have been established, and countries such as Kenya have enacted special measures for handling perpetrators of sexual violence, including establishing a Register of Convicted Sexual Offenders.

By the end of 2019, only seven East and southern African countries had developed National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region adopted a Regional Action Plan in 2012 and has updated it for the period 2018–2023. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is currently implementing its Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security (2018–2022), while the East African Community adopted the Regional Framework on UNSCR 1325 (2015–2019) for the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the region's peace and security initiatives and the protection of the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.

All East and southern African countries have adopted legislation and policies that promote the participation of women in politics and other decision-making positions. Twelve countries have reserved seats for women in parliament. As of November 2019, 5 ESAR countries were among the 25 countries globally that have the highest women's representation in parliament (International Parliamentary Union). The number of women in cabinet and the judiciary has increased. Women are excelling in non-traditional positions of responsibility, including ministries of foreign affairs, internal affairs, defence, justice, trade and industry, transport, and economic planning. The President of the Federal Republic, the President of the Supreme Court, and the Chair of the National

Electoral Board in Ethiopia are women. Ten countries have women Speakers of Parliament.

At least ten ESAR countries have established legal and operational mechanisms to strengthen gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), including Uganda's requirement for a certificate of compliance as a prerequisite for parliamentary approval of annual sector and departmental framework papers and budgets. In several countries, a gender budget statement is a required attachment for all budget framework papers that are submitted to the ministry of finance and subsequently to parliament for approval.

All countries in the ESAR have constitutional guarantees of the right to equality, and almost all have ratified CEDAW and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). Between 2014 and 2019, 12 countries submitted periodic reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Maputo Protocol, while 13 countries submitted periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Regarding the rights of the girl child, multidimensional strategies have been adopted, including the criminalization of child marriage, the introduction of free education at primary and secondary school levels, and the provision of free sanitary pads or the removal of tax on sanitary pads to increase their affordability. The aim is to keep girls in school, thereby reducing their vulnerability to early marriage. UN Women and partners have mobilized nearly 400 traditional and religious leaders as agents of transformation in addressing harmful practices such as FGM, and there are encouraging follow-up initiatives in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Many countries are experiencing climate change-related weather phenomena, including prolonged drought, rising temperatures, floods and landslides, as well as unpredictable rainfall patterns. The negative impacts are being felt in food security, health, livelihoods and the productive sectors of the economy such as agriculture, electricity generation and manufacturing. In response, countries have

rolled out mitigation strategies, including conservation farming and agroforestry. Policies to promote a strong women's role in the management of natural resources have been developed in some countries. Uganda, for instance, has adopted the National Strategy and Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming in the Oil and Gas Sector (2016) to ensure women's participation while also reducing any potential negative impacts of the sector's operations on women and girls.

ESAR has significant gender imbalance in the media, especially at management level. For instance, in Zimbabwe there were only 7 women in senior editorial positions at the country's leading newspaper group (Zimpapers) compared to 51 men. Women participating in media organizations have not only contributed to women-centred news and feature stories towards reducing negative stereotypes, they have also supported government and women's rights organizations to raise the profile of, and public awareness on, various women's rights issues. With the advent of mobile telecommunication, more women, especially young women, have access to various media, including social media. Women are using these technologies to access bigger markets, sustain direct communication with customers, and increase their financial inclusion.

## Challenges

Entrenched patriarchal social norms, attitudes, structures and institutions continue to perpetuate discrimination, including violence against women and girls. Inadequate political will to adopt, resource and implement sustained campaigns for the transformation of these negative social norms makes the attainment of gender equality and the empowerment of women in all the 12 critical areas of the BPfA slow. Poverty among women is widespread. In South Africa, for example, over 41 per cent of women live below the poverty level, compared with 38.2 per cent of men. Throughout the region, more women are in vulnerable employment. Women's impoverishment is intrinsically linked to intersecting discriminations and violations of their human rights and dignity,

including exclusion from decision making, gender-based violence, and lack of access to justice and socio-economic services such as health, education, credit, markets and productive resources. Violent conflict, climate change, technology-assisted VAW and other marginalizing factors created by criminal enterprise, such as trafficking of humans, have negative impacts on women and girls' health, livelihoods, rights and freedoms.

There is inadequate sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data across the region that is reliable and regularly produced; this negatively affects evidence-based policymaking. Inadequate gender analysis and limited skills required for gender analysis and gender mainstreaming, as well as insufficient financial resources for the implementation of GEWE policies and strategies, contribute to the slow progress in achieving the objectives of the BPfA.

## Looking Forward: Key Messages and Suggested Actions

### On negative social norms, attitudes and structures

The transformation of patriarchal social norms, attitudes and practices must be founded on an appreciation of the complex and emotive nature of the goal and process because of cultural and religious identity issues.

#### Suggested actions:

- Continue the emerging work with traditional, cultural and religious leaders to transform social norms and societal institutions, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against and oppress women. Initiatives with Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa members should be expanded and profiled as good examples.
- Expand strategic interventions and visibility of male champions to transform and eradicate negative masculinities, and to change behaviour and gender stereotypes.

## On inadequate gender machineries and funding

While the advocacy for strengthened capacities of gender machineries (financial, technical, institutional and political) must continue, it is necessary to ensure that all ministries, departments and agencies are accountable for GEWE.

### Suggested actions:

- Strengthen and institutionalize GRB in the national and local government planning and budgeting cycles across the ESAR.
- Strengthen gender analysis expertise and practical skills in different priority sectors to support the translation of sectoral gender-mainstreaming strategies into actual resourced programmes.

## On poverty reduction and the economic empowerment of women

The economic empowerment of women is central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the BPfA. Making progress in this area requires a critical understanding of the factors that define and perpetuate poverty and economic marginalization for most women.

### Suggested actions:

- Adopt, popularize and utilize the seven drivers of change for women's economic empowerment identified by the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment as a framework for planning, resourcing, implementing and monitoring policies and programmes on women's economic empowerment.
- Recognize and harness the entrepreneurial spirit of many of Africa's youth, and recommend the scaling up of the "hustle" in ways that provide support to the young entrepreneurs, an enabling environment for their work, and opportunities to both create employment and grow sustainable businesses.

- Expand and implement effective social protection measures to provide targeted poverty reduction and mitigation support to women and girls with special vulnerabilities, including those associated with age, health, disability, displacement, natural disasters and geographic remoteness.
- Institutionalize time-use surveys and analyses and use them to inform policies, programmes and budget allocations, with the aim of recognizing and reducing the unequal burden on women and girls of unpaid domestic and care work.

## On quality education, training and life-long education

The achievement of sustainable quality education for girls is dependent on addressing the structural problems that affect the quality of girls' education, including staff capacity, physical infrastructure, sexual abuse in institutions of learning, negative gender norms that lead to early marriage, and girls' unequal work burdens.

### Suggested actions:

- Adopt, resource and implement measures to promote and support more girls to enrol and excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at primary, secondary and tertiary levels in both rural and urban schools.
- Strengthen measures to improve the retention of girls and their completion rates across all levels of education, including addressing and punishing both early marriage and sexual violence in schools and institutions of higher learning.
- Improve the gender responsiveness of physical infrastructure in schools and institutions of learning, including through the installation of secure girls-only water and sanitation facilities.

## On participation in politics, decision making and power

While the increased numbers of women in decision-making positions at different levels must be

celebrated, it is important to acknowledge that the underlying patriarchal norms, attitudes and structures permeate society at all levels.

**Suggested actions:**

- Take deliberate action to increase the participation of young women and women with disabilities in leadership by creating and sustaining platforms that are safe, accessible, relevant, inclusive and responsive to their participation.
- Support the creation and functioning of women leaders' networks and support groups at all levels for mutual support and mentorship among women in power and decision-making positions.

## On quality health care and sexual and reproductive health services and rights

Investment in strengthening the entire health-care system is necessary to ensure access to health-related information, services and products.

**Suggested actions:**

- Consistently promote the adoption of proven strategies and methods for the prevention of new HIV infections, including using condoms, and strengthen systems to ensure women's access to antiretroviral therapy.
- Provide free or affordable family planning and sexual and reproductive health services, ensuring they reach all women, especially the poor and young, to reduce unmet needs for contraception and to lower the incidence of unintended pregnancies.
- Strengthen the response to the health demands, needs and rights of vulnerable and disadvantaged girls and women, including women with disabilities, older women, sex workers and refugee women.

- Develop and implement effective strategies for community-based health education, support for antenatal care, and access to the nearest health centre to reduce maternal mortality.

## On violence against women

Violence against women and girls is intrinsically linked to unequal gendered power relations and is perpetuated through social, cultural and religious structures, including the family.

**Suggested actions:**

- Invest in social mobilization and implement public awareness campaigns targeting men, boys, women and girls and religious, traditional and community leaders to eliminate violence against women and girls and end human trafficking.
- Include in school curricula subject areas and teaching materials that reinforce the need for a more equal society and equal responsibilities and rights; equip pupils and students with the life skills to recognize, avoid and prevent VAW or seek assistance if it occurs.
- Enact and strengthen the enforcement of appropriate laws that criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls, provide for efficient, victim-friendly trials of the perpetrators, and provide adequate remedies to the victims.
- Develop, adopt, resource and operationalize institutionalized systems for data collection, analysis and use regarding different forms of VAW, responses to VAW, and impacts on women and girls.

# **PART I**

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Background**

Beijing+25 is a process to assess how far member states and other stakeholders have made in implementing the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995. The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women has played a central role in monitoring, reviewing and making available reports on both the achievements and challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace. World leaders have committed to these goals, which are represented in the 12 critical areas of concern.

In 2018, the United Nations Economic and Social Council called upon states to undertake comprehensive national reviews of the progress made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the current challenges. The council encouraged regional economic commissions to facilitate corresponding intergovernmental review processes to assess the achievements and challenges at the regional level. The reviews were to feed into the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was mandated to undertake an appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In particular, the commission was to assess the achievements towards gender equality and women's empowerment and their contribution to the attainment of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) coordinated the process in Africa, with the aim of identifying national and regional trends and common concerns in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), as well as successful strategies towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Africa. This intergovernmental process also mobilized

the participation of regional organizations and stakeholders, including civil society organizations, networks of gender experts and practitioners, youth, academics, organizations working with women with disabilities, and traditional and cultural leaders.

## **1.2 The Analytical Report: Scope and Methodology**

As part of its contribution to the regional intergovernmental process, UN Women undertook the production of a report that celebrates achievements, highlights key challenges, and identifies priority areas in East and southern Africa. The report is based on an analysis of 19 country reports in the subregion, as well as the Beijing +20 and Beijing +25 Africa regional review reports on the implementation of the BPfA over the 2014–2019 period.<sup>1</sup> Other sources of data include various documents and reports of the World Bank, United Nations agencies, the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank and select non-governmental organizations.<sup>2</sup> The report offers a snapshot of regional trends in terms of achievements and challenges in the 12 critical areas of concern of the BPfA, and makes some recommendations for

future action. The report does not purport to offer a comprehensive record or analysis of the implementation of the BPfA in each country.

### 1.3 Structure of the Report

The report is structured in three parts with an executive summary. The first part is the introduction. It outlines the background, methodology and scope of the report. It also introduces the BPfA and other normative frameworks that underpin and complement the BPfA. Arranged by critical areas of concern, the second part contains an overview of the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the BPfA. The third part focuses on the main conclusions, key messages and suggestions for future action regarding each of the five critical areas of concern identified as priority areas for the 2020–2025 period by the majority of ESAR countries.

#### 1.3.1 The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The BPfA is the outcome document from the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995. It reflects the unanimous consensus of all participating governments and the voices of women in their diversities. The BPfA prioritizes 12 critical areas of concern and strategic actions to be taken if the goals of equality, development and peace are to be achieved. These are:

1. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
2. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training
3. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services
4. Violence against women
5. The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation
6. Inequality in economic structures and policies in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources

7. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision making at all levels
8. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women
9. Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women
10. Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially the media
11. Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment
12. Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child<sup>3</sup>

#### 1.3.2 The Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The BPfA is a global agenda for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The UN Commission on the Status of Women monitors its implementation,<sup>4</sup> while regional economic commissions coordinate regional reviews every five years.

The BPfA is of critical relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and all ESAR countries have integrated the SDGs into their national development plans and adopted gender-related indicators towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

#### 1.3.3 The Beijing Platform for Action and Treaty Commitments on Women's Rights

There are many opportunities for ESAR countries to accelerate the implementation of the BPfA by linking it with commitments under existing treaty obligations, including those outlined below.

## **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

CEDAW, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, defines gender discrimination and the obligations of states parties towards the achievement of gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. All ESAR countries except Somalia have ratified the CEDAW and are therefore bound by its provisions.<sup>5</sup> Each country commits to submit periodic reports on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures taken to give effect to the convention.<sup>6</sup> The binding nature of CEDAW gives women and their movements and organizations the right to demand for its implementation. The implementation, monitoring and reporting on CEDAW contribute to the achievements of the BPfA and vice versa.

## **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)**

The Maputo Protocol, ratified by 42 of Africa's 55 countries,<sup>7</sup> commits states parties to take all measures necessary to eliminate discrimination against women and to "...integrate a gender perspective in their policy decisions, legislation, development plans, programmes and activities..."<sup>8</sup> It details wide-ranging and substantive human rights of women in their diversity, coupled with binding obligations, including periodic reporting to and review by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The protocol is an important tool for advancing the implementation of the BPfA.

## **The Beijing Platform for Action and UN Security Council Resolutions**

UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, together with nine subsequent Security Council resolutions<sup>9</sup> recognize women's central roles in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict processes and the impact that armed conflict has on women. These resolutions, often referred to as the global women, peace and security agenda, promote women's meaningful participation and representation at all levels of decision making, the protection of women and girls, the promotion of the rights of

women, and the integration of a gender perspective into all post-conflict processes. The UNSC resolutions have and continue to provide opportunities for strengthening women's presence and participation in security sector organs; the integration of a gender perspective and women's voice in conflict prevention and resolution; and women's participation in peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations.

## **The Beijing Platform for Action and the African Union's Agenda 2063**

Agenda 2063 is the blueprint for Africa's development during the period 2013–2063. Put together after extensive consultations in which the people articulated their aspirations under the slogan "the Africa we want", Agenda 2063 has seven goals or aspirations:

1. Inclusive growth and sustainable development
2. Political integration and unity
3. Good governance and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
4. Peace and security
5. Cultural identity and common heritage, values and ethics
6. Development that is driven by Africa's people, especially its women and youth
7. Promotion of Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner

The sixth goal above focuses on gender equality and commits AU member countries to strengthening the role of Africa's women in development by ensuring gender equality and parity in political, economic and social development. Member countries also commit to eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; creating opportunities for Africa's youth for self-realization and access to health, education and jobs; and ensuring the safety and security of Africa's children. All these aspects reflect the commitments of states in the BPfA. Agenda 2063 is currently being implemented through a ten-year implementation framework (2013–2023), with states parties required to make

periodic reports on implementation. Under a ten-year strategic plan, targets to be achieved at the national level include the following:

- Equal economic rights for women, including the rights to own and inherit property, sign a contract, save money, register and manage a business, and own and operate a bank account by 2025
- At least 20 per cent of rural women have access to and control over productive assets, including land and grants, credit, inputs, and financial services and information
- At least 30 per cent of all elected officials at local, regional and national levels and in judicial institutions are women
- At least 25 per cent of annual public procurement contracts at national and subnational levels are awarded to women
- Increased gender parity in decision-making positions at all levels to at least 50:50 between women and men
- Solemn Declaration Index developed by the Gender is my Agenda Campaign and UNECA is computed bi-annually and used in making policy/resource allocation decisions

# **PART 2**

## **CRITICAL AREAS**

### **OF CONCERN:**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND**

## **CHALLENGES**

### **2.1 Overview**

The East and southern African region has taken significant steps to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women in accordance with the BPfA. There are encouraging policies and programmes that increase opportunities for women in education, participation in decision making, and access to and control of productive resources, including land. There is an emerging appreciation of diversities among women and the consequent adoption of an intersectional approach to policymaking and programming. Despite the progress, challenges remain, including negative social norms, attitudes and practices, as well as under-resourcing of GEWE policy implementation. Persistent drought, floods and landslides and the related displacement of populations are compounding these challenges. This part the report looks at the achievements and challenges per critical area of concern, with the aim of identifying regional trends and drawing lessons.

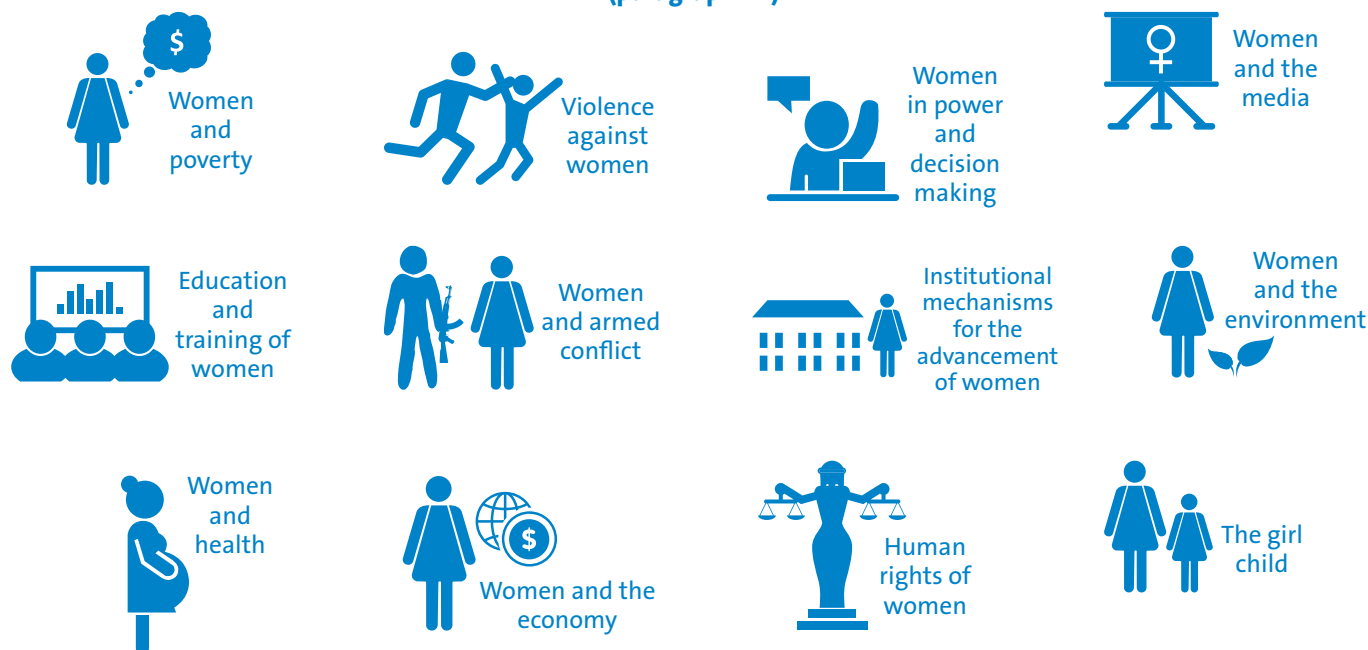
### **2.2 The Importance of GEWE-responsive Budgetary Processes**

The Fourth World Conference on Women noted with concern that financial and human resource commitments for the advancement of women were generally insufficient. The BPfA requires countries “... to make efforts to systematically review how women benefit from public sector expenditures; adjust budgets to ensure equality of access to public sector expenditures, both for enhancing productive capacity and for meeting social needs; and to achieve the

gender-related commitments made in other United Nations summits and conferences”.<sup>10</sup>

The Beijing+25 country reports provide some good practices in the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting. Several ESAR countries have established legal and operational mechanisms to strengthen gender-responsive budgeting.<sup>11</sup> In Uganda, the Public Finance Management Act (2015) obliges all government ministries and departments, whose budgets must be passed by Parliament, to obtain a certificate of compliance indicating that

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their respective framework papers and annual budget estimates are gender and equity responsive. They must also outline the measures to be taken to ensure equal opportunities “...for women, men, persons with disabilities, residents of hard-to-reach areas, the poor and other marginalized groups in Uganda”.<sup>12</sup> The certificate is issued by the Ministry of Finance on recommendation of the Equal Opportunities Commission.<sup>13</sup> Without the certificate, Parliament is prohibited by law from debating the budget proposals. In Rwanda, a gender budget statement is a required attachment to all budget framework papers that are submitted to the Ministry of Finance and subsequently to Parliament for approval.<sup>14</sup>

Ethiopia requires all sectors to integrate GRB into budgeting processes to enhance the participation of women and their economic benefits.<sup>15</sup> The country established detailed GRB guidelines for use by all ministries and government departments.<sup>16</sup> In Kenya, as part of GRB implementation, the government has embraced public participation in budget making and monitoring, with significant inputs by women, youth and the media. Additionally, the budgets are programme based, which has allowed better tracking of resources for GEWE programmes and outputs.<sup>17</sup>

Successes in GRB have been registered in Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa and Tanzania, providing lessons on the importance of civil society and women’s movements – in particular in advocacy and participation in all stages of the budget process.<sup>18</sup> However, inadequate age-, sex- and disability-disaggregated data on the implementation of GRB measures has hampered evaluation of GRB’s effectiveness in drawing significant resources towards the fight against discrimination and in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment.

## 2.3 Achievements and Challenges by Beijing Platform for Action Critical Areas of Concern

### 2.3.1 Feminized Poverty and Women’s Economic Empowerment

#### Progress

Strategic Action 1 in the BPfA relates to the persistent and increasing poverty of women. Fifteen of the ESAR countries list poverty eradication as their top priority for accelerating GEWE for the 2020–2025 period.



Photo: UN Women

In the 25-year period since the adoption of BPfA, poverty indices for women in East and southern Africa, and for Africa as a whole, continue to present a bleak picture, despite some countries posting annual growth rates far higher than the African continental and global averages of 3.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.<sup>19</sup> In 2018, Ethiopia's GDP grew by 7.7 per cent and Rwanda's by 7.2 per cent. This contrasts with South Sudan at -3.8 per cent, Burundi at 1.4 per cent, Comoros at 2.8 per cent and Somalia at 2.9 per cent.<sup>20</sup> Many countries are affected by persistent drought, while armed conflict afflicts others such as Somalia and South Sudan. In 2018 and 2019, East Africa and the Horn of Africa have witnessed an invasion of locusts, as well as frequent flooding and landslides due to excessive rains. ESAR economies are characterized by high levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment. The African Development Bank estimates that over 33 per cent of the people in East Africa live on less than US\$2 a day, while the richest

10 per cent earn 30 per cent of total income.<sup>21</sup> The situation is not different in southern Africa. The poorest 20 per cent of the population receive 3–7 per cent of the income, while the richest earn between 45 (Tanzania) and 70 per cent (Seychelles).<sup>22</sup>

**While poverty affects men and women, there is significant gender inequality, with more women falling within the extreme poverty bracket.**

In South Africa, for example, 41.7 per cent of women live below the poverty level compared with 38.2 per cent of men. Race and marital status intersect with gender in the determination of poverty status. Thus, black women are disproportionately represented among the poor compared to other women or to African men.<sup>23</sup> In Zambia, poverty levels are much higher in the rural areas, where 76.6 per cent of



Photo: UN Women/Tumaini Ochieng

women live.<sup>24</sup> In Lesotho, women form the bulk of agricultural workers in the rural areas, but they do not own the land and are the majority in the 56.2 per cent of people who live in extreme poverty in the country.<sup>25</sup> Gender inequality manifests in a broad range of areas: incomes, access to and control of productive resources, housing, opportunities for employment, work conditions, and decision making. Governments in the region realize that the objectives of the BPfA cannot be achieved without eradicating poverty. National development plans are aligned to the 2030 Agenda and Africa's own Agenda 2063. Both highlight the multidimensional nature of poverty and sustainable development.

Despite the intransigent nature of poverty, governments in the ESAR have made efforts to advance

women's economic empowerment. Government interventions have fallen into three major categories: social protection, legal and regulatory reforms, and financial inclusion mechanisms. In efforts to reduce poverty among women, all ESAR countries prioritized the promotion of women's economic empowerment in the last ten years and established programmes related to employment creation, income security and social protection. For example, Mauritius established a minimum wage of 8,140 rupees (US\$250) for all full-time workers in January 2018, benefitting many women, who are the majority in vulnerable employment, with some earning as little as 1,500 rupees. Zambia and Malawi have rolled out social protection measures targeting persons in extreme poverty, including women and persons living with disability. The cash-transfer scheme enables women to purchase farm inputs in addition to satisfying their basic needs.<sup>26</sup> Social protection programmes provide critical safety nets and help populations build resilience; governments across the ESAR have instituted these measures with different levels of success and impact. However, such measures have not resulted in a significant reduction in women's overall poverty

**70%**  
of land in Rwanda is jointly owned  
by married couples



Photo: UN Women

levels. This is due to continued inequality in education, training and ownership of and access to land and other productive resources. In addition, women predominate in informal, insecure and low-paying jobs. ILO reports that 95 per cent of female workers in sub-Saharan Africa are in informal employment, compared to 89 per cent of male workers.<sup>27</sup>

Women have demonstrated agency in organizing village savings and loans clubs, in joining credit and savings cooperatives, and in setting up women's informal savings clubs such as the *chamas* in Kenya and *sanduk sanduks* in South Sudan. These are innovative savings and credit clubs on the periphery of the formal financial system that involve millions of people and permeate various socio-economic groups, with some growing beyond lending for household purposes to investing in real estate. There is little empirical data on the numbers of SACCOs run by women. What is clear is that large numbers of women participate in the SACCOs and that through them women are saving and accessing credit facilities. Ethiopia reports that 13.4 million women saved 3.2 billion birr through such small-scale microfinance associations.<sup>28</sup> In Malawi, over 3,000 village loans and savings groups, with

a membership of 4.5 million individuals in the rural areas – mainly women – have over 5 billion kwacha or US\$7 million in circulation.

**Measures to provide social protection have included access to social services such as water and sanitation, electricity, cash transfers, basic insurance, and employment in community improvement activities or in extended public works programmes.**

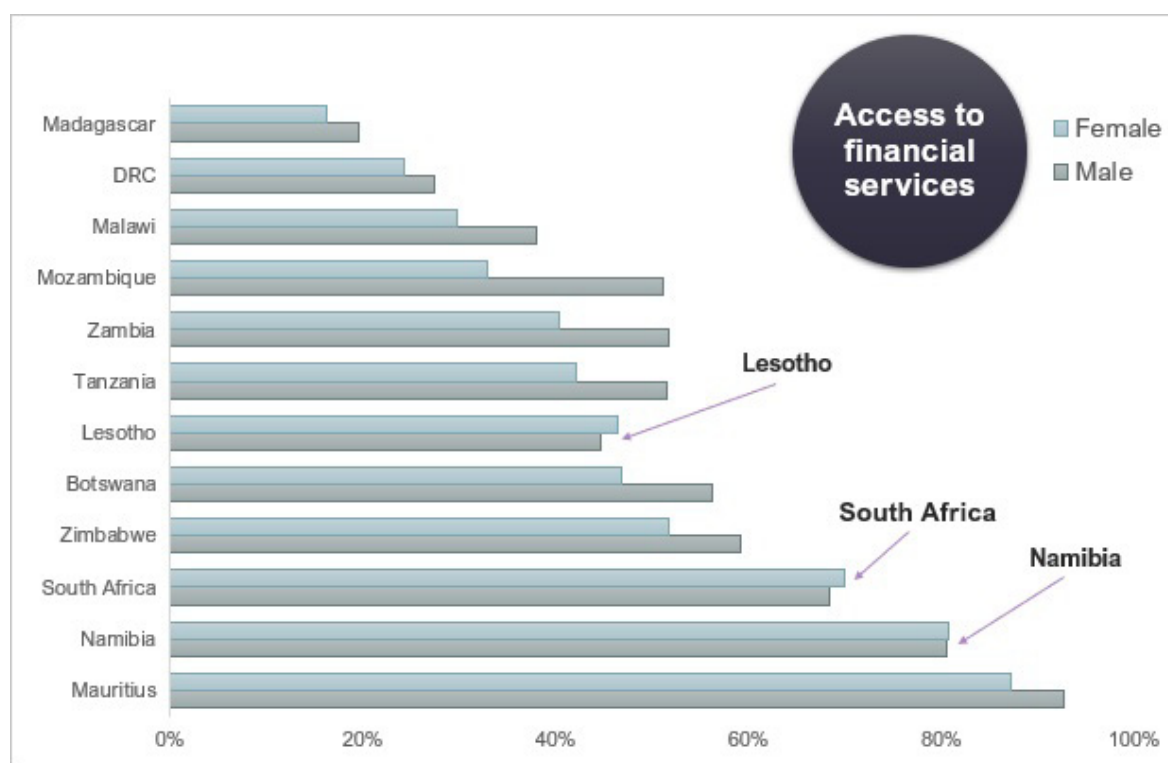
Namibia has introduced regulations for pay reform for those in the lower pay brackets such as domestic workers and caregivers. In other countries, efforts are underway to create social safety nets for those who suffer multiple vulnerabilities. The elderly, persons living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic health conditions, and persons with mental and severe physical disabilities fall into this category. Rwanda, for example, implements the Vision 2020 Umurenga Programme and the Girinka or “One Cow per Poor Family” Programme, which provide cash transfers or facilitate

access to financial or credit services for poor individuals. Women are specially targeted, and by 2017 64.4 per cent of direct cash transfer beneficiaries and 56.4 per cent of public works beneficiaries were women.<sup>29</sup>

Ethiopia has adopted an innovative approach to social protection programming. Its Urban Productive Safety Net Programme aims not only to support livelihoods, but also to facilitate the poor to transition out of poverty. Participants in the public works component of the programme earn income, 20 per cent of which they commit to save. After a three-year participation period, the savings are released with a government top-up grant to the participant as start-up capital for a business.<sup>30</sup> Meanwhile, in Angola Presidential Decree No. 155/16 of 9 August aims to protect the rights of all domestic workers, including the right to a safe work environment, regular and timely wages, and daily, weekly and annual rest. The decree also sets out the duties of employers, as well as a complaints mechanism.<sup>31</sup>

Legal and regulatory reforms have given women the rights to own and use land, while simpler land title regimes and access to legal services have been devised to make it easier for women to register property. For instance, the 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Household Survey established that only 7.7 per cent of women in urban areas owned a house. In response, the government is implementing a policy under which 30 per cent of low-cost condominium housing is allocated to women, and the remaining 70 per cent is shared equally between men and women.<sup>32</sup> Lesotho reports that women are taking advantage of the Land Act (2010) to own land. Sixty-four percent of titles issued in urban centres have been to women since the enactment of the act.<sup>33</sup> In Namibia, 41.6 per cent of the people resettled on commercial farms under the National Resettlement Programme during the period 2014–2019 are women.<sup>34</sup> Women are also represented on Communal Land Boards.<sup>35</sup>

**FIGURE 1**  
**Ownership of accounts (including mobile money) 2017**



Source: World Bank Global Findex 2017

TABLE 1

Ownership of accounts (including mobile money) 2017<sup>41</sup>

Indications	2012		2014		2016	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants	1.28	1.31	0.83	0.85	0.32	0.32
Mobile cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	148.35	151.13	155.19	157.18	170.45	173.27
Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants (wireless and fixed)	41.47	42.25	75.92	77.28	116.68	118.61
Broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (fixed and wired)	9.28	9.45	19.58	19.93	55.55	56.47
Mobile money subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	94.17	95.95	120.08	122.23	139.91	142.22

Source: Kenya National Beijing +25 Review 2019

Rwanda's Land Tenure Regularization Programme has resulted in 77 per cent of female heads of households getting legal ownership and control over their land. Almost 25 per cent of land is owned by women in their own right, while 70 per cent is jointly owned by married couples.<sup>36</sup> Uganda has created a Certificate of Customary Ownership as evidence of ownership of property that can be used as collateral to obtain bank loans. In Rwanda, the revised land law gives women access to and use of land. This has enabled the use of land titles as collateral for bank loans, resulting in almost tripling the incidence of borrowing by women from 39 per cent in 2013 to 86 per cent in 2016. ESAR countries are encouraged to undertake studies that would assess the impact of land reforms on women's poverty and on the overall economic empowerment of women.

However, a recent UNCTAD report<sup>37</sup> found that less than 7 per cent of Kenyan women were registered

landowners in 2014, compared with about 30 per cent of men, despite the 2010 Constitution of Kenya's provisions on gender equality and the existence of laws that establish parity in property and land ownership. As elsewhere, the reason for this gap in access to land use and ownership is ascribed to socio-cultural norms, traditional practices, gender stereotypes and women's economic marginalization.

Promising financial inclusion interventions are ongoing, with the intention of bringing women into the formal financial sector of the economy towards sustainable poverty eradication. The national reports provide many success stories. In 2018, Zimbabwe established a women's microfinance bank to provide loans and financial services specifically to women in agriculture and business.<sup>38</sup> Enat Bank, established in Ethiopia in 2011 by 11 women, continues to represent an important good practice. Women hold 64 per cent of the shares and are the majority in the

bank's governance structures. In addition to commercial banking services, Enat Bank offers financial literacy training and support to women.<sup>39</sup> Rwanda reports a significant reduction in the financial exclusion of women, from 32 per cent in 2012 to 13 per cent in 2016. This is due to a variety of factors, including increased use of mobile money services, better access to bank loans and credit, and growing SACCO membership. Figure 1 shows that significant populations in several ESAR countries are excluded from financial services and highlights the gender disparity in ownership of accounts.

Evolving technology such as mobile money is creating opportunities for the economic empowerment of many women.<sup>40</sup> Women are active as mobile money agents or simply as users who can gain easy access to financial services and other business transactions, thereby saving time and transport charges and potentially serving wider markets. In Rwanda, over 37 per cent of women transact business using mobile money. Table 1 shows the increased participation of women in mobile technology, including mobile money, in Kenya.

Twelve countries reported having taken measures to promote and increase female enrolment, retention and completion with regard to technical and vocational education and training (TVET).<sup>42</sup> The purpose is to improve women's access to job and entrepreneurship opportunities. In some countries, graduates of the skills programmes are given start-up cash and equipment to begin their own businesses. Companies have been encouraged to reduce the gender gap in employment through the issuance of a Gender Equality Seal.<sup>43</sup> This seal demonstrates that the company has eliminated gender pay gaps, increased the participation of women in decision making, promoted work-life balance, given women access to non-traditional jobs, and worked towards eliminating sexual harassment and the use of sexist language in the workplace.

Countries are adopting an intersectionality analysis of poverty generally and among women. For instance, South Africa acknowledges disparities in poverty levels indicating that black women, women in the rural areas, women with no education, and female-headed households have higher poverty levels.<sup>44</sup>

## UGANDA

71%

of women live in rural areas

28%

of women are in paid employment, compared to 46% of men

71%

of women are engaged in vulnerable employment

Similarly, Uganda identifies several groups with enhanced vulnerabilities to poverty and has adopted the Uganda National Social Protection Policy (2015) to provide for targeted responses to vulnerabilities "...associated with age, gender, disability, health, employment, environment and natural disasters".<sup>45</sup> More than 71 per cent of Ugandan females live in rural areas. The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme targets mainly rural women with finances to enable them to engage in businesses. The government also implements a special grants programme targeting women living with disabilities.<sup>46</sup> Kenya's Equalization Fund, created under the Constitution of Kenya, directs resources for education, health, water and electricity to previously marginalized geographic regions, thereby alleviating poverty.<sup>47</sup> Ethiopia is implementing special initiatives for women at a greater risk of poverty, including women with disabilities, those living with HIV/AIDS, rural women and girls, adolescent and young women, as well as refugee and migrant women.<sup>48</sup> Madagascar has introduced social protection legislation and interventions targeting women heads of households. A new family planning law promulgated in 2017 strengthens and provides free access to quality sexual and reproductive health services.<sup>49</sup> Rwanda's pro-poor programmes provide direct support in terms of cash transfers, facilitation of access to financial and credit services, and employment opportunities in infrastructure projects

such as the construction and maintenance of feeder roads and soil erosion terraces.<sup>50</sup>

Given the interconnectedness of the 12 critical areas of the BPfA and the SDGs, many governments in the region have put emphasis on strengthening the physical and social infrastructure necessary for the eradication of poverty and achievement of economic and social goals. Thus, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda report significant investment in developing physical infrastructure such as roads, health and school facilities, and water provision systems.

Emerging efforts to discuss inclusive growth are an attempt to address the massive exclusion of women and other populations living in poverty (the centre–periphery phenomenon). However, strategies of inclusive growth have not tackled the root causes of inequality that stem from exclusion. According to an Oxfam report, 6 of the 20 most unequal countries in the world are in the ESAR. These are Swaziland, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Mauritius and Madagascar.<sup>51</sup> Five billionaires and 50,000 millionaires live in South Africa, while 20 billionaires in Africa as a whole live alongside 413 million people in extreme poverty.<sup>52</sup> The vast majority of the population, women and jobless youth, reside in the bulging lower four-fifths of a narrow-tipped triangle.

## Challenges

Despite the efforts by ESAR countries, World Bank estimates in 2018 indicated that by 2030 global poverty will become increasingly African. Nine out of every ten people living in extreme poverty will be in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>53</sup> The World Bank identifies the slow rate of fertility decline, rising food imports (US\$10 billion in the early 2000s to US\$35–40 billion more recently), and the poverty financing gap as issues that need to be addressed to stem the acceleration of poverty.

The drivers of poverty, however, are not only economic. Poor governance systems and practice, development-resistant sociocultural frameworks (including education systems and predominant social values and practices), as well as external geopolitical, economic and financial systems play a part. ESAR countries identified six main challenges to effective

poverty reduction and the economic empowerment of women:

1. *Inadequate access by women to productive resources, including land, finance, entrepreneurial skills, cheap energy sources and employment opportunities:*<sup>54</sup> In Kenya, for instance, only 7 per cent of women own land and only 8 per cent own a house.<sup>55</sup> The Matrimonial Property Act 2013 denies women the right to inherit property acquired during marriage unless they can prove monetary contribution. Household and care work is not regarded as “contribution”.<sup>56</sup> High levels of unemployment among women negatively impact on women’s capacities to accumulate productive resources. In Uganda, the unemployment rate among women is 13 per cent, compared to 6 per cent among men. Only 28 per cent of women are in paid employment compared to 46 per cent of men; 71 per cent of women are engaged in vulnerable employment.<sup>57</sup> Poor access to credit and entrepreneurial skill development opportunities adds to the problem.

2. *Negative social norms, practices and stereotypes:* All ESAR countries identified the continued prevalence of negative and discriminatory social norms, practices and stereotypes as a major obstacle to women’s economic empowerment and reversing the feminization of poverty.<sup>58</sup> Ethiopia, for instance, attributes the inequality in education and property ownership and the high rates of unemployment among women to discriminatory cultural and religious norms.<sup>59</sup> Kenya, Lesotho and Malawi highlight the negative role of patriarchal attitudes and norms in contributing to the resistance to legislative reforms in favour of women’s property and inheritance rights, and to the non-implementation of existing gender equality laws and policies. Such negative attitudes also contribute to the low public investment in gender equality and women’s economic empowerment programmes. Lesotho reports that the national gender machinery has consistently been allocated less than 1 per cent of the national budget in each of the last five years (2014–2019).<sup>60</sup>

3. *The burden of unpaid and unrecognized domestic and care work:*<sup>61</sup> In Rwanda, for instance, due to the gender division of labour and the absence of affordable gas or electricity, women spend a lot of time



Photo: UN Women/Paterson Siema

collecting fuelwood, thereby reducing the time available for productive work to build their asset base.<sup>62</sup>

*4. Climate change–related weather phenomena:* Between 2014 and 2019, the East and southern African region experienced climate change–driven weather phenomena, including prolonged drought, heavy rains and floods, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and extreme temperatures, with negative impacts on livelihoods, food security, economic productivity and poverty reduction efforts.<sup>63</sup>

### 2.3.2 Quality Education, Training and Life-long Learning for Women and Girls

#### Progress

The attainment of quality and relevant education by women and girls is a fundamental human right and an important strategy towards gender equality in all critical areas of concern. All countries in ESAR have prioritized the improvement of education and training for girls. Achievements include those outlined below.

#### *Policy frameworks –*

**All countries report an impressive array of policies and strategies designed to ensure the provision of quality educational and training services for girls, including those with disabilities and those from hard-to-reach areas.**

Malawi reports an increase in budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Education, noting that in the 2018/2019 financial year “...the Ministry got the highest percentage of the national budget”.<sup>64</sup> Additionally, the country has implemented a “Readmission Policy” to allow pregnant girls to return to school after delivery. The policy contributes to the promotion of girls’ education and the prevention of early marriage.<sup>65</sup> Kenya and Uganda implement a comparable policy. It has been argued that the potential benefits of the policy are affected by several factors, including opposition from religious leaders, school administrators and communities; lack of

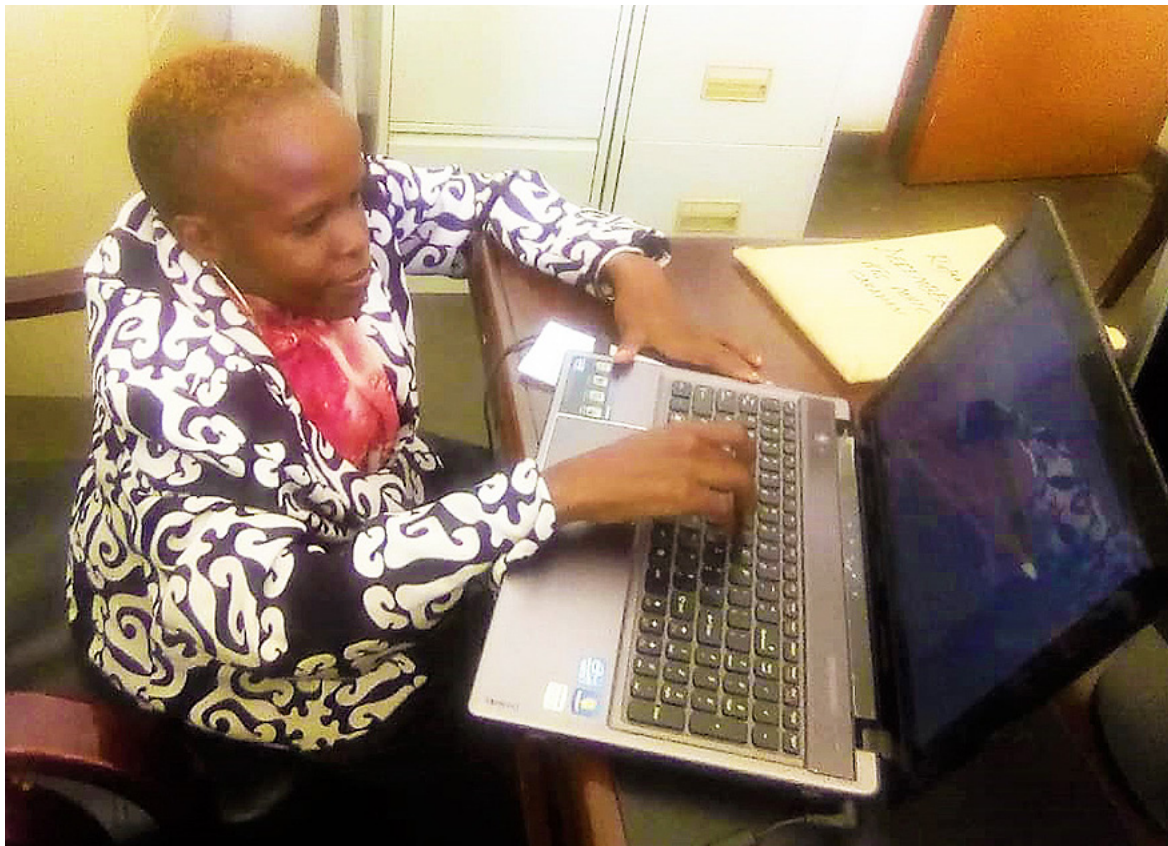


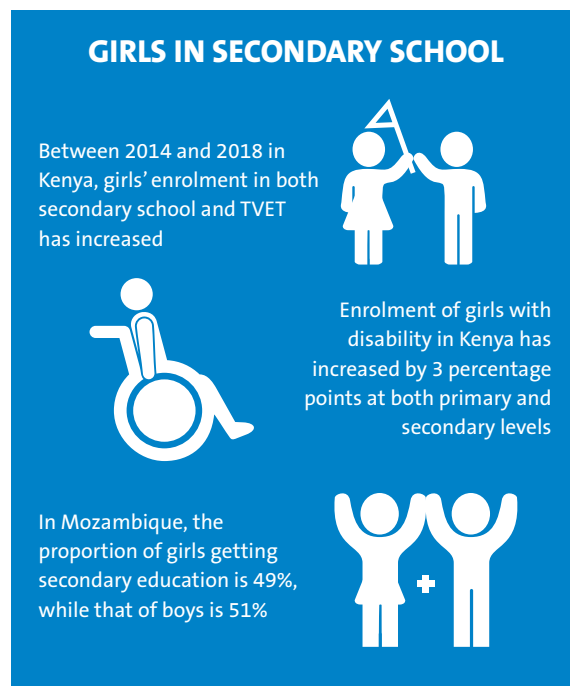
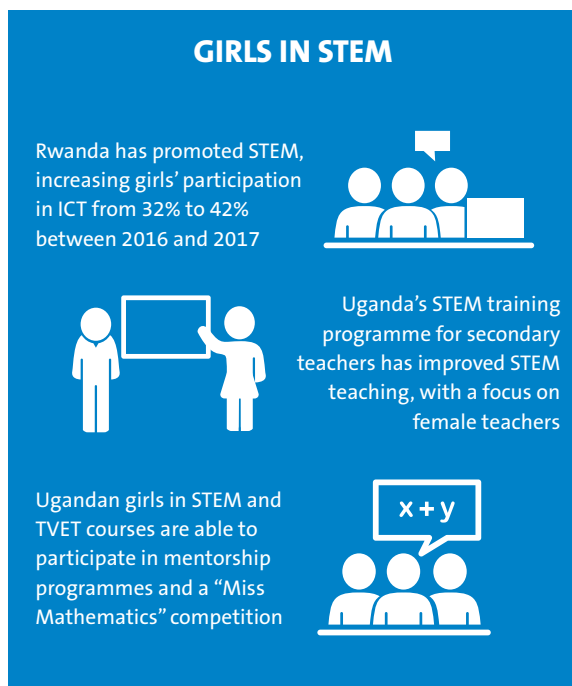
Photo: UN Women

clarity and guidelines for its implementation; and stigma experienced by the girls upon re-entry.<sup>66</sup>

*Increased enrolment and retention in schools* – All countries in the region have implemented measures to increase the enrolment and retention of girls in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Several countries, including Ethiopia, Namibia and Uganda, are offering universal primary and secondary education.<sup>67</sup> By eliminating tuition fees, one of the impediments to girls' education is addressed: poor families do not have to make a choice between paying for male children or female children. Other countries, including Kenya, are offering scholarships, particularly for girls from disadvantaged households and areas.<sup>68</sup> School feeding programmes in lower-level classes are helping to keep children in school. There is welcome investment in gender-responsive facilities in schools, including the provision of water, sanitary towels and girls-only toilets/latrines. There are also measures designed to prevent teenage

pregnancy and readmit girls who had dropped out of school due to pregnancy.<sup>69</sup> A good example is the Let Us Learn programme in Madagascar. This is a cash-transfer programme to assist parents in continuing their girls' and boys' education to the completion of secondary school.<sup>70</sup> Malawi gives preference to all students with disability, including women with disability, in institutions of higher learning, including universities.<sup>71</sup>

*More girls in science and technical subjects* – The region is encouraging girls to take science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses that were traditionally predominated by boys. Rwanda's STEM promotion initiatives<sup>72</sup> are credited for the increase in girls' participation in ICT courses from 32.3 per cent in 2015/2016 to 41.8 per cent in 2016/2017.<sup>73</sup> Uganda's Secondary Science and Mathematics Teachers programme aimed to retool teachers for improved teaching of STEM courses. The programme had a special focus on female science teachers who



can be role models for girls' participation in STEM.<sup>74</sup> In partnership with gender activist organizations, girls in STEM and TVET courses participate in mentorship programmes and a "Miss Mathematics" competition.<sup>75</sup> Girls' STEM and TVET clubs in schools have been established to motivate girls in these areas of study.

Secondary school enrolment for girls in Kenya has increased from 48 per cent in 2014 to 48.8 per cent in 2018, while enrolment in TVET has risen from 39.3 per cent in 2014 to 43.6 per cent in 2018.<sup>76</sup> Rwanda reports girls' enrolment at 49.7 per cent at the primary school level, 53.2 per cent at secondary level, and 42.6 per cent at tertiary level. Also encouraging is the enrolment for girls with disability: primary school enrolment has increased from 44.8 per cent in 2015 to 47 per cent in 2018, and secondary school enrolment from 47 per cent in 2015 to 50.5 per cent in 2018.<sup>77</sup> In Mozambique, the proportion of girls in secondary education is 49 per cent and that of boys is 51 per cent.<sup>78</sup> In Namibia, retention of pupils (boys and girls) in school is still a big challenge – only 3.2 per cent of students complete Grade 12.<sup>79</sup>

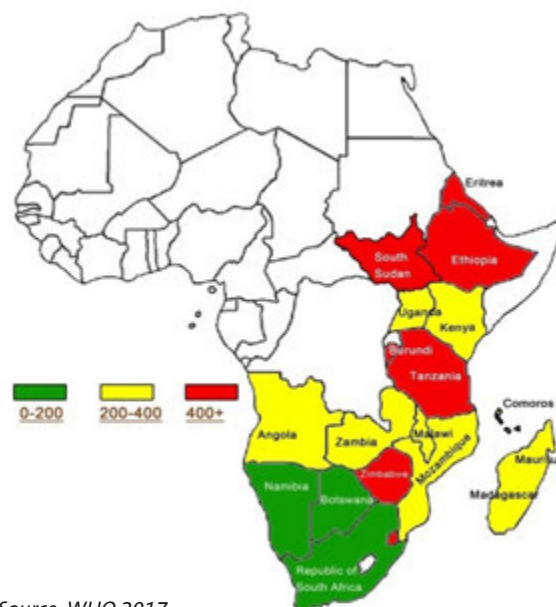
## Challenges

1. Negative cultural norms and practices, including early and child marriage, persist. UNICEF statistics from 2014 show that 58 per cent of women aged 20–49 years in East and southern Africa were married before they turned 18. Currently in Uganda, 40 per cent of girls are married before turning 18 and 10 per cent before they are 15.<sup>80</sup> Negative social attitudes and practices also contribute to inequalities in access to education by girls with disability.
2. Household poverty, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, continues to put demands on adolescent girls to supplement family agricultural, domestic and care work, thereby negatively impacting school enrolment, retention and performance.<sup>81</sup>
3. Continued low uptake by girls of training in traditionally male-dominated courses and apprenticeships – for example, in motor vehicle and engine mechanics, masonry, carpentry, plumbing and electricity – mean that women do not access jobs or self-employment in these lucrative skill areas. Negative societal perceptions, women-unfriendly curricula and teaching

methods, and women-unfriendly work environments (female engineers face the challenge of balancing their caregiving roles with the demands of the trade) play a role in discouraging girls from taking STEM courses.

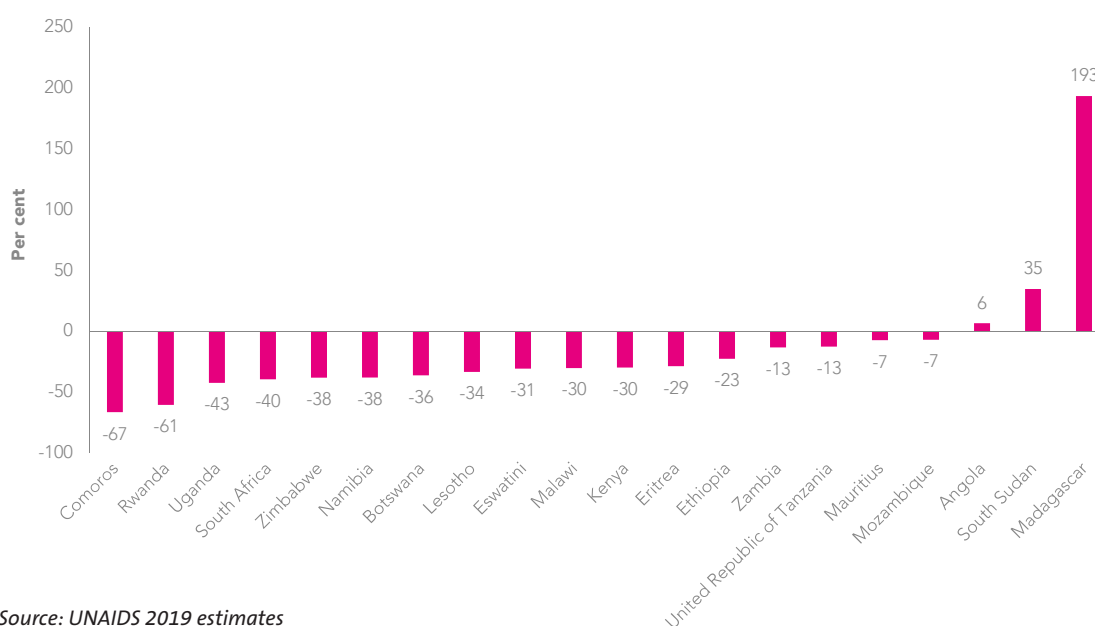
4. Inadequate infrastructure in schools, including water and sanitation infrastructure, contributes to girls' performance and retention.
5. Education and learning are a lifelong fundamental right. The Beijing+25 country reports, while expounding on the policies, programmes and achievements relating to girls and young women, are not strong on education and training for older women. They need equal support to learn and use new technologies and to seize available social and economic opportunities and services.
6. An emerging challenge in Southern Africa is the rate at which boys are dropping out of school. For instance, in Lesotho only 35 per cent of boys are likely to attend secondary school, compared to 51 per cent of girls. In Tanzania, while 83.5 per

**FIGURE 2**  
**Maternal mortality ratios in ESAR**



Source: WHO 2017

**FIGURE 3**  
**Percentage change in new infections by country, East and southern Africa 2010–2018**



Source: UNAIDS 2019 estimates

cent of girls completed primary school in 2016, the completion rate for boys was only 75.2 per cent.<sup>82</sup> South Africa also reported that in 2018 more girls attended Grades 11 and 12 (at 53.3 and 55.1 per cent respectively), even as girls represented only 47 per cent of the learners in Grades 1–4.<sup>83</sup> This pattern continues at public institutions of higher learning, where women represent 58.1 per cent of full-time students; in long-distance learning institutions, they represent 65.9 per cent of students.<sup>84</sup> Complex and intersecting factors that contribute to the dropout rate include poverty, the need for boys to find work, difficult home environments and truancy. Adding to the problem is an education system that does not facilitate individual attention to learners and lays inordinate emphasis on test results, thereby “pushing out” those considered to be underachievers.<sup>85</sup>

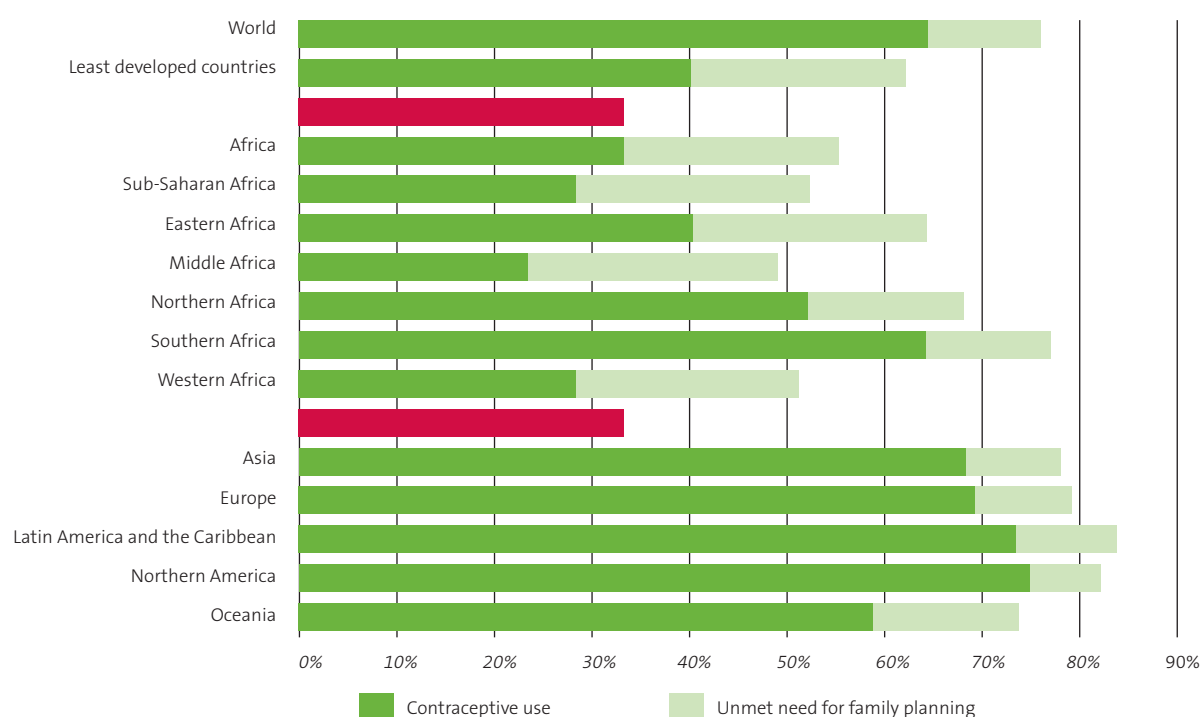
### 2.3.3 Women and Health

Following the 20-year review of the implementation of the BPfA in 2014, African governments committed themselves to reduce maternal mortality by half and to invest in sexual and reproductive health rights, including by providing comprehensive sexual health education, information and services.

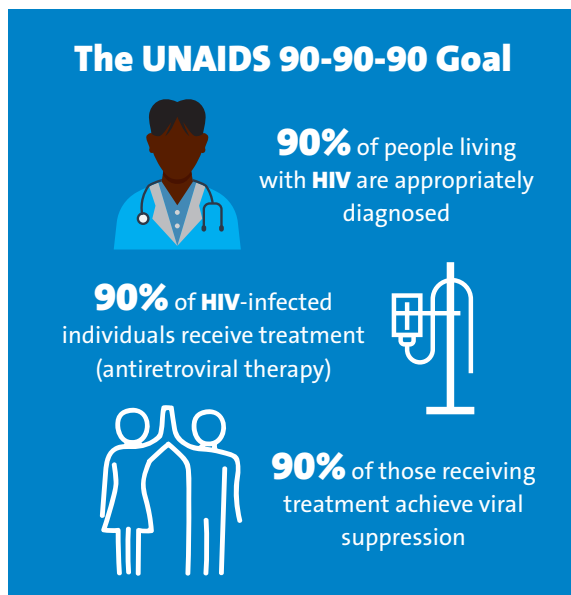
They committed to promote men’s shared responsibility for family planning, HIV protection, and sexual and gender-based violence prevention, as well as to improve access for all women and girls to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services. Additionally, countries undertook to scale up the ratio of medical doctors, midwives and nurses to the population, expand obstetric care services, especially in rural and

FIGURE 4

Contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning among married and in-union women



Source: International Planned Parenthood Federation 2018



remote areas, provide early detection services for cervical and breast cancer, and provide free cancer treatment for women. They agreed to implement effective strategies to ensure the elimination of discrimination against women with obstetric fistula. These commitments form part of the 2030 Agenda.

Target 5.6 under SDG 5 is to: “Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.”<sup>86</sup>

## Maternal Mortality

All countries in the region report improved maternal health due to increased antenatal care and attended births. Investment has been made in strengthening health infrastructure and services and increasing trained personnel, while addressing the challenges of limited human and financial resources, lack of information and data, and a brain drain of doctors and health professionals. Child and forced marriage, teenage pregnancy, cultural and social norms, economic status, unwanted pregnancies, and unsafe abortions are factors that negatively impact women’s right to health. A country’s MMR is linked to the attainment of development goals. The lower

the ratio, the higher ranked the country is on the United Nations Development Index.<sup>87</sup>

Despite the failure to meet the BPfA target of reducing the maternal mortality ratio to 50 per cent of the 1990 level by the year 2000, the region is performing better than other subregions of sub-Saharan Africa. South Africa’s accessible and safe abortion services, coupled with higher antenatal clinic attendance, has contributed to the reduction of its MMR by 91 per cent over a 20-year period. Ethiopia similarly is experiencing success, having adopted a policy in 2005 to provide safe abortion services countrywide.<sup>88</sup>

The above figure shows that, whereas the MMR has significantly reduced over the last ten years,<sup>89</sup> only five countries in the East and southern Africa subregion are below the 200/100,000 mark, putting them lower than the 2017 global average of 211 deaths per 100,000 live births.<sup>90</sup> Of the five, two – Seychelles and Mauritius – fall below the 2030 target, at 53/100,000 and 61/100,000 respectively. The ratios of the other three – South Africa, Botswana and Namibia – were 140.8, 144 and 195 deaths per 100,000 live births respectively. In 2017, South Sudan recorded the highest MMR at 1,150/100,000, but by 2019 the country showed a significant decline to 789/100,000.<sup>91</sup> However, MMR among adolescent and young girls, especially between the ages of 14 and 19 years, is far higher and stands at 3,000/100,000. This is a result of a combination of early marriage/pregnancy, the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the age group, and poor health infrastructure.<sup>92</sup> Zambia recorded a major decline in MMR, from 398/100,000 in 2014 to 252/100,000 in 2018.<sup>93</sup>

## HIV/AIDS

East and southern Africa accounts for 53 per cent of the people living with HIV globally.<sup>94</sup> UNAIDS estimates that there were approximately 800,000 new HIV infections in East and southern Africa in 2018, a 28 per cent decrease from the number of new HIV infections in 2010.<sup>95</sup> In the period 2010–2018, new infections in Comoros, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa declined by between 40 per cent (South Africa) and 67 per cent (Comoros). This contrasts with the worst performing countries of South Sudan and

Madagascar, where new infections grew by 35 per cent and 193 per cent respectively.<sup>96</sup>

The rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV decreased from 18 per cent in 2010 to 9 per cent in 2018.<sup>97</sup> Botswana, Eswatini, Uganda and Namibia have the highest coverage of prevention of mother-to-child transmission activities, at over 90 per cent, and the highest levels of awareness and testing.<sup>98</sup> South Sudan and Madagascar are at the low end of coverage, awareness and testing. Some ESAR countries, including Eswatini, Mauritius, Namibia and Uganda, are implementing the UNAIDS 90-90-90 by 2020 goal, designed to ensure that at least 90 per cent of people living with HIV infection are appropriately diagnosed, at least 90 per cent of HIV-infected individuals receive treatment (antiretroviral therapy), and at least 90 per cent of those on antiretroviral therapy achieve viral suppression.<sup>99</sup> UNAIDS 2019 data shows that in the ESAR, 85 per cent of people living with HIV have been tested and know their status. Only 67 per cent are on antiretroviral therapy, and 58 per cent have viral suppression.<sup>100</sup> While most countries report high infection rates among young women, Namibia reports a high infection rate (30 per cent) among women aged 40–49.

## Challenges

1. Resistance to the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education in institutions of learning and at the family level has contributed to continued low levels of knowledge on issues related to HIV and sexual and reproductive health. Early sexual debut by girls is thus increasing the vulnerability of young women to HIV infection.<sup>101</sup>
2. UNAIDS asserts that the fear of social stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV remains an important factor in whether people decide to test, disclose and remain on antiretroviral therapy.<sup>102</sup>
3. Limited access to reproductive health commodities negatively affects women's health and contributes to MMR and infant mortality. A 2018 report by International Planned Parenthood shows that only 28 per cent of women of child-bearing age in sub-Saharan Africa use any form of contraceptive method. Figure 4 shows the

unmet need for contraceptive commodities by geographical region, thereby allowing for comparison with regions in Africa and elsewhere in the world.<sup>103</sup>

4. Other intersecting factors – including violence against women and girls, poverty, and displacement due to armed conflict and other disasters – have a negative impact on the provision and uptake of sexual and reproductive health services and rights and HIV/AIDS services.

## 2.3.4 Violence against Women

The Beijing Platform for Action calls on governments to adopt, implement and periodically review legislation “emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders; take measures to ensure the effective protection of women subjected to violence, access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification, and healing of victims.”<sup>104</sup> The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104) defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”. The CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 19 further elaborates and defines violence against women as a form of discrimination that limits women's ability to enjoy human rights on an equal basis with men. All ESAR countries have employed, with varying rates of success, a combination of strategies to combat VAW (listed in the following section).

## Progress

1. Reform of criminal laws and procedures and the promulgation or strengthening of legislation criminalizing sexual violence and domestic violence, marriage laws that set the age of consent to marry at 18 years, and laws that prohibit FGM and other harmful practices. Zambia has innovatively operationalized the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Fund, established under the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011, to provide for compensation of gender-based

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## South Sudan: Women are key players in conflict

Women are intricately linked to and are part of many of the drivers and manifestations of communal conflict in South Sudan. Not only are women and children more likely to be victims of violence, but issues closely related to women are among the most prominent drivers of intercommunal violence in the country today, such as cattle raiding to pay for high dowries, land disputes around inheritance laws that prohibit the passage of land to women, and tensions surrounding marriage. Despite this, women remain under-represented and removed from peacebuilding efforts and peace processes at the community level, and this lack of engagement demonstrates a clear failure to recognize their roles in contributing to violence and peace.

*Source: South Sudan Beijing+25 report, p. 24*

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violence survivors. In 2019, the fund was allocated 62,528.02 kwacha, which was disbursed to 237 beneficiaries, of which 52 were male and 185 were female.<sup>105</sup>

2. Legal and administrative measures, including training of officials in the criminal justice system, as well as setting up and strengthening gender units in various departments, including criminal investigation, prosecution and probation, to ensure justice for VAW survivors.
3. Engaging traditional, faith and cultural leaders in addressing negative social norms and harmful practices; establishment of the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa at regional and national levels, including in Malawi, Uganda and Zambia, and pledges by traditional and faith leaders to end child marriage and FGM in Africa.
4. Adoption and strengthening of multisectoral responses and referral pathways in the prevention of and response to VAW, including access to quality essential services. Rwanda's Isange One-Stop Centre has served as a good practice adopted in other countries.
5. Some countries such as Burundi, South Africa and Zambia have established survivor/victim-friendly special courts for fast-tracking sexual offence trials. Others such as Kenya have enacted legislation with special measures for handling perpetrators of sexual violence.

For example, under Kenya's Sexual Offences Regulations (2008), the Registrar of the High Court is required to maintain a Register of Convicted Sexual Offenders containing detailed particulars of the offender, the offence he was convicted for, and the date of such conviction. The register should also indicate the age of the victim and any relationship with the offender. The regulations also empower a prosecutor in any criminal proceedings to apply to court to declare a person convicted of a sexual offence a dangerous offender. Once a person is so declared, the court shall order that the person shall be under the supervision of a government agency – for example, the prisons department, the police, the probation office or the children's department.<sup>106</sup>

6. Political and community advocacy campaigns utilizing mass media and newer technologies, including initiatives for the prevention of technology-related violence against women and girls; campaigns to change male behaviour and include men in programmes to prevent and eliminate VAW.

### Challenges

Despite these strategies, there has been no recorded significant decline in the incidence of VAW. Challenges include the following:

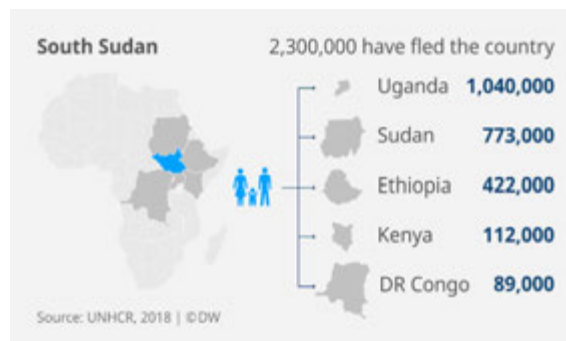
1. The negative patriarchal sociocultural and religious norms and practices that underlie the social acceptance of VAW and promote notions of male superiority and their power-cum-responsibility to “protect” and discipline women are still prevalent in the ESAR. The 2016 Demographic and Household Survey in Uganda found that 60 per cent of the survivors of physical and sexual violence reported that the perpetrator was their spouse/intimate partner or an ex-spouse/partner.<sup>107</sup> Public awareness campaigns convey the message that VAW is against the law, but have not adequately transformed the patriarchal beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate VAW.
2. Legal reforms that criminalize different forms of VAW have not been backed by the necessary reforms of police and judicial handling of VAW cases. Inadequate investment in infrastructure for post-reporting survivor support, including psychosocial services for survivors and their families, together with the absence of accountability mechanisms for police and local government leaders, are major challenges to a comprehensive VAW response strategy.
3. Survivors of VAW, especially of intimate-partner violence, face social stigma and a lack of family support, which discourage reporting and the pursuit of justice and services.
4. Young women and persons with disability have special vulnerabilities to VAW in homes, communities and institutions of higher learning.
5. Humanitarian crises, violent conflict, climate change, trafficking, violent extremism and new technologies, coupled with consistent failure to effectively protect women and girls, have all contributed to VAW in the region.

### 2.3.5 Women, Peace and Security

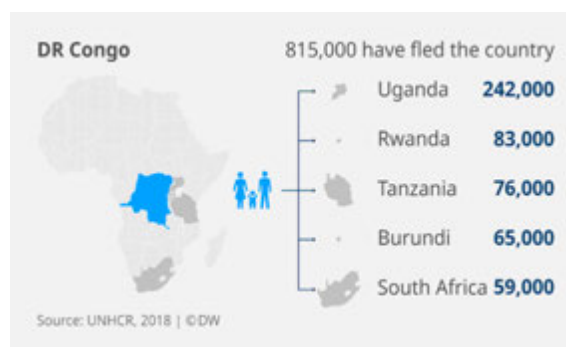
#### Progress

The ESAR is home to countries that have experienced protracted conflict over the past two decades, with South Sudan and Somalia contributing the largest numbers of refugees and internally displaced

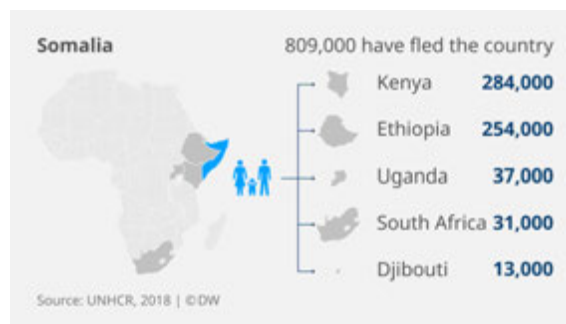
**FIGURE 5**  
**Host countries for South Sudan refugees<sup>109</sup>**



**FIGURE 6**  
**Host countries for DRC refugees**



**FIGURE 7**  
**Host countries for Somalia refugees**



people. The region also hosts the largest number of refugees and internally displaced people, the majority of whom are women and children.<sup>108</sup>

While it is important to note that conflicts have regional dimensions with impacts that call for coordinated solutions, the changing nature of conflict identified in the national reviews (terrorism, violent extremism and fundamentalism), means that women's experience of conflict is also changing.

The national reports do not reflect much on these changing dynamics. Several countries have experienced cyclical political and election-related violence resulting in humanitarian crises.<sup>110</sup>

The inclusion of women in peace, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction processes has a positive impact on sustainable peace and development. The women, peace and security agenda – grounded in human rights, fully embedded in security discourses and national development plans, and backed by 11 UN Security Council resolutions<sup>111</sup> – is still the least implemented framework among those that promote gender equality. That the UN Security Council has passed 11 resolutions on the issue of women's inclusion in peace and political processes signifies the importance of including women and mainstreaming gender perspectives in peace and security discourses and processes.

Eight ESAR countries had developed National Action Plans for the implementation of UN Security Council 1325 by the end of 2019, as indicated in Table 2.

Uganda reported a shift from a strategy driven by the central government to one focused on the promotion of a peaceful society. As a result, local governments have developed and are implementing peace plans, with the support of civil society organizations.<sup>113</sup> Additionally, Uganda has adopted affirmative action measures in the recruitment of soldiers. At least 10 per cent of recruits must be women.<sup>114</sup> Ethiopia has created a Ministry of Peace, which is currently headed by a woman minister. The country has also registered increased participation of women in different sections of its peace and security agencies, including the armed forces and police.<sup>115</sup>

South Africa saw female participation in the defence forces increase from 24 per cent in 2010 to 30 per cent in 2015.<sup>116</sup>

In addition to the NAPs, the 12-member International Conference on the Great Lakes Region adopted a Regional Action Plan in 2012 and has updated it for the period 2018–2023.<sup>117</sup> Angola, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia are member states of the conference. The Southern African Development Community is currently implementing its Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security (2018–2022), which is designed to promote the participation of women and children in peace and conflict resolution processes, programmes and activities.<sup>118</sup> Similarly, the East African Community adopted the East African Community Regional Framework on UNSCR 1325 (2015–2019) for the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the region's peace and security initiatives and the protection of the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.<sup>119</sup> Given the emergence of Regional Action Plans, the African Union has called for shifting the emphasis on NAPs to the acknowledgement and support of different variations of policies, strategies and plans (including national/regional development plans) through which countries choose to implement the objectives of UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security.<sup>120</sup>

**TABLE 2**  
**ESAR countries that have adopted NAPs for UNSC Resolution 1325<sup>112</sup>**

	Country	Year of Adoption
1	Uganda	2008
2	Rwanda	2009
3	Burundi	2012
4	South Sudan	2015
5	Kenya	2016
6	Angola	2017
7	Mozambique	2018
8	Namibia	2019

Source: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

TABLE 3

**ESAR countries with quotas for women's representation<sup>123</sup>**

	Country	Legislated Quota	Administrative	Voluntary Party Quota
1	Angola	√		
2	Burundi	√		
3	Botswana			√
4	Ethiopia		√	
5	Kenya	√		
6	Djibouti	√		
7	Eritrea	√		
8	Eswatini	√		
9	Lesotho	√		
10	Mauritius	√ (subnational)		
11	Mozambique			√
12	Namibia	√ (subnational)		√
13	Rwanda	√		
14	Somalia	x	x	x
15	South Africa	√ (subnational)		√
16	South Sudan	√		
17	Tanzania	√		√
18	Uganda	√		
19	Zambia	x	x	x
20	Zimbabwe	√		√

Source: *International IDEA*

## Challenges

However, and despite the achievements in a few countries, issues of women's agency in conflict prevention and resolution do not appear to be a priority, despite the publicity given to UNSCR 1325 (and related subsequent resolutions) on women, peace and security. By the end of 2019, only eight countries in the ESAR had NAPs on UNSCR 1325 (Table 2). The lack of dedicated funding for the implementation of NAPs and a general lack of political will and commitment to the women, peace and security agenda mean that the impacts of the NAPs are difficult to ascertain. In the words of UN Women's Executive Director, action "...is too slow, political will is not strong enough and pushback against the needs and interests of women

is threatening the progress made...We still live in a world that tolerates and excuses women's continued exclusion from peace and political processes and institutions."<sup>121</sup>

## 2.3.6 Women, Decision Making and Power

The notion of participation is located within the overarching framework of democracy, human rights and gender equality. Central to participation is the notion of the "active and meaningful inclusion" of women as full citizens and as decision makers in public and private sector institutions and in political, economic and peace processes. Participation in



Photo: UN Women

**FIGURE 8**  
**Proportion of women in parliament in ESAR countries**



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

TABLE 4

**ESAR countries with female Speakers of Parliament<sup>127</sup>**

Country	Parliamentary Chamber	Date of Appointment
<i>Eswatini</i>	Senate	2018
<i>Ethiopia</i>	House of the Federation	2018
<i>Lesotho</i>	Senate	2017
<i>Madagascar</i>	National Assembly	2019
<i>Malawi</i>	National Assembly	2019
<i>Mozambique</i>	Assembly of the Republic	2020
<i>Rwanda</i>	Chamber of Deputies	2013
<i>South Africa</i>	National Assembly	2019
<i>Uganda</i>	Parliament	2011
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	Senate	2018

decision-making processes, particularly in public affairs, acknowledges and values women's expertise, experiences and perspectives. It is a tool of empowerment and is an imperative in all the BPfA critical areas of concern. The national reports reveal significant progress in women's representation in politics.

### Progress

In terms of women's participation in politics and leadership, below are the discernible regional trends:

1. Legislative and policy frameworks – All countries have adopted legislation and policies that promote and facilitate the participation of women in politics and other decision-making positions. They include national constitutions, electoral laws, gender policies and other sector-specific policies. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Eswatini, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe have reserved seats for women in parliament.<sup>122</sup>
2. The numbers are improving – As of November 2019, 5 of the 23 ESAR countries were among the 25 countries that have the highest women's representation in parliament globally.<sup>124</sup> Almost half of the countries in the region (43.48 per cent) have at least 30 per cent female representation in parliament.<sup>125</sup> The Comoros and Eswatini, however, fall below 10 per cent representation, at 6.2 and 7.25 per cent respectively. There are more women in cabinet, with some countries achieving parity (50 per cent in Ethiopia, Rwanda and South Africa). The judiciary is also witnessing an increase in the numbers of women. Rwanda and Mauritius, for example, reported that 49.7 and 47 per cent respectively of high court judges are women, with numbers increasing faster at the magistrates' level of the judiciary.
3. Overall, women in parliament, cabinet and the judiciary are assuming and excelling in non-traditional positions of responsibility, including ministries of foreign affairs, internal affairs, defence, justice, trade and industry, transport, and economic planning.<sup>126</sup> Ethiopia was the only country with a female President at the time of reporting. The percentage of women serving in judiciaries as judges, magistrates and registrars has increased exponentially, and the region now boasts four of Africa's five women Chief Justices (Ethiopia, Zambia, Seychelles and Lesotho). For the first time in Ethiopia's history, women occupy top leadership positions: President of the Federal Republic, President of the Supreme



Photo: UN Women/Tanzania

Court and Chair of the National Electoral Board. Women have been elected as Speakers of Parliament, as indicated in Table 4.

4. Women's representation is much lower at the subnational (provincial, district, municipality, village) governance level. Rwanda, for instance, reported female representation among town mayors at 27 per cent, and just 16.1 per cent among heads of sectors.<sup>128</sup> South Africa and Uganda reported 41 per cent female representation in local government.
5. Women are accessing leadership positions in the private sector, albeit at a much slower pace. South Africa reports that women comprised 22.3 per cent of senior management in 2018,<sup>129</sup> while only 19.8 per cent of board members for major companies in Kenya are women.<sup>130</sup> There do not appear to be concerted efforts to prioritize the promotion of women's decision making and leadership in the private sector.
6. The progress reported across the region is largely due to the implementation of quotas

## 50:50

### African National Congress gender parity policy on nominations

and mixed-member representation provisions in national constitutions and political party laws and policies.<sup>131</sup> Where legislation does not provide for gender quotas or where constitutional quota laws are not implemented, the percentage of representation is lower than the global average of 24.5 per cent.

7. Women-focused mentorship and training contributed to the progress made. The trainings covered diverse areas, including leadership, decision making, public speaking and political campaigns.<sup>132</sup> Most of the countries commended the role of women's non-governmental organizations in supporting women's participation in politics and other positions of power.

TABLE 5

### Countries that submitted periodic reports on women's human rights to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights 2014–2019<sup>138</sup>

	Country	Report Period	Report on Maputo Protocol	Substantive Report on Women under Article 18(3)
1	Angola	2011–2016	√	
2	Eritrea	1999–2016		
3	Mauritius	2016–2019		√
4	Ethiopia	2008–2013 <sup>139</sup>		√
5	Kenya	2008–2014		√
6	Lesotho	2001–2017	√	
7	Malawi	2015–2019	√	
8	Namibia	2011–2014	√	
9	Rwanda	2009–2016	√	
10	South Africa	2003–2014	√	
11	Uganda	2006–2012 <sup>140</sup>		√
12	Zimbabwe	2007–2017	√	

Source: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

TABLE 6

## ESAR countries that submitted CEDAW reports 2014–2019

	Country	Periodic Report	Submission Date
1	Angola	Sixth	7/11/2017
2	Botswana	Fourth	21/11/2017
3	Burundi	Fifth and sixth	8/6/2015
4	Eritrea	Fifth	5/3/2019
5	Eswatini	Eighth	21/11/2017
6	Kenya	Eighth	3/3/2016
7	Madagascar	Sixth and seventh	24/1/2014
8	Malawi	Seventh	4/7/2014
9	Mozambique	Third–fifth	22/3/2018
10	Rwanda	Seventh–ninth	13/7/2015
11	South Africa	Fifth	9/5/2019
12	Tanzania	Seventh and eighth	10/11/2014
13	Zimbabwe	Sixth	6/12/2018

Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

## Challenges

1. Entrenched negative social norms, attitudes and practices, particularly on leadership and power, militate against women's participation in politics and positions of power. As a result, the presence of many women in parliament and local government has only been possible due to affirmative action measures. Even women who have excelled in powerful positions find it difficult to overcome the gendered and discriminatory attitudes of political parties and voters to successfully contest for open constituency seats. This is despite the substantial numbers of women voters. The potential for affirmative action seats acting as a channel for new entrants into politics, including young women, as seasoned women “graduate” into constituency seats, is stymied, resulting in the stagnation of numbers and demotivation of young women.
2. There are inadequate practical and sustained measures for transforming negative social attitudes. Most countries have laws and policies in place. The challenge is in crafting innovative, popularly acceptable, sustained campaigns to translate the laws into reality.
3. Despite the increased representation of women in politics and decision making in ESAR, there still exist institutional, social, economic and cultural barriers that constrain women's effective participation. Political parties have been slow to democratize their nomination rules and internal practices, which are the entry points for women into politics. In South Africa, the ruling African National Congress has a 50:50 gender parity policy on nominations. However, in the 2019 general elections, the party disregarded this policy with respect to the nomination of premiers in regions where they hold majority seats. The reversals, however slight, in nomination and selection processes, while not yet a trend, should be a cause for concern.

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## Ethiopia: Risk management instead of disaster management

Ethiopia has adopted a national policy and strategy document on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in 2013 that was implemented throughout the period under review. The policy, which focuses on the management of risk rather than crisis, takes disaster resilience as a new approach for comprehensive and inclusive disaster risk management in pre, during [sic] and post disaster phases. A guideline for mainstreaming disaster risks into development planning has also been introduced. Gender has been integrated as a cross-cutting issue mainstreaming it in all DRM activities in the policy, which has laid [the] foundation for gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction approaches and reasserted the commitment of the government for further action.

*Source: Ethiopia Beijing+25 report, p. 49*

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### 2.3.7 The Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Women

#### Progress

All countries in the ESAR have constitutional guarantees of women's equality before the law.<sup>133</sup> Apart from Somalia, they have ratified CEDAW, which defines gender discrimination and the obligations of states parties towards the achievement of gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women. At least 42 countries in Africa have also ratified the Maputo Protocol. Each country commits to submit periodic reports of the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures taken to give effect to CEDAW.<sup>134</sup> The binding nature of CEDAW gives women and their movements the right to demand for its implementation. Although CEDAW does not provide for the elimination of violence against women and girls, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, set up to monitor its implementation, has issued several General Comments clarifying that violence against women is a form of discrimination and outlining the obligation of states to prevent violence against women and punish perpetrators.<sup>135</sup>

Additionally, most countries have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol),<sup>136</sup> which commits states parties to take

all measures necessary to eliminate discrimination against women and to "...integrate a gender perspective in their policy decisions, legislation, development plans, programmes and activities..."<sup>137</sup> It details wide-ranging and substantive human rights of women in their diversity, coupled with binding obligations, including periodic reporting to and review by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

It is worth noting that 12 countries submitted their periodic reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights during the period under review. Seven of these included in the report a specific section detailing progress made in the implementation of the Maputo Protocol.<sup>141</sup>

**Kenya and Mauritius reported on women's human rights under Article 18(3) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which mandates states parties to "...ensure the elimination of every discrimination against women and also ensure the protection of the rights of the woman and the child as stipulated in international declarations and conventions."**<sup>142</sup>

TABLE 7

Large-scale land acquisitions in East and southern Africa<sup>150</sup>

Target Country	Number of Deals		Total Hectares	
	2012	2016	2012	2016
<i>Rwanda</i>	1	7	3,100	111,130
<i>Uganda</i>	7	22	121,512	153,155
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	2	7	201,171	354,449
<i>Zambia</i>	8	33	273,413	1,163,596
<i>Malawi</i>	7	8	310,147	75,952
<i>Kenya</i>	13	10	633,500	213,387
<i>Tanzania</i>	55	41	1,324,475	504,483
<i>Mozambique</i>	103	94	2,190,473	3,093,785
<i>Madagascar</i>	39	18	3,779,741	757,264
<i>Ethiopia</i>	71	96	4,748,753	2,639,632

Source: J. Ahikire, 2016

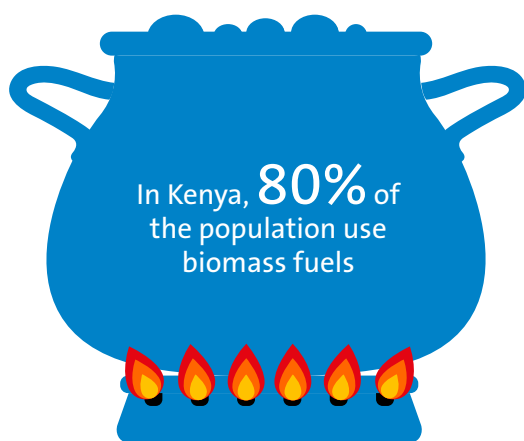
During the same period, 13 countries submitted their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as Table 6 shows.

### Challenges

Despite all countries reporting on the creation of enabling legal and institutional infrastructure for gender equality, achieving women's empowerment is still a work in progress across the ESAR. Legal pluralism, with the resulting lack of harmonization between statutory and customary law applicable to

personal law regimes, is a major barrier to gender equality and the ability of many women to take advantage of government policies and programmes.

In some country contexts, discrimination in marriage and property regimes is embedded in law; in all cases, entrenched patriarchy and gender stereotypes make it difficult to transform state, community and family institutions to embrace women's rights and empowerment. Gender inequality in citizenship laws remains, and abortion is criminalized rather than being addressed in the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights.



### 2.3.8 Women and Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

#### Progress

Many countries in the ESAR are experiencing climate change-related weather phenomena, including prolonged drought, rising temperatures, floods, landslides and unpredictable rainfall patterns.<sup>143</sup> The 2019 cyclones *Idai* and *Kenneth*, which hit Zimbabwe, Mozambique and parts of Malawi, caused massive flooding, loss of life and destruction of

property, including homes, on a large scale.<sup>144</sup> The negative impacts are being felt in food security, health, livelihoods and the productive sectors of the economy such as agriculture, electricity generation and manufacturing. Women are affected as producers and as carers at household and community levels. Countries' responses vary. Several countries focus on mitigation strategies, including conservation farming, agroforestry and water-saving approaches.<sup>145</sup> South Africa has prioritized (among other initiatives) research and evidence-based advocacy to show the gender perspectives of climate change and environmental issues such as industrial pollution. It has supported women to take leadership positions in the implementation of climate adaptation initiatives.<sup>146</sup> Ethiopia, on the other hand, made a strategic choice to mainstream risk management in its development planning (see box). This approach calls for a critical assessment of each development policy, programme and financing mechanism to assess (and respond to) the extent to which it contributes to the reduction of existing disaster- and climate change-related risks, while reducing its potential to generate new risks.

Countries are also implementing measures to promote a strong women's role in the management of natural resources. Uganda, for instance, has adopted and is implementing the National Strategy and Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming in the Oil and Gas Sector (2016) to ensure women's participation in the sector while reducing any potential negative impacts of the sector's operations on women and girls. In its national and sanitation management strategy, Uganda monitors annually the "percentage of Water and Sanitation Committees/Boards with at least one woman holding a key position".<sup>147</sup> Zimbabwe's interesting approach is to support a women's cooperative, the Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM), established in 2016, as the vehicle for women's participation in agriculture, fisheries, industry, energy, tourism and mining.<sup>148</sup> FEMCOM now has 2 million members.

## Challenges

1. The inadequate capacity (technical, financial and institutional) and political will of most countries



to implement sustained climate-resilient and adaptation strategies is the most important challenge. This is coupled with an equally inadequate capacity to plan for or respond to climate emergencies, including providing emergency relief supplies to resettle affected populations. The continued use of biomass fuel for domestic and small-scale manufacturing negatively impacts efforts to protect the environment. Uganda, for instance, reports that 90 per cent of the population uses biomass fuel, while in Kenya the number is 80 per cent.<sup>149</sup>

2. The ESAR has witnessed large-scale land acquisitions by commercial enterprises, as well as smaller-scale land transactions by wealthy individuals, resulting in displacement and forced evictions. Table 7 highlights the magnitude of the problem.

Such evictions, often with no compensation due to opaque rights under traditional land tenure on public and titled land, have negatively affected women's access to and control of land, deprived them of livelihoods and the capacity to provide for their families, and tipped them into extreme poverty. In Uganda, evictions have occurred to make way for oil exploration and exploitation in Hoima District. In 2018, tens of thousands of people were evicted from the Mau Forest in central Kenya according to Human Rights Watch.<sup>151</sup> Forced evictions are usually accompanied by the use of violence, destruction of property and increased vulnerability of women and girls to sexual attacks.

### 2.3.9 Women's Access to and Participation in the Media

#### Progress

Most countries did not prioritize or report on women and the media, despite its strategic importance in the transformation of social attitudes and norms. There has been a gradual increase of women in traditional media such as radio, newspaper and television, especially with the exponential growth of community radio stations. However, there is a significant gender imbalance at the management level. For instance, in Zimbabwe there were only 7 women in senior editorial positions at the country's leading newspaper group (Zimpapers), compared to 51 men. Similarly, at Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings, out of the 227 editorial managers, only 63 were women.<sup>152</sup> In Kenya, the Code of Conduct established under the Media Council Act 2013 requires journalists to report on and portray women and children objectively and without stereotypical bias.<sup>153</sup> Rwanda adopted a media policy in 2014 and a strategy for mainstreaming gender in the media sector (2013) as a framework for ensuring the fair and equitable portrayal of women in the media.<sup>154</sup> Women participating in media organizations have contributed not only to promoting women-centred news and feature stories and reducing negative stereotypes, but they have also supported government and women's rights organizations in raising the profile of and public awareness on various women's rights issues.

With the advent of mobile telecommunication, more women, especially young women, have access to and are active participants in the media, including social media. Women are using these technologies to access bigger markets, sustain direct communication with customers, and establish their financial inclusion. Such technologies are also an avenue for policy engagement. Women's media associations and networks play an important role in advocacy, training and networking support to women in the media. Such institutions include the Tanzania Media Women's Association and the Uganda Media Women's Association.



#### Challenges

1. Women remain under-represented in the media, particularly in decision-making positions. In Tanzania, only 22 per cent of media personnel are women.<sup>155</sup> As stated by the Government of Rwanda, "Only 24.5% of accredited journalists are female, and women constitute just 14.1% of owners or managers of media houses. The percentage of women in decision-making positions in the media governing bodies varies between 28.5% and 50%."<sup>156</sup>
2. Negative stereotyping of women in the media remains a challenge, despite the progress noted above.
3. Inadequate access to the media by women and girls, particularly in rural areas due to the unavailability of service or high cost, deprives women of avenues for learning and participation in public affairs, including dialogue on development and governance issues. The ascendancy of social media as an important avenue for public discourse and the predominance of foreign languages as the medium of discourse are marginalizing large sections of the population, particularly women and girls.<sup>157</sup>



Photo: UN Women

### 2.3.10 Protection of the Girl Child

#### Achievements

The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognized the rights of the girl child<sup>158</sup> as a stand-alone critical area. It also acknowledged that issues of concern to girls cut across all 12 critical areas of concern of the BPfA. In this regard, the need to address child, early and forced marriage was highlighted, in recognition of its compounding impact on poverty and gender inequality. Early marriage deprives girls of the ability to access educational and economic opportunities and negotiating power regarding sex, family planning and resource allocation. It contributes to early pregnancy, high fertility rates, fistula and exposure to different forms of violence.<sup>159</sup> The 2014 Beijing+20 global review showed that more than one in three women worldwide were married before the age of 18.<sup>160</sup>

Inclusive and multi-dimensional approaches are being adopted in the region in a bid to end child marriage. In the Kingdom of Eswatini, marriage below the age of 18 is prohibited by law. Mozambique adopted the National Child Policy 2015 and the National Plan

of Action and National Standards Guidelines for Services and Programmes for Vulnerable Children in 2016. The country is also implementing the Strategy to End Child Marriage (2016–2021).<sup>161</sup> Tanzania's Education Policy 2014 introduces free education at primary and secondary school levels, thereby removing one of the impediments to girls' education (school fees).<sup>162</sup> Tanzania has also removed value-added tax on sanitary pads to increase their affordability, thereby keeping girls in school.<sup>163</sup>

UN Women and its partners, including the African Union, have mobilized nearly 400 traditional and religious leaders as agents of transformation who can address these harmful practices. Following a series of consultations, the AU Champion against Child Marriage, HE President Edgar Lungu of Zambia, launched the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa. The council aims to stop cultural and traditional norms and practices that discriminate against women and girls, especially child marriage and FGM.

In Lesotho, community courts have been established to deal with issues of early marriage. The country continues to implement, in partnership with



Photo: UN Women

women's rights organizations, a national campaign against early marriage.<sup>164</sup> In Mozambique, the government has enacted legislation setting the minimum age for marriage at 18, thereby removing a loophole in Mozambican family law that made it possible for children to marry at 16 with the consent of their parents. In Ethiopia, religious leaders took the initiative to introduce an Islamic decree/fatwa to end FGM and child marriage. In Tanzania, advocacy spearheaded by traditional leaders resulted in a proclamation on early, forced and child marriage. In Uganda, a local Parliament in Kooli discusses and identifies solutions to child marriage. In Zambia, community by-laws were introduced to eliminate child marriage.

## Challenges

ESAR countries face significant challenges in efforts to protect the rights of the girl child, as indicated below:

1. Despite improved enrolment and completion rates for girls at primary school level, transitioning to secondary and tertiary institutions remains a big challenge. Inadequate infrastructure and services for menstrual sanitation, unintended pregnancy and early marriage contribute to the dropout rates. In Kenya, child marriage affects nearly one in four girls.<sup>165</sup> Inadequate public investment in education have had negative implications for the quality of education received by pupils – both boys and girls.
2. Negative sociocultural norms and practices continue to perpetuate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child. Girls, particularly in rural and poor households, carry unequal burdens of domestic chores and care work when compared to male peers. Male preference is widespread in education, inheritance and leadership opportunities.<sup>166</sup>
3. Children, particularly girl children, are subjected to child labour on farms, in mines and stone

quarries, and in homes as domestic workers. In its 2016 report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Angola indicated that girls working on farms are often exposed to the risk of sexual violence and other forms of abuse.<sup>167</sup>

4. While there are advantages resulting from widespread access to and use of ICT by young girls, such technology (including mobile telephones and social media) has increased the vulnerability to sexual exploitation of the girl child through pornography and trafficking.<sup>168</sup>

# **PART 3**

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **3.1 Emerging Regional Trends**

In 2014 during the Beijing+20 regional review, African countries articulated the priorities and enablers of gender equality: education; legal and policy frameworks; voice and agency expressed in participation and leadership in the public, corporate, community and private spheres; and well-resourced coordination and implementation mechanisms. Countries of the ESAR made some progress in implementing the BPfA, as outlined in Part 2 above. Gender-responsive budgeting has proved to be an effective strategy in advancing gender equality goals, as has the willingness of national leaders to embrace and promote policies that ensure equal opportunities for women.

There is broad agreement on the most pervasive barrier – entrenched patriarchal social norms, attitudes, structures and institutions that propagate and enable discrimination, including violence against women and girls. Inadequate political will to adopt, resource and implement sustained campaigns for the transformation of these negative social norms makes the attainment of gender equality and the empowerment of women in all 12 critical areas of concern of the BPfA slow, with minimal impact in some, including ending VAW. There is an urgent need to address and transform social norms and gender stereotypes to advance gender equality in the communities in which women live. Meaningful progress on women's empowerment will require the structural and systemic change of the social institutions and patriarchal norms (social, religious, cultural) that govern gender relations in society.

The close linkage between education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to and control of productive resources, and poverty has complicated efforts towards the empowerment of women. Countries cannot choose to prioritize the economic

empowerment of women without investing in education, health, land reforms and the elimination of VAW. Without this approach, economic structures and policies will continue to further marginalize women.

Even in countries with high economic growth rates, national development and economic frameworks have increased inequalities and worsened the deprivation of marginalized groups of women and girls, such as those working in insecure and unprotected labour situations; women with multiple care burdens; and refugee, displaced and migrant women. Women's impoverishment is intrinsically linked to intersecting discriminations and violations of their human rights and dignity – for example, exclusion from decision making, gender-based violence, and lack of access to justice and socio-economic services such as health, education, credit, markets and productive resources.

In the education sphere, the progress made has not substantively increased women's employment or leadership in the private economic sector or reduced

occupational segregation. The gender gap in tertiary institutions of higher learning and in STEM is large. Over 80 per cent of the population in Ethiopia, Malawi and Uganda lives in rural areas, while the proportion in Kenya, Rwanda and the Tanzania is estimated to be 65–75 per cent.<sup>169</sup> Since the majority of women live in rural areas, relevant skills training and early enrolment in STEM subjects can be a key component in rural transformation, reducing occupational segregation and breaking the barriers that hinder women's and girls' equality in all spheres of life.

Violent conflict, climate change, trafficking, violent extremism, technology-assisted violence against women and other marginalizing factors advanced by criminal enterprises compound the incidence and egregious nature of violence against women, with far-reaching impacts on their health, livelihoods, rights and freedoms. Additionally, women have limited access to justice, including adequate remedies and reparations for crimes committed against them. Formal justice systems are inaccessible to many women, and the justice gap is growing. Traditional systems of justice are not gender sensitive or responsive to women's needs, but in most cases these are the only systems available to women.

A challenge to the implementation of the BPfA commitments that runs through the national reports is the lack of reliable sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data; relevant knowledge; gender analysis skills; and sufficient financial resources for the implementation of policies and strategies for GEWE.

Many countries are in the process of implementing impressive national development plans, the majority of which are set in planning periods of five to ten years. The pressure on resources cannot be underestimated, especially considering major infrastructure priorities. The promotion of women's rights, including gender equality, becomes marginalized, despite the adoption of gender-mainstreaming strategies for almost all sectors. Gender machineries remain under-resourced. It becomes critical, therefore, that gender-responsive budgeting be prioritized as a strategy to ensure attention to GEWE outcomes and

commitments made in the frameworks currently being implemented (BPfA, SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, Maputo Protocol, revised 2016 SADC Protocol on Gender and Development<sup>170</sup> and national development plans).

As regards setbacks to implementation, although violent conflict has considerably reduced in the region, violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict environments blocked the achievement of GEWE outcomes in major critical areas of concern in a few countries (for example, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia). The livelihoods, safety, security, health and education of women and girls, including refugees and IDPs, are disrupted and often obliterated. Impacts of climate change and natural disasters are not gender neutral and present devastating setbacks to GEWE as well.

## 3.2 Looking Forward: Priorities for Accelerating Progress in 2020–2025

The top five ESAR 2020–2025 priorities identified in the country Beijing+25 reports for accelerating progress for women and girls are poverty eradication, quality education, participation in decision making, access to quality health care, and elimination of VAW.<sup>171</sup> This section presents some suggestions that might be helpful for countries and their partners as they focus on achieving progress in the above priority areas. As a caution, the complexity and diversity of the challenges encountered in implementing GEWE strategies across the ESAR make it unlikely that one size fits all.

### 3.2.1 Key Messages and Suggested Actions

#### On Negative Social Norms, Attitudes and Structures

The transformation of patriarchal social norms, attitudes and practices must begin at the household level and scale up to the community and national

level. Initiatives that have the potential for fundamental change are those that are founded on an appreciation of the complexity and emotive nature of the goal and process that result from cultural and religious identity issues. It is imperative for such initiatives to actively involve cultural, religious and community leaders; they require financial investment on a sustained basis.

#### **Suggested actions:**

1. Continue the emerging work with traditional, cultural and religious leaders to transform social norms and societal institutions, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against and oppress women. Initiatives with Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa members should be expanded and profiled as good examples.
2. Expand strategic interventions and the visibility of male champions to transform and eradicate negative masculinities and change behaviour and gender stereotypes.
3. Mainstream the transformation of negative norms and practices and positive masculinities across all sectors, particularly education, health and economic development.
4. Document and disseminate transformation in real time to affirm those involved in positive change, convey the message that change is possible, and build momentum.

### **On Inadequate Gender Machineries and Funding**

Gender machineries are under-resourced in the ESAR and in most parts of the world. While the advocacy for strengthened capacities of gender machineries (financial, technical, institutional and political) must continue, it is necessary to ensure that all ministries, departments and agencies are accountable for GEWE. They need to adequately plan for, resource, implement, monitor and report on GEWE within their respective mandates. Countries are commended for developing sectoral gender-mainstreaming strategies.

#### **Suggested actions:**

1. Strengthen and institutionalize GRB in the national and local government planning and budgeting cycles across the ESAR. National gender machineries should commit to document and share “what was done and how” to facilitate learning from promising approaches. The Beijing+25 reports highlight some good practices (e.g. Uganda).
2. Strengthen gender analysis expertise and practical skills in different priority sectors to support the translation of sectoral gender-mainstreaming strategies. Towards this end, countries are encouraged to establish and strengthen partnerships with gender and women’s studies departments in academic institutions and with GEWE activist organizations across sectors and women’s diversities (youth, women with disabilities, etc.). The aim should be to enhance the capacity of the gender machinery to support gender mainstreaming in different ministries, departments and agencies.

### **On Poverty Reduction and the Economic Empowerment of Women**

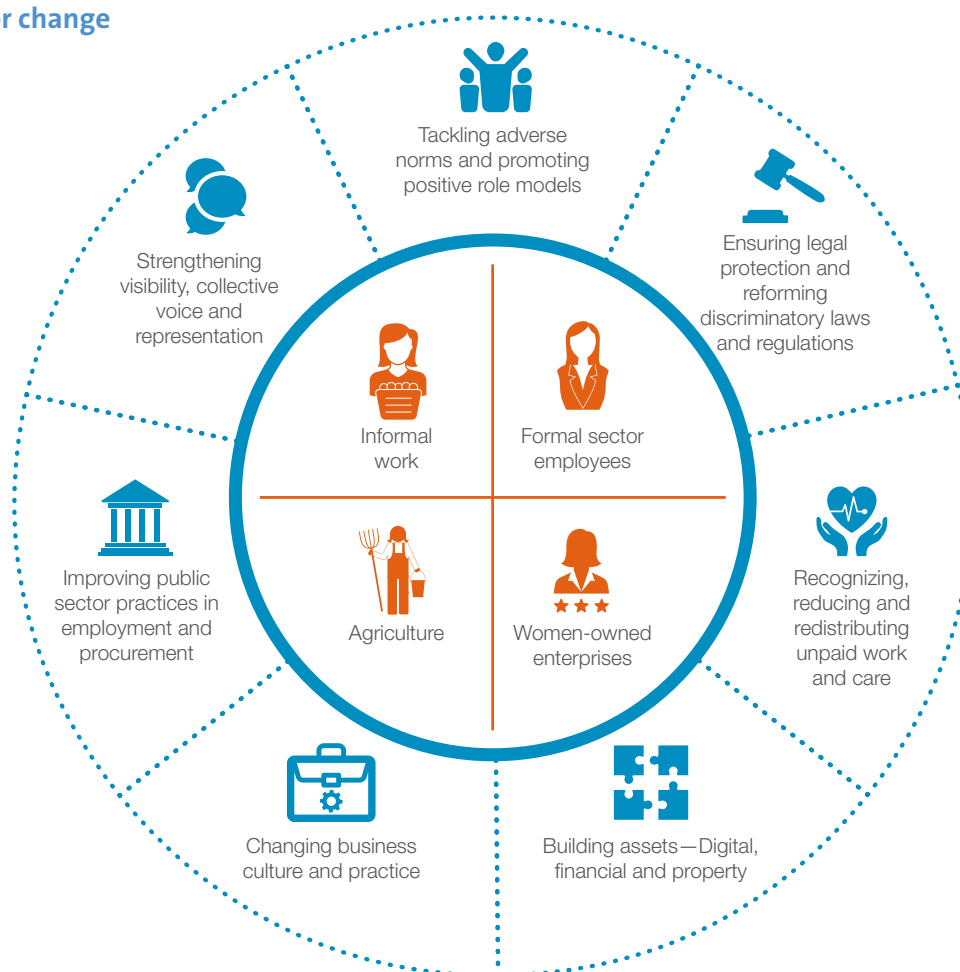
The economic empowerment of women is central to the achievement of the SDGs and the objectives of the BPfA. Making progress in this area requires a critical understanding of the factors that define and perpetuate poverty and economic marginalization for most women. These interlinked and systemic factors include adverse social norms, discriminatory laws and gaps in legal protection, limited access to economic assets, poor labour force participation, inadequate enterprise ownership, and the unequal and unpaid burden of household work and care.<sup>172</sup> It is essential that sustained and coordinated actions be taken to address all the identified factors.

#### **Suggested actions:**

1. Adopt, popularize and utilize the seven drivers of change for women’s economic empowerment identified by the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic

FIGURE 8

## Drivers for change



Source: Leave No One behind: A Call to Action for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment, *Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment*

- Empowerment as a framework for planning, resourcing, implementation and monitoring policies and programmes for women's economic empowerment.
- Adopt, strengthen and broaden legislative, administrative and programmatic measures to enhance women's access to and control of productive assets and opportunities, paying particular attention to women in special need. Countries are encouraged to learn from good practices highlighted in the Beijing+25 reports (e.g. Ethiopia's land certification).
- Recognize and harness the entrepreneurial spirit of many of Africa's youth and recommend the scaling up of the "hustle" in ways that provide support to young entrepreneurs, an enabling environment for their work, and opportunities to both create employment and grow sustainable businesses.<sup>173</sup>
- Expand and implement effective social protection measures to provide targeted poverty reduction and mitigation support to women and girls with special vulnerabilities, including those associated with age, health,



Photo: UN Women

disability, displacement, natural disasters and geographic remoteness. The measures should as much as possible aim to assist the women to transition out of poverty towards economic empowerment.

5. Institutionalize time use surveys and analyses and use them to inform policies, programmes and budget allocations, with the aim of recognizing and reducing the unequal burden on women and girls of unpaid domestic and care work.

### **On Quality Education, Training and Life-long Education**

The achievement of sustainable quality education for girls is dependent on addressing structural problems, including limited staff capacity, inadequate infrastructure, sexual abuse in institutions of learning, and negative gender norms that lead to early marriage and unequal work burdens on girls.<sup>174</sup> Countries need to offer education and training that is relevant and geared towards increasing girls' and women's opportunities in well-paying jobs, technology, trade and entrepreneurship.

#### **Suggested actions:**

1. Adopt, resource and implement measures to promote and support more girls to enrol and excel in STEM at primary, secondary and tertiary levels in both rural and urban schools.
2. Strengthen measures to improve the retention of girls and their course completion across all levels of education, including addressing early marriage and addressing and punishing sexual violence in schools and institutions of higher learning.
3. Improve the gender responsiveness of physical infrastructure in schools and institutions of learning, including the installation of secure girls-only water and sanitation facilities.
4. Remove taxes on sanitary pads and assist institutes' relevant policies and programmes to improve the affordability and accessibility of sanitary pads, paying attention to rural schools.

5. Provide opportunities for functional literacy and life-long learning for all women, including marginalized women.

### **On Participation in Politics, Decision making and Power**

While the increased numbers of women in decision-making positions at different levels must be celebrated, it is important to acknowledge that the underlying patriarchal norms, attitudes and structures permeate society at all levels. Political parties continue to resist fielding women as candidates for constituency seats. Male candidates consider it an affront for a woman to "dare" compete against them. Inequality in career development is pervasive. Patriarchy intersects with other factors including age, marital status and disability to deepen the marginalization of sections of women. Affirmative action measures were never intended to act as a ceiling in terms of the number or proportion of women in decision-making positions.

#### **Suggested actions:**

1. Take deliberate action to increase the participation of young women and women with disabilities through creating and sustaining platforms that are safe, accessible, relevant, inclusive and responsive to their participation by recognizing and addressing the factors that inhibit their full and meaningful participation.
2. Support the creation and functioning of women leaders' networks and support groups at all levels as platforms for mutual support and mentorship among women in power and decision-making positions.
3. Strengthen civic and voter education initiatives, including the partnerships between national electoral bodies, national human rights commissions and women's advocacy organizations, in order to expand their reach and GEWE content.
4. Promote and support initiatives for gender equality in career growth and support in the formal and informal sector.



*Photo: Grassroots Soccer/Karen Schermbrucker*

### On Quality Health Care and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and Rights

ESAR countries are under an obligation to ensure women's enjoyment of the right to health throughout their lifespan.<sup>175</sup> Investment in the strengthening of the entire health-care system is necessary to ensure access to health-related information, services and products and to medical care and drugs.

#### Suggested actions:

1. Consistently promote the adoption of proven strategies and methods for the prevention of new HIV infections, including using condoms, and strengthen systems to ensure women's access to antiretroviral therapy.
2. Provide free or affordable family planning and sexual and reproductive health services,

ensuring they reach all women, especially the poor and young, to reduce unmet needs for contraception and to lower the incidence of unintended pregnancies.

3. Strengthen the response to the health demands, needs and rights of vulnerable and disadvantaged girls, boys and women, including those with disabilities, older women, sex workers, refugee women and internally displaced women.
4. Develop and implement effective strategies for community-based health education, support for antenatal care, and access to the nearest health centre in order to reduce maternal mortality.
5. Adopt urgent measures for accessible cancer screening, particularly for breast and cervical cancer.
6. Scale up the number of doctors and other health professions in all health centres and hospitals and engage trained community-level health workers and volunteers.

### **On Violence against Women**

Violence against women and girls is intrinsically linked to unequal gendered power relations and is perpetuated through social, cultural and religious structures, including the family. While the extensive legal frameworks enacted in the region are commendable and are an important response to the elimination of VAW, a more holistic and multi-pronged approach is necessary.

#### **Suggested actions:**

1. Invest in social mobilization and implement public awareness campaigns targeting men, boys, women, girls and religious, traditional and community leaders to eliminate violence against women and girls and end human trafficking.
2. Include in school curricula subject areas and teaching materials that reinforce the need for a more equal society with equal responsibilities and rights, and equip pupils and students with the life skills to recognize, avoid and prevent VAW or seek assistance if it occurs.
3. Enact and strengthen the enforcement of appropriate laws that criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls; provide for efficient, victim-friendly trials of the perpetrators; and provide adequate remedies to the victims.
4. Invest in the continuing training of law enforcement and judiciary officers and other court users in gender-responsible approaches to handling different forms of VAW.
5. Strengthen government programmes for temporary shelters and other support services, including legal aid, psycho-social support and livelihood support, for survivors of VAW.
6. Develop, adopt, resource and operationalize institutionalized systems for data collection, analysis and use regarding different forms of VAW, responses to VAW, and impacts on women and girls.

# ENDNOTES

1. The Beijing+25 National Review Reports reviewed for this synthesis are Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Ethiopia. A comparative analysis was done using the Beijing +20 National Reports. These included Sudan and Somalia, which did not submit +25 reviews. The reports are available at <https://www.uneca.org/beijing25-national-reports/pages/beijing25-national-reports>.
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4. Economic and Social Council Resolution E/1996/96
5. [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=IV-8&chapter=4&lang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&lang=en), accessed on 16 May 2020.
6. Article 18, CEDAW.
7. As of 16 October 2019. See <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37077-sl-PROTOCOL%20TO%20THE%20AFRICAN%20CHARTER%20ON%20HUMAN%20AND%20PEOPLE%27S%20RIGHTS%20ON%20THE%20RIGHTS%20OF%20WOMEN%20IN%20AFRICA.pdf>, accessed on 1 May 2020.
8. Article 2(1)(c), Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.
9. 1325 (2000); 1820 (2009); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2010); 1960 (2011); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013); 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), and 2493 (2019).
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12. S. (11)(e) The Public Finance Management Act (2015).
13. An example of the certificate can be accessed at <https://budget.go.ug/sites/default/files/SUBMISSION%20OF%20THE%20CERTIFICATE%20OF%20GENDER%20AND%20EQUITY%20RESPONSIVENESS%20OF%20THE%20NATIONAL%20BUDGET%20FRAMEWORK%20PAPER%20FOR%20FY%202019-2020-2023-2024.pdf>.
14. Ibid.
15. Finance Proclamation No. 970/2016.
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17. Kenya Beijing+25 report, p. 57.
18. TNGP in Tanzania and FOWODE in Uganda provide good examples of non-governmental organization/government collaboration in GRB processes.
19. UNECA (2018), Macroeconomic and Social Development in Eastern Africa, Kigali, Rwanda, p. 2.
20. African Development Bank (2019), East Africa Economic Outlook 2019: Macroeconomic Development and Prospects – Political Economy of Regional Integration, p.5.
21. Ibid., p. 14.
22. UNECA and UNDP (2017), Economic Growth, Inequality and Poverty in Southern Africa: Issues and Policy Options, UNECA Southern Africa Office, retrieved from <https://repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/23968/b11868843.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> on 5 May 2020.
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24. Zambia Beijing+25 report, p. 2.
25. Lesotho Beijing+25 report p. 26.
26. Lesotho Beijing+25 report p. 21–22; Malawi Beijing+25 report p. 17.
27. Bonnet, Florence et. al. (2019), Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Brief; Manchester, UK., WIEGO, p. 11, [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/--protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms\\_711798.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/--protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_711798.pdf), accessed on 22 June 2020.
28. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (2019), Fifth National Report on the Implementation of the BPfA (Beijing+25), p. 9
29. Rwanda Beijing+25 report pp. 11, 14.
30. Ethiopia Beijing+25 report, p. 30. See also <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/666211557829787683/Public-Works-and-Cash-Transfers-in-Urban-Ethiopia-Evaluating-the-Urban-Productive-Safety-Net-Program>.
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32. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (2019), Fifth National Report on the Implementation of the BPfA (Beijing+25), p. 8.
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35. SADC Gender and Development Monitor, [https://www.sadc.net/books/BI/SGDM\\_2018.pdf](https://www.sadc.net/books/BI/SGDM_2018.pdf).
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38. Zimbabwe Beijing+25 report, p. 10. See also [www.womensbank.co.zw](http://www.womensbank.co.zw).
39. <https://financialallianceforwomen.org/news-events/new-member-spotlight-enat-bank-ethiopia/>.
40. Mobile money services exist in Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Eswatini, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
41. Kenya Beijing+25 report, p. 56.
42. Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
43. Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa are among the first cohort of countries that have initiated use of the tool. The Gender Equality Seal is a tool for public and private enterprises to come together and contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (in particular SDGs 5, 8, 10 and 17) by reducing gender gaps and promoting gender equality and competitiveness simultaneously for fair, inclusive and sustainable growth. UNDP has embarked on the globalization of this initiative and a scaling-up phase for 2019–2022. See <https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/presscenter/articles/2018/innovative-gender-equality-seal-regional-training-of-trainers-.html>.
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45. Republic of Uganda (2019), National Report on the Implementation of the BPfA, p. 13–14.
46. Ibid, 14.
47. See for instance Republic of Kenya (2019), Kenya's Report on the Implementation of the BPfA, p. 8.
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52. Ibid. p. 10.
53. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/12/21/year-in-review-2018-in-14-charts>, accessed on 16 May 2020.
54. For instance, see the reports for Mozambique (p. 11–12), Rwanda (p. 17–19), Kenya (p. 12), Ethiopia (p. 19), Eswatini (p. 16), Uganda (p. 12) and Malawi (p. 11).
55. Kenya Beijing+25 report, p. 8.
56. Ibid., p. 12.
57. Uganda Beijing+25 report, p. 12.
58. For instance, see the reports for Angola (p. 6), Burundi (p. 12), Mozambique (p. 9, 12), Rwanda (p. 18), Kenya (p. 13), Ethiopia (p. 19), Eswatini (p. 16), Uganda (p. 13), Malawi (p. 11) and Zimbabwe (p. 7).
59. Ethiopia Beijing+25 report, p. 19.
60. Lesotho Beijing+25 report, p. 23.
61. For instance, see the reports for Rwanda (p. 19), Kenya (p. 12–13) and Zambia (p. 3).
62. Rwanda Beijing+25 report, p. 18.
63. For instance, see the reports for Kenya (p. 64), Ethiopia (p. 22), Eswatini (p. 16), Lesotho (p. 26), Uganda (p. 20), Malawi (p. 13), South Sudan (p. 61), Zambia (p. 3) and Zimbabwe (p. 7).
64. Malawi Beijing+25 report, p. 39.
65. Malawi Beijing+25 report, p. 39. See also Sally Robertson et al (ed) (2017), *Girls' Primary and Secondary Education in Malawi: Sector Review*, Government of Malawi, UNICEF and ACER, retrieved from [https://research.acer.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1031&context=monitoring\\_learning](https://research.acer.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1031&context=monitoring_learning) accessed on 25.06/2020.
66. See analysis of the Kenya case study, Kodek Migiro Omwancha (2012), *The implementation of an educational re-entry policy for girls after teenage pregnancy: A case study of public secondary schools in the Kuria District, Kenya*, A thesis submitted to the Victoria University of Wellington in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Education, <https://core.ac.uk/reader/41337684> accessed on 25/06/2020 pp 90-104. See also [https://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/2015STEPUP\\_EducSectorResp.pdf](https://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/2015STEPUP_EducSectorResp.pdf) accessed on 25/06/2020
67. See Beijing+25 reports: Ethiopia at p. 13-18, Namibia at p. 18,
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71. Malawi Beijing+25 report, p. 39.
72. The STEM awareness campaigns include Teck Women, MISS GEEK, Techkobwa and WeCode programmes, all designed to encourage and support girls to enrol and excel in technology courses.
73. Rwanda Beijing+25 report p. 31.
74. Uganda Beijing+25 report p. 51.
75. Ibid.
76. Kenya Beijing+25 report, p. 96–97.
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79. Namibia Beijing+25 report, p. 19.
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# ANNEX




## PRIORITIES FOR 2020–2025 BY COUNTRY




Country	Priorities 2020–2025	Priorities 2009–2014
<b>Botswana</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic diversification, prosperity and poverty eradication to achieve sustainable development</li> <li>Quality education, training and information,</li> <li>Political power, democratic governance and decision making</li> <li>Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication)</li> <li>Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice</li> <li>Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women and Poverty</li> <li>Economic Empowerment of Women</li> <li>Women in Power and Decision Making</li> <li>Education and Training of Women</li> <li>Women and Health</li> <li>Violence against Women and Human Rights of Women</li> <li>The Girl Child</li> </ul>
<b>Burundi</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elimination of violence against women and girls</li> <li>Eradication of poverty; increase of agricultural productivity</li> <li>Women's political participation and representation</li> <li>Gender-sensitive social protection</li> <li>Women's digital and financial inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>Poverty eradication, increased agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>Equality and non-discrimination before the law and access to justice</li> <li>Education, training and learning for women and girls</li> <li>Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> </ul>
<b>Comoros</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>Political participation and representation</li> <li>Equality and non discrimination under the law and access to justice</li> <li>Elimination of violence against women and girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>Poverty reduction, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>Elimination of violence against women and girls</li> <li>Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>Political participation and representation</li> </ul>

<p><b>Djibouti</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Eradication of poverty, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Elimination of violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication)</li> <li>• Participation and political representation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Eradication of poverty, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Elimination of violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Access to quality and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive health; ensuring that everyone can exercise their reproductive rights</li> <li>• Participation and political representation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ethiopia</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing women's political participation</li> <li>• Advancing women's economic empowerment</li> <li>• Basic services</li> <li>• Enhancing access to social services</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women</li> <li>• Eliminating discriminatory social, gender and cultural norms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political participation and representation</li> <li>• Advancing women's economic empowerment</li> <li>• Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kenya</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Gender-responsive social protection</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Gender-responsive social protection</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Women's entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Madagascar</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to health care and family planning</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication)</li> <li>• Laws, policies and or programmes, including job creation and sustainable growth</li> </ul>

<p><b>Malawi</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Increasing political participation and representation</li> <li>• Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes</li> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Increasing political participation and representation</li> <li>• Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises</li> <li>• Gender-responsive budgeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mozambique</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice</li> <li>• Advancing women's economic empowerment</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication)</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Improvement of institutional coordination mechanisms</li> <li>• Monitoring indicators to measure the SDGs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting an inclusive education system that responds to the development needs of women and girls</li> <li>• Expanding access to and improving the quality of health services</li> <li>• Increased provision of and access to water, sanitation, transportation, communication and housing</li> <li>• Promoting the participation of women in all development processes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Namibia</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Access to productive resources by women, including land; women's economic empowerment</li> <li>• Sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and men, with a special focus on maternal health and HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Gender, environment and climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Political participation and representation</li> <li>• Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes</li> <li>• Gender-responsive budgeting</li> </ul>

<p><b>Rwanda</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty reduction among women and girls</li> <li>• Bridging the gender divide in ICT, STEM and TVET</li> <li>• Eradicating gender-based violence and child abuse</li> <li>• Increasing women's access to affordable and reliable sources of clean energy</li> <li>• Measures to address unpaid care work</li> <li>• Addressing negative gender norms and stereotypes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Political participation and representation of women</li> <li>• Advancing women's economic empowerment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Seychelles</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Political participation and representation</li> <li>• Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice</li> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Political participation and representation</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability</li> </ul>
<p><b>South Africa</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic transformation and job creation</li> <li>• Education and skills</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Basic services</li> <li>• Social cohesion and safe communities</li> <li>• Changing norms: transforming unequal gender relations and confronting head-on the culture of patriarchy, toxic masculinity, misogyny, hierarchies and language that perpetuate the demons of patriarchal norms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laws, policies and programmes, including job creation and sustainable growth</li> <li>• Improving access to education for girls, especially in STEM</li> <li>• Addressing women's health, in particular maternal mortality and the high rates of HIV and AIDS in young women</li> <li>• Addressing violence against women and gender-based violence (rape and sexual offences, femicide, killing and rape of LGBT women, trafficking in women and girls)</li> <li>• Economic empowerment of women</li> </ul>

<p><b>South Sudan</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Political participation and representation</li> <li>• Gender-responsive budgeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice</li> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Eswatini</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Women's digital and financial inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice</li> <li>• Political power, democratic governance and decision making</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> </ul>
<p><b>Uganda</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's and girls' education and skills training</li> <li>• Ending gender-based violence and promoting women's rights</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Gender-responsive social protection</li> <li>• Women's economic empowerment</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure</li> <li>• Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes</li> <li>• Political participation and representation of women</li> <li>• Gender-responsive budgeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Women's entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Tanzania</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport, etc.)</li> <li>• Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zambia</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Political participation and representation</li> <li>• Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls</li> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice</li> <li>• Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zimbabwe</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes</li> <li>• Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Increasing political participation and representation</li> </ul>	<p>All 12 critical areas of concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal and constitutional reforms</li> <li>• Economic empowerment</li> <li>• Politics and decision making</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Eliminating violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Quality education</li> <li>• Engaging women in environmental sustainability</li> <li>• Changing gender stereotypes in the media</li> </ul>
<p><b>Somalia</b></p>	<p><i>Not reviewed</i></p>	
<p><b>Sudan</b></p>	<p><i>Not reviewed</i></p>	
<p><b>Angola</b></p>	<p><i>Not reviewed</i></p>	



**The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, is the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace. To mark its twenty-fifth anniversary, United Nations member states undertook comprehensive national reviews of the progress made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the current challenges. To complement the review process, UN Women undertook the production of a report that celebrates the achievements, highlights key challenges, and identifies priority areas for future action in the East and southern Africa region.**

This report, based on an analysis of country reports and other relevant documents, offers a snapshot of regional trends in terms of achievements and challenges in the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and makes some recommendations for future action. The report acknowledges and affirms the essential linkages between commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Beijing Platform for Action and those in global and regional instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Maputo Protocol, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the African Union's Agenda 2063.



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