

SUPPORTING WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Photo: UN Women Ethiopia/Fikerte Abebe

Lessons from the following evaluations:

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

2016

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



2017

Evaluation of Engaging Women in Preventing and Countering Extremist Violence in Kenya.



2017

Final Project Evaluation: *Wanawake Wanaweza* Project on Women Leadership and Political Participation in Tanzania.



2018

Final Evaluation Joint Programme "Advancing and Sustaining Gender Equality Gains in Rwanda.



2018

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



2017

Mid-Term Evaluation Country Office Strategic Note, Kenya.



2017

Country Portfolio Evaluation. Malawi.



2016

Final Evaluation of National Scale Up of the IOSC Model in Rwanda.



2018

Country Portfolio Evaluation. South Sudan.



2018

Country Portfolio Evaluation. Rwanda.



2016

Country Portfolio Evaluation, Tanzania.



2016

Mid Term Evaluation of the Joint Programme on Prevention of Gender Based Violence, (JPGBV), Zimbabwe.



2018

Evaluation Of "Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls in Ethiopia.



2016

Country Portfolio Evaluation. Ethiopia.



2018

Evaluation of Women's Active Participation in Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Kenya.



2018

Country Portfolio Evaluation. Burundi.



2016

Country Portfolio Evaluation. Sudan.



1. WHY IS SUPPORTING WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IMPORTANT?



Photo: UN Women South Sudan

Feminist and women's movements play a key role in advancing issues of gender equality and women empowerment and for achieving progress on the Sustainable Development Goals more broadly.

As a key actor in the promotion of women's rights, UN Women has positioned itself to support the women's movement around issues of gender equality and women empowerment effectively. UN Women has managed to use its coordination and convening

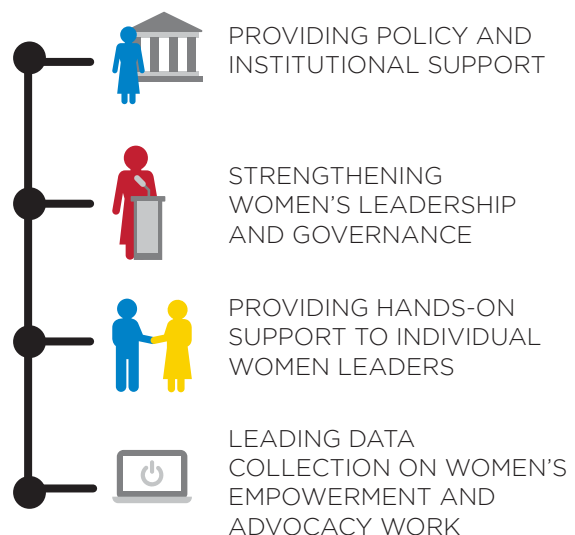
mandate to strengthen movements in the region to initiate action, both within and outside the UN agencies.

UN Women's support to women's movements includes a wide range of areas, e.g., policy and institutional support, strengthening women's leadership and governance, providing hands-on support to individual women leaders, and collecting data on women's empowerment and advocacy work.

Key areas of support to women's movements.



STRENGTHEN
MOVEMENTS
IN THE REGION
TO INITIATE
ACTION BY:



2. WHICH APPROACHES HAVE PROVEN EFFECTIVE FOR SUPPORTING MOVEMENTS FOR GEWE?



Photo: UN Women/Tumaini Ochieng

Evaluations have recommended that a human rights-based approach needs to be at the core of all partnerships with women's movements to facilitate consistent implementation. Civil society is critical in supporting movements for gender equality and women empowerment as it represents a constituency for future deepened engagement, especially when addressing social norm changes around gender-related issues.

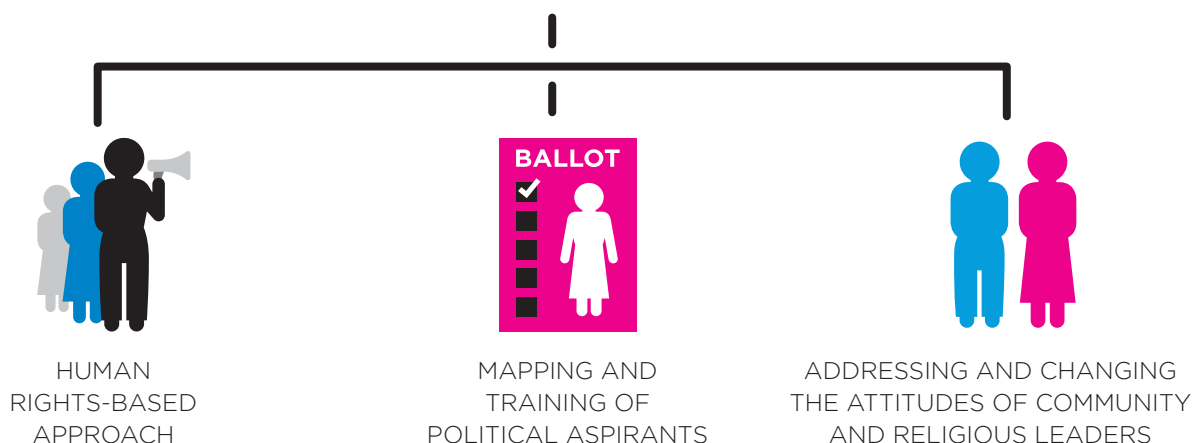
UN Women has strengthened the capacity of women's movements through providing technical

and institutional support to implementing partners. UN Women has also supported women's groups and gender advocates to develop a common agenda for their national constitutions and policy frameworks.

Another example of strengthening the women's movement is prioritizing the mapping and training of political aspirants and training of candidates across all political parties and regions. Addressing and changing the attitudes of community and religious leaders through targeted advocacy has also been effective for supporting the nomination of women for leadership positions. This approach also contributed to challenging the views of political party leaders to make them more supportive of women's leadership and political participation. Critical steps in this process included the review of the political parties' nomination procedures and codes of conduct. This approach was more effective when combined with the mapping and training of women political aspirants and candidates across political parties. Another important activity was the analysis of some of the constraints to women's access to leadership positions, including harassment, intimidation and violence during elections.

UN Women's support to women's movements at the local and grassroots levels was critical for creating ownership amongst programme stakeholders, in particular when it was combined with the engagement of media professionals who showcased and promoted the programmes. UN Women also supported women's coalitions as observers and lobbyists and is often referred to as the 'friend of the women's movements' at the country level.

Key considerations for supporting GEWE movements:



3. HOW CAN UN WOMEN IMPROVE ITS WORK ON SUPPORTING MOVEMENTS FOR GEWE?

UN Women support to the women's movement should look more systematically at issues of social inclusion and particularly vulnerable groups. Examples include specific target groups such as women with HIV/AIDS, sex workers, women with disabilities, widows, women with albinism, and women from certain ethnic groups that are traditionally being marginalized. Evaluations have also highlighted the importance of early involvement of traditional authorities, including religious leaders, to make these efforts more effective and sustainable.

In terms of capacity building for women's movements, it is recommended to develop a capacity-building strategy for partners based on a framework, methods and tools that allow for systematic training design, implementation and follow-up. Capacity

building initiatives should be tailored depending on the target group, i.e., civil society, private sector, and institutions of higher learning such as universities. They may cover different topics, e.g., gender mainstreaming, gender responsive research and policy analysis. The use of local language to deliver capacity building packages should be encouraged as it enhances participation, comprehension and application of lessons amongst women participants. The capacity building strategy should also incorporate lessons from supporting women's movements in the past, e.g., the need for refresher trainings and the systematic sharing of resources and tools amongst partners. If capacity building initiatives prove effective, then UN Women can scale them up to reach more beneficiaries among the women's movements.

How to improve capacity building for GEWE movements

