

# STRENGTHENING AND IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF NORMS, POLICIES AND STANDARDS ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

## Lessons from the following evaluations:

(all evaluations available at <https://gate.unwomen.org/>)

**2016**

Country Portfolio Evaluation.  
Tanzania.



**2017**

Mid-term Evaluation of the UN  
Women Kenya Strategic Note  
2014-18. Kenya.



**2017**

Mid-term evaluation of the  
Malawi Gender Based Governance  
Programme. Malawi.



**2017**

Mid Term Evaluation of the Women's  
Economic Empowerment Project in  
Gaza Province. Mozambique.



**2015**

Final Evaluation of the United  
Nations Joint Programme for  
Gender Equality (UNJPGE). Uganda.



**2016**

Mid-Term Evaluation of UN  
Women South Sudan Strategic  
Note 2014-2016. South Sudan.



**2018**

Evaluation of the JP "Advancing  
and Sustaining Gender Equality  
Gains in Rwanda."



**2018**

Country Portfolio Evaluation.  
South Sudan.



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## 1. WHY IS STRENGTHENING AND IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF NORMS AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS IMPORTANT?

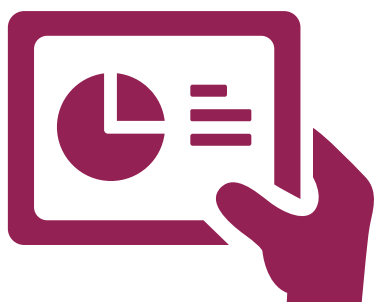


Photo: UN Women/Patterson Siema

**UN Women's normative work is aimed at supporting inter-governmental bodies such as the National Assembly and various commissions, ministries, and related agencies in the East and Southern African Region in their formulation of policies, standards and norms on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE).**

Norms and standards on GEWE, forged through international consensus, provide the basis for support

by UN Women Country Offices to governments in following and implementing GEWE norms and policies at the country level. UN Women normative work has been critical in ensuring that a robust legal and policy environment is created. Once GEWE norms and conventions are ratified, they also provide the basis for member states' reporting processes, e.g., on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).



### GEWE NORMS AND POLICIES

PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR REPORTING PROCESSES BY MEMBER STATES



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## 2. WHICH APPROACHES HAVE PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN STRENGTHENING AND IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF NORMS AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR GEWE?



Photo: UN Women Africa

**Evaluations have demonstrated the importance for UN Women of maintaining and leveraging on entry points into governments. This role provides the basis for initiating reforms on GEWE policies and for influencing governance at various levels.**

National gender machinery institutions play an essential role in holding governments accountable for gender mainstreaming and the implementation of gender equality commitments. The mechanisms include gender-disaggregated data and budgets, performance indicators, reporting to legislative bodies, and reporting under international agreements. Despite their importance, a common challenge of national gender machineries is that they are marginalized within the governments in many countries besides lacking capacity and resources. UN Women's initiatives to strengthen the national gender machinery capacity have been an integral part of the sustainability strategy for GEWE results.

It has also proven effective for UN Women to be involved in the planning, implementing, and reviewing of the performance of national GEWE activities. A key element in this approach has been the support to governments in establishing Management Information and Monitoring & Evaluation systems as well as data collection mechanisms for GEWE reporting. It also provides the basis for effective monitoring of the accountability for gender equality commitments at the sectorial level, including positioning national gender machinery institutions for effective oversight and coordination of the implementation of gender equality commitments.

It is crucial to collaborate with a large number of partners from Government, Civil society, UN Agencies, including other development partners to create a more significant momentum in national policy reform discussions. UN Women's support in terms of coordination and convening different partners was found instrumental towards the creation of policies that support women empowerment.

Evaluations have demonstrated that work at the normative and legislative level should be complemented by technical support and capacity development for government institutions to implement their respective policy mandates. For example, holistic approaches to Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) have been more effective when combining strategies of prevention and response to violence against women. The approaches included work on increasing awareness, providing services to violence against women victims and strengthening the capacities, skills and knowledge of law enforcement agencies to respond to cases of violence in alignment with international principles.

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### COLLABORATE

WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF PARTNERS FROM GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY, UN AGENCIES



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### UN WOMEN TO BE INVOLVED

IN THE PLANNING, IMPLEMENTING, AND REVIEWING OF THE PERFORMANCE OF NATIONAL GEWE ACTIVITIES

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### 3. HOW CAN UN WOMEN IMPROVE ITS WORK ON STRENGTHENING AND IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF NORMS AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR GEWE?

Evaluations have demonstrated the usefulness of developing a comprehensive road map at the country level on the status of gender related legislation, important bills, acts, and draft laws that are currently under review or need to be reviewed.

The road map should include information regarding the status of all gender related legislation and necessary action on the next steps. It should also be costed to understand the level of resources required to equip ministries with the budgets required to develop and pass GEWE laws and policies. Regarding priorities of engagement, UN Women's added value is in the areas of partner coordination, normative work, mainstreaming GEWE in government policies and programmes and advocacy engagement. UN Women should minimize getting involved in the direct implementation of partner activities. To bridge the implementation capacity gaps of some of its partners, UN Women should consider implementing programmes that ensure that the capacity of its partners and government, in particular, is being enhanced. Technical support should be based on

lessons and results from past programming and normative support initiatives.

To strategically influence GEWE policies and legislation at the national level, UN Women should increase coordination and engagement with government stakeholders beyond the national gender machinery, in particular key-line ministries, e.g., Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning as well as Parliament.

UN Women's support for strengthening GEWE norms and policies needs to include work on raising public awareness, lobbying government and holding government accountable for the implementation of GEWE laws. The relevant laws touch on a wide range of issues, including land, property, agriculture, elections, and violence against women. UN Women should continue advocating with country governments to allocate adequate resources for developing and implementing GEWE legislation. This advocacy work should be combined with technical support for government agencies to operationalize GEWE commitments.



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