

PUBLICATIONS READER SURVEY



UN Women East and Southern
Africa Regional Office

Knowledge Management and Research Unit

View the report at: <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications>

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PUBLICATIONS READER SURVEY



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

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We also acknowledge Caspar Merkle, Regional Evaluation Specialist at UN Women Regional Office for East and Southern Africa, for his valuable review and inputs into the survey report. The authors consulted with various stakeholders and actors in the region including Country Offices, policymakers, development partners, the UN family, the Civil Society, International Non-Governmental Organizations, the academia and research think tanks, individual gender advocates, the private sector, media agencies, Regional Economic Commissions and Institutions, governments,

among other stakeholders, and experts working with UN Women both at Country and regional levels who we acknowledge their useful contributions and inputs into the reader survey. Finally, we are grateful for the dedication of the thematic units at UN Women Regional Office for East and Southern Africa to implement the findings and recommendations of the survey with an aim of improving the quality, readership and utilization of all publications whilst positioning UN Women as a go-to agency on issues of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UN Women East and Southern Africa Knowledge Management Strategy (2018-2021) provides for a biennial Publications Reader Survey to understand and appreciate the publications commonly sought by stakeholders of UN Women in the entire region. This survey also analysed what forms of publications are being sought by diverse audiences and how often they are consulted by the audiences. It further mapped which parties seek UN Women publications in the region and in what format they preferred; whether electronic or hard copies, accessibility for development and, policy-making (particularly in East and Southern Africa) and ways in which UN Women ESAR could improve on the presentation of their publications to accelerate demand by diverse stakeholders. Through this publications' reader survey, the region has ensured continuous improvement of the user-friendliness, practicality and overall quality of UN Women's publications in the region.

This is the second survey following the first reader survey conducted in 2016 which confirmed that UN Women publications are widely useful to diverse audiences. The survey targeted the UN agencies (13.9 per cent), NGOs and CSOs (26.6 per cent), policy makers (8.8 per cent), development agencies, private sector agencies (7.6 per cent), regional economic communities (2.5 per cent), academic institutions (26.6 per cent), individual gender equality advocates (12.7 per cent) and the rest from the media and others. The analysis revealed that UN Women publications are readable and positions gender equality and women's empowerment as a core principle of development. For this reader survey, diverse questions were included in the survey to comprehend the use and review of UN Women

East and Southern Africa regional publications. A brief and user-friendly online questionnaire was disseminated to all the UN Women stakeholders in the region complemented with key informant interviews and telephone conversations. The total number of responses to the questionnaire was 243 comprising 57 per cent female and 43 per cent male. The results indicate that the readers have rated the publications positively, with over 80 per cent confirming that over the past three years, the quality of UN Women publications have improved. Over 88 per cent further showed confidence in UN Women publications noting that the publications have been very useful to them. In conclusion, UN Women publications have a wide range of access and utilization with potential scalability benefits.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	I
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	II
LIST OF ACRONYMS	V
LIST OF FIGURES	VI
LIST OF TABLES	VII
LIST OF CASE STUDIES	VII
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. METHODOLOGY	2
2.1 Administration of questionnaires	2
2.2 Respondents	2
2.3 Survey Participants by Agency of Employment	3
2.4 Respondents by Country and Region	3
2.5 Analysis	4
3. READER SURVEY FINDINGS	5
3.1 Frequency of UN Women Publications Readership	5
3.2 Convenient Means to Access UN Women Publications	6
3.3 Types of UN Women Publications Consulted by Respondents	7
3.4 Specific Publications Access by Respondents	7
3.5 Preferred Language of Access of UN Women Publications	8
3.6 Analysis of Views and Downloads for UN Women ESARO Publications (2016-2019)	9
3.7 Awareness of UN Women Publications	10
3.8 Overall Quality of Printed Publications	12
3.9 Frequency of Use of UN Women Publications	13

3.10	Purpose for Consulting UN Women East and Southern Africa Publications	13
3.11	User Friendliness of Design and Layout of UN Women Publications	14
3.12	Impact of UN Women Publications	15
3.13	Level of Interest in Subject Matter of Publications	16
3.14	Regular E-Mail Updates About New UN Women Publication Titles	16
4.	<u>COMPENDIUM OF UN WOMEN REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS (2016-2018)</u>	17
4.1	Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in the Context of AfCFTA	17
4.2	The Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Africa: Causes, Costs and Solutions	17
4.3	The Cost of the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity: Five African Countries	18
4.4	UN Women East and Southern Africa-Knowledge Management Strategy (2018-2021)	18
4.5	Report on the status of women in United Nations Office in Nairobi	18
4.6	Multi-Country Analytical Study on Ending Child Marriage in Africa	19
4.7	Marriage Laws in Africa-A Compendium from 55 African Union Member States	19
4.8	Background paper on driving Gender-Responsive Financial Inclusion Models in Africa	20
4.9	UN Women East and Southern Africa 2016 Annual Report	20
4.10	Approaches by African Countries in the Implementation and Localization of SDGs	20
4.11	Regional Sharefair on Gender and Resilience in Africa Report	21
4.12	A review of energy policies in East and Southern Africa	21
4.13	Catalogue of Innovations and Good Practices on Gender and Resilience	22
4.14	Promoting Women’s Participation in the Extractive Industries Sector	22
4.15	Guidance Note on documenting good practices on GEWE	22
5.	<u>MAPPING THE UTILIZATION OF UN WOMEN REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS</u>	23
6.	<u>CONCLUSIONS</u>	27
7.	<u>READER SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	28
8.	<u>ENDNOTES</u>	30

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EI	Extractive Industries
ESAR	East and Southern Africa region
ESARO	East and Southern Africa Regional Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GBV	Gender Based Violence (GBV)
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
MCO	Multi-Country Office
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Gender of respondents	2
Figure 2: Distribution of respondents based on organizations of work	3
Figure 3: UN Women Publications readership based on continents of origin	5
Figure 4: Frequency of UN Women publications readership	6
Figure 5: Convenient means to UN Women publications access	6
Figure 6: Types of UN Women publications consulted by respondents	7
Figure 7: Preferred languages for accessing UN Women publications	9
Figure 8: Number of unique page views per publications	9
Figure 9: Number of downloads per publications	10
Figure 10: Awareness of UN Women publications	11
Figure 11: Knowledge of how to access online UN Women publications list	11
Figure 12: Overall quality of printed publications	12
Figure 13: Trends on the quality of UN Women publications in the past three years	12
Figure 14: Frequency of use of UN Women publications	13
Figure 15: Purpose for consulting UN Women publications	13
Figure 16: User friendliness of design and layout of UN Women publications	14
Figure 17: Quality of the substantive content of UN Women publications	14
Figure 18: Ease of reading the UN Women publications	15
Figure 19: Rank of UN Women publications based on different measures	15
Figure 20: Level of interest in subject matter of publications	16
Figure 21: Regular e-mail updates about new UN Women publication titles	16

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Respondents by Country of Origin	4
Table 2: Frequently accessed UN Women Publications (2016-2019)	8

LIST OF CASE STUDIES

Case study 1: Engagement with traditional leaders and cultural institutions to end child marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices against women and girls	23
Case study 2: The highest authority in Sunni Islam declared an end to child marriage in Africa	24
Case study 3: North Africa and Arab States engage religious leaders and authorities to end child marriage and other harmful practices against women and girls through UN Women multi country analytical study	25
Case study 4: Compendium of marriage laws in Africa study informs legal and policy changes in African Countries	25
Case study 5: Tanzania-Student use the child marriage related publications for community initiatives and in school	26
Case study 6: Background paper on financial inclusion used to design curriculum for digital financial inclusion for women in informal settlements	26

1.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the charter of the United Nations. It works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action, peace and security. UN Women is a strong and dynamic UN champion of women's rights, providing a powerful voice for women and girls at the global, regional and local levels. The formation of UN Women also strengthens the UN's ability to provide coherent and timely support to Member States to advance gender equality, in line with national priorities and international norms and policies. It also strengthens effective partnerships with the civil society.

UN Women East and Southern Africa Region (ESAR) comprises of 22 countries. It has presence in 12 of these countries: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia, South Africa Multi-Country Office (MCO) and Zimbabwe. The South Africa MCO covers the Southern Africa Customs Union countries- Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Eswatini. The Office in Ethiopia is both a Country Office for Ethiopia and a Liaison Office to African Union and Economic Commission for Africa. The region also has a Country Programme in Somalia. The East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in Nairobi provides oversight to all the countries in the region.

ESARO undertook to conduct a biennial Publications Reader Survey. This survey is meant to continually improve the user-friendliness, practicality and overall quality of UN Women's publications. Specifically, the survey assesses the publications commonly sought by stakeholders of UN Women in the entire region, that is, what form of publications are being sought by diverse audiences and how often the publications are consulted by the audiences, which parties seek them and in what format they are preferred- whether electronic or hard copies, accessibility for development and, policy-making (particularly in East

and Southern Africa) and ways in which UN Women Regional Office could improve on the presentation of their publications to accelerate demand by diverse stakeholders. This survey follows a similar one conducted in 2016 and is meant to improve the publications quality assurance processes, development, outreach as well as policy impacts.

The survey is informed by the fact that the regional office produces an extensive range of publications and knowledge products that aim to share information, express innovative ideas and practical experiences, provide evidence for policy engagements and discussions, inform development, investment and programming interventions on gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE), and stimulate debate on various aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. The dissemination of these publications and ensuring action oriented to gender equality and women empowerment is one of the areas of focus for UN Women in East and Southern Africa Region. Analytically, the value of any publications produced by UN Women is dependent on its effective and targeted dissemination to its present and future audiences. In fact, without outreach, the efforts of knowledge workers are wasted.

2. METHODOLOGY

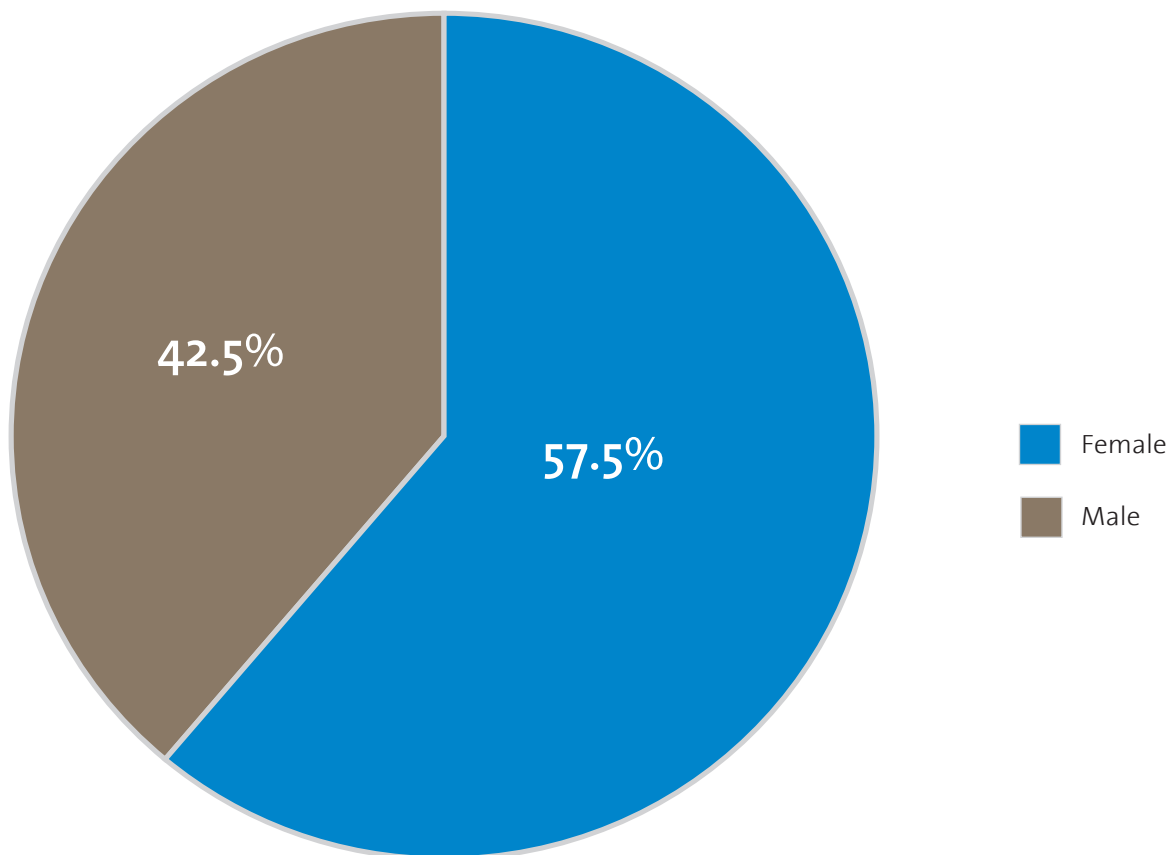
2.1 Administration of questionnaires

A brief and user-friendly questionnaire was prepared, containing multiple rating responses to a number of attributes of the survey. The online survey questionnaire was launched via an email notification to all stakeholders, as well as social media, and sent to various stakeholders, accredited non-governmental organizations and international organizations, youth, the UN family among others. The questionnaire was available online for the month of August 2019.

2.2 Respondents

The total number of responses received for this survey was 243 from 23 countries majority of who are in East and Southern Africa. Of these responses, the survey reached a total of 243 respondents comprising 57 per cent female and 43 per cent male.

Figure 1:
Gender of respondents



2.3

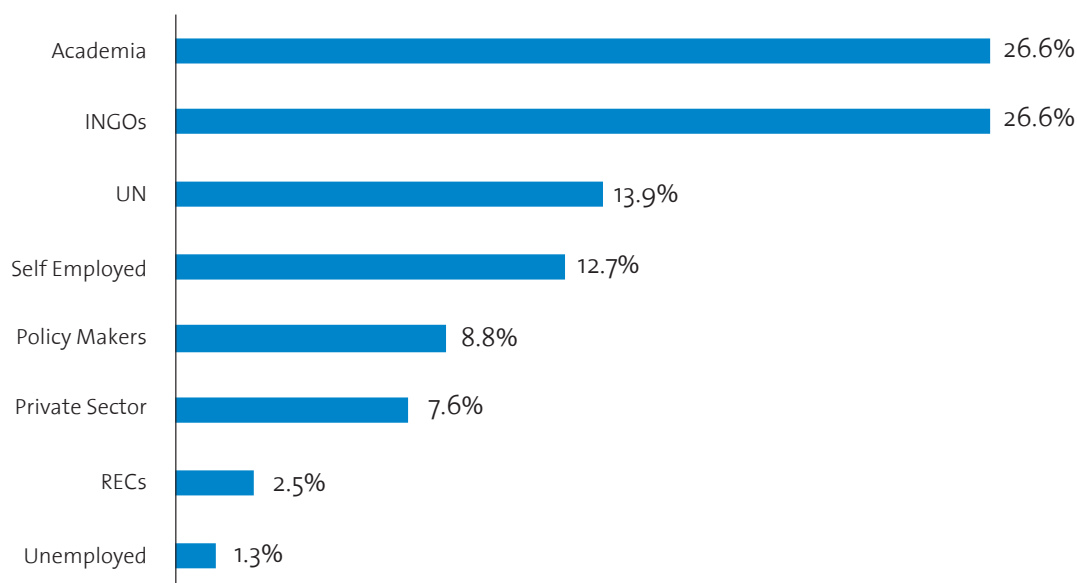
Survey Participants by Agency of Employment

The participants in the survey were from different agencies namely: academia, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), United Nations, Self-employed, policy makers/governments, private sector agencies, regional economic communities (RECs) and the unemployed. Majority of the 243 respondents were employed by both the Academia and the INGOs/Civil Society (each scoring 26.6 per cent) while only 1.3 per cent of the respondents were unemployed (1.3 per cent) (Fig. 2). Still, 13.9 per cent

of the respondents worked for the United Nations family with 12.7 per cent on self-employment and 8.8 per cent based in government agencies. The survey showed that 7.6 per cent of the respondents worked with the private sector and a few, 2.5 per cent, worked with the RECs. This shows that almost all readers of UN Women regional publications are employed within a specialised agency driving an agenda with some interest on gender.

Figure 2:

Distribution of respondents based on organizations of work



2.4

Respondents by Country and Region

Respondents were from a wide range of countries around the world, showing its global reach. East African Countries including Kenya (30 per cent), Uganda (6.2 per cent) and Tanzania (7.4 per cent), accounted for majority of the respondents (Table 1) while only 0.8 per cent of the respondents were from Libya. In a nutshell, the survey had respondents across the globe with respondents from outside the continent of Africa being 4.9 per cent (Table 1). Seven of the countries responding had only three

representatives each. The pattern of responses is attributed to the fact that majority of UN Women publications only covered regional issues in East and Southern Africa. In exceptional cases, within the context of the Africa Strategy, some publications were continental in nature-case of Multi Country Analytical Study on Child Marriage, Sustainable Development Goals, Extractives Industry among others.

Table 1:
Respondents by Country of Origin

Country	Percentage	Number
Outside Africa	4.9%	12
Burkina Faso	1.2%	3
Cameroon	1.2%	3
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3.7%	9
Egypt	3.7%	9
Ethiopia	4.9%	12
Kenya	30.0%	73
Liberia	1.2%	3
Libya	0.8%	2
Malawi	3.7%	9
Mali	1.2%	3
Morocco	2.5%	6
Nigeria	2.5%	6
Rwanda	2.5%	6
Senegal	1.2%	3
Sierra Leone	1.2%	3
Somalia	4.9%	12
South Africa	6.2%	15
Tanzania	7.4%	18
Tunisia	1.2%	3
Uganda	6.2%	15
Zambia	3.7%	9
Zimbabwe	3.7%	9

2.5 Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to describe the distribution of responses to each question. To provide further corroboration of information collected from

respondents, the survey documented case studies showcasing use of various UN Women regional publications.

3.

READERSHIP SURVEY FINDINGS

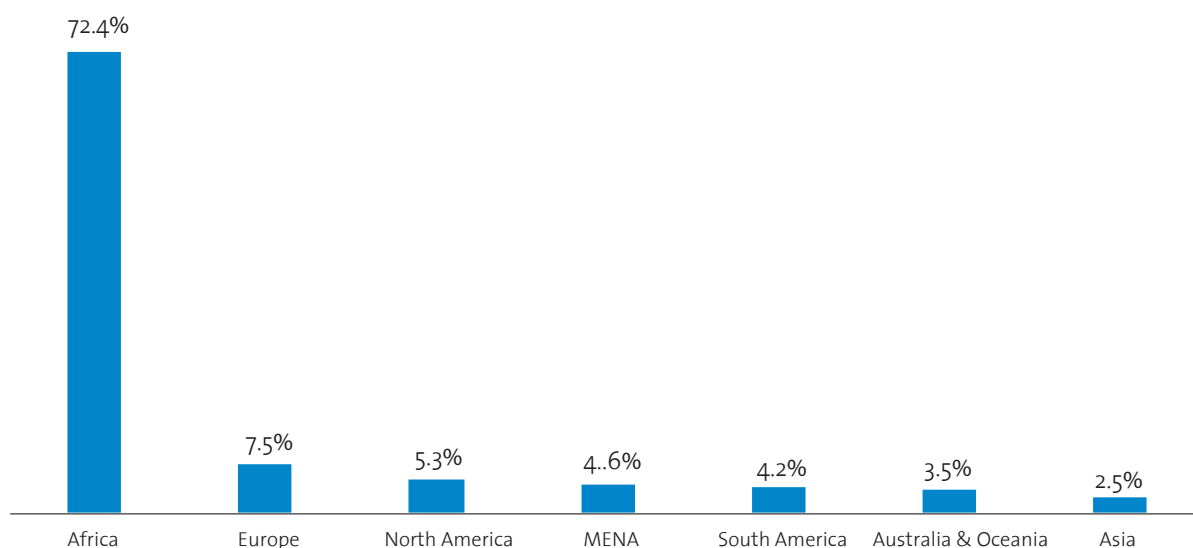
Readership of UN Women Regional Publications by Continent

When clustered into groups, UN Women publications readers were mainly from sub Saharan Africa (72.4 per cent) while least readership was reported in Asia (2.5 per cent) (Fig. 3). This is also affirmed by the

fact that majority of the publications cover regional issues justifying why majority of the consumers are based in Africa.

Figure 3:

UN Women publications readership based on continents of origin



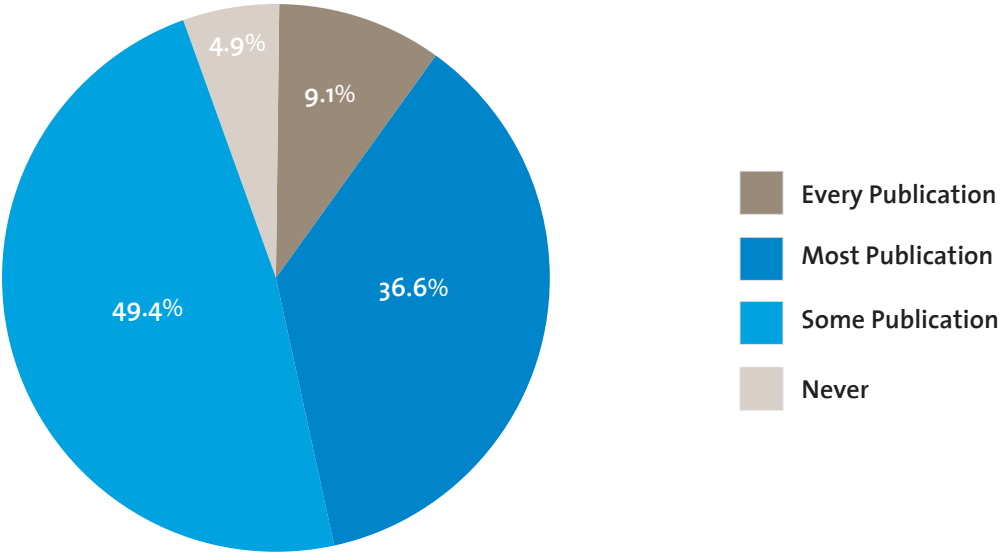
3.1

Frequency of UN Women Publications Readership

UN Women publications have a wider readership with 95.1 per cent of those responding to the survey having read at least a publication. Slightly below 50 per cent of the respondents reported only reading some select publications from UN Women Regional Office for East and Southern Africa, with 36.6 per cent of the respondents reading most of the

publications produced by the regional office. Just fewer than 10 per cent try to access and read every publication available from UN Women regional office while 4.9 per cent reported that they have never read any UN Women East and Southern Africa regional publications.

Figure 4:
Frequency of UN Women publications readership

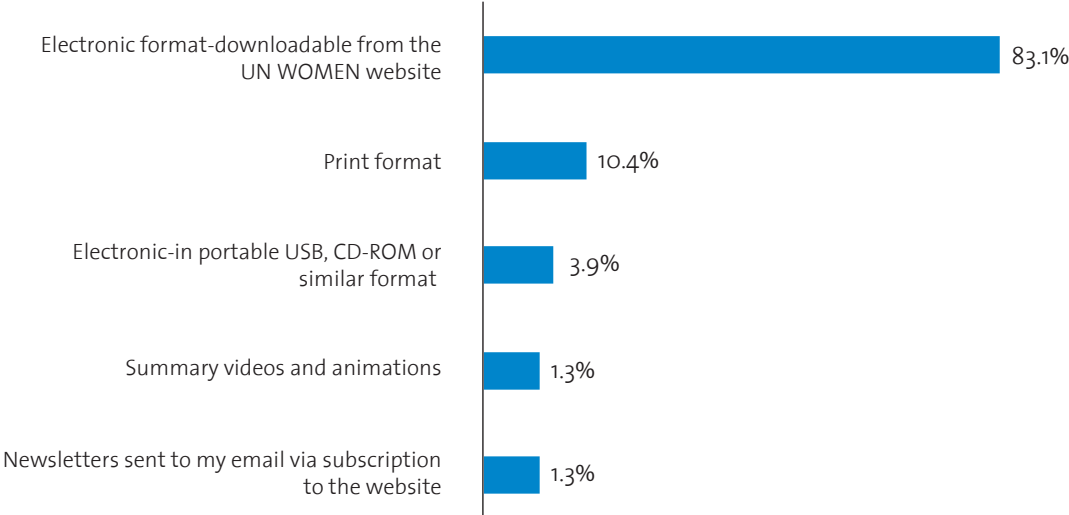


3.2
Convenient Means to Access UN Women Publications

The survey shows that readers used web versions and electronic copies in addition to less preference for hard copies of UN Women regional publications. The most convenient medium of access of UN Women Publications was the electronic format that is directly downloaded from UN Women website as affirmed by over 80 per cent of the respondents. Only a few preferred hard copies of the publications.

Both summary videos, animations and subscriptions newsletter were the least used modes by the respondents (Fig. 5). This could be attributed to the fact that it is only recently that the regional office has intensified their efforts towards repackaging of regional publications into various formats listed such as infographics, animated videos and publication fact sheets.

Figure 5:
Convenient means to UN Women publications access



3.3

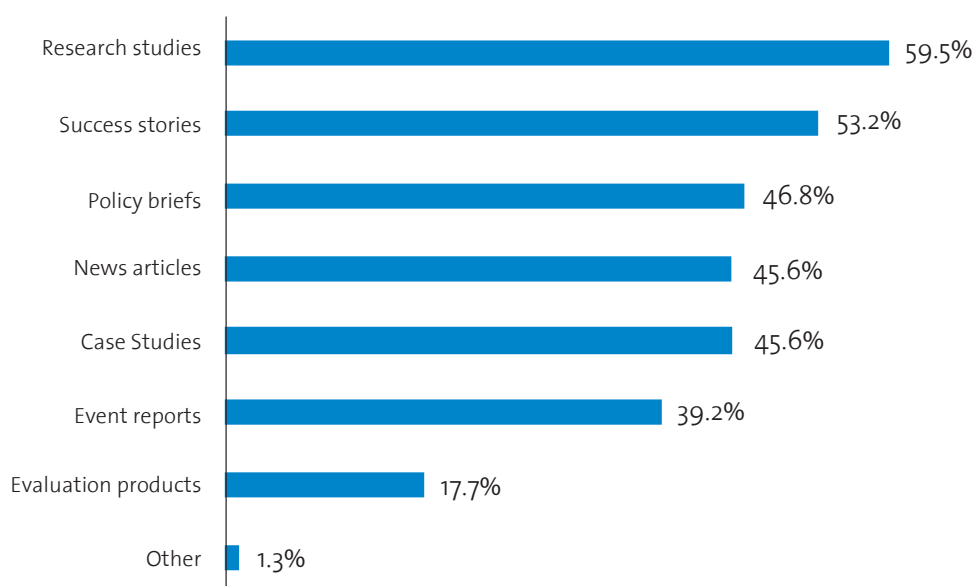
Types of UN Women Publications Consulted by Respondents

Majority of the respondents prefer research studies and reports with 59.5 per cent showing confidence on the same. The other types of publications accessed by the respondents included; success stories (53.2 per cent), policy briefs (46.8 per cent), news articles (45.6 per cent), event reports (39.2 per cent) and evaluation reports (17.7 per cent). Fewer respondents preferred other types of publications which were not listed in the menu of publications most frequently produced by the regional office. This shows that study reports and subsequent

related packages such as policy briefs, fact sheets, journal papers, background papers among other formats are the most preferred and should attract more investment and programme attention by UN Women regional office for East and Southern Africa. The dissemination should then be driven by packages that include news articles, case studies, event reports and success stories. Evaluation products also feature by some percentage but that which cannot be ignored as accessible to evaluation specialists and other practitioners.

Figure 6:

Types of UN Women publications consulted by respondents



3.4

Specific Publications Accessed by Respondents

While over the past years there have been numerous publications by UN Women, the frequency in the specific publications accessed differ depending on the thematic focus of publications and the period taken since dissemination. Multi-Country Analytical Study of Legislation, Policies, Interventions and Cultural Practices on Child Marriage in Africa was the most accessed publication (40.3 per cent) despite the fact that it was only made available on UN

Women Africa website in January 2019 (Table 2). This could mean that majority of those who accessed and/or used this publication may have accessed it through different mechanisms. This was followed by the respondents who read the publication on the Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in the Context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (35.9 per cent), extractive industries publication (32.1 per cent), UN Women regional office 2016

annual report (32.1 per cent), UN Women East and Southern Africa-Knowledge Management Strategy (2018-2021) accessed by 28.2 per cent of the respondents, cost of the gender gap in agricultural productivity focusing on causes, costs and solutions

accessed by 25.6 per cent. Also accessed by 24.4 per cent and 23.1 per cent respectively were the SDG localization publication and the status of women at the United Nations Office in Nairobi reports.

Table 2:

Frequently accessed UN Women Publications (2016-2019)

UN Women Publications	Frequency of access (%)
Multi-Country Analytical Study of Legislation, Policies, Interventions and Cultural Practices on Child Marriage in Africa	40.3%
Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in the Context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	35.9%
Stepping Up for Gender Equality- UN Women East and Southern Africa 2016 Annual Report	32.1%
Promoting Women's Participation in the Extractive Industries Sector: Examples of Emerging Good Practices	32.1%
UN Women East and Southern Africa-Knowledge Management Strategy (2018-2021)	28.2%
The Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa: Causes, Costs and Solutions	25.6%
Approaches by African Countries in the Implementation and Localization of SDGs	24.4%
Report on the status of women in United Nations Office in Nairobi	23.1%
The Cost of the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity: Five African Countries	16.7%
Guidance Note on documenting good practices on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	15.4%
Catalogue of Innovations and Good Practices on Gender and Resilience	15.4%
Marriage Laws in Africa-A Compendium from 55 African Union Member States	14.1%
Background paper on driving Gender-Responsive Financial Inclusion Models in Africa	11.5%
A review of energy policies in East and Southern Africa	7.7%
Regional Sharefair on Gender and Resilience in Africa 2016 Report	6.4%

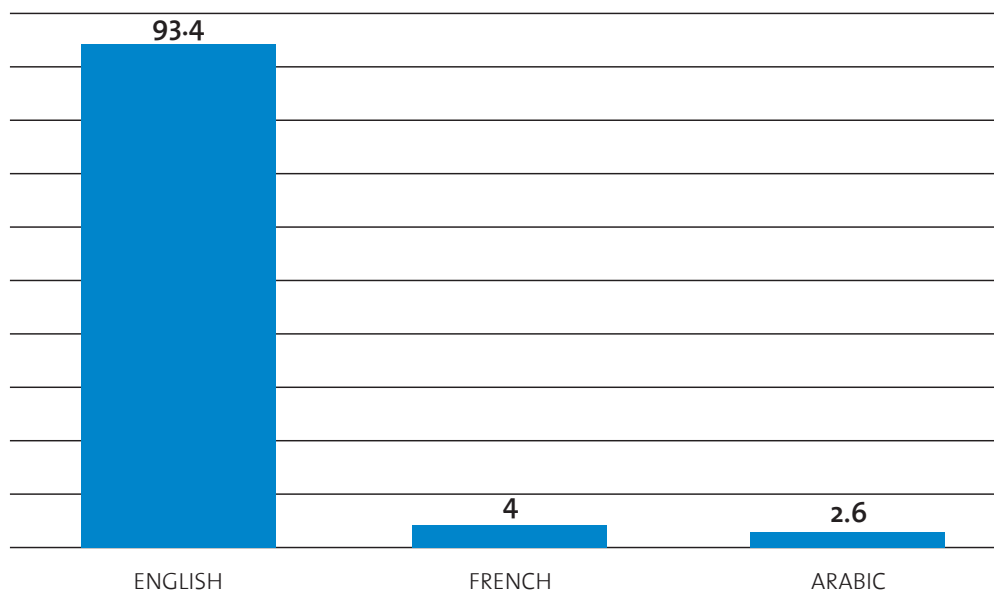
3.5

Preferred Language of Access of UN Women Publications

Majority of the respondents prefer UN Women regional office for East and Southern Africa to continue having their publications in the English language. However, it is important to note that the UN languages include Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. As a global agency, it is important that UN Women keeps to the standards

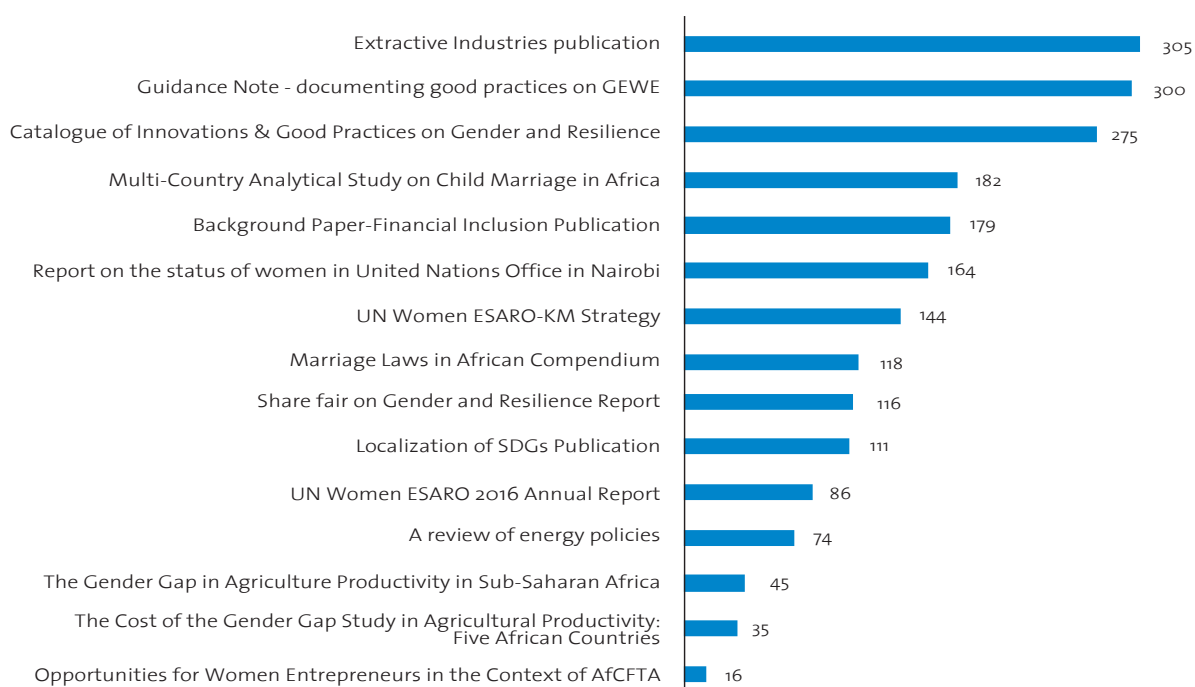
of meeting all the language needs of their target audience in the region. In the region, the survey reports that apart from English, which seems to be the most preferred language, French and Arabic are also preferred by 4.0 per cent and 2.6 per cent of the respondents respectively (Fig. 7).

Figure 7:
Preferred languages for accessing UN Women publications



3.6 Analysis of Views and Downloads for UN Women ESARO Publications (2016-2019)

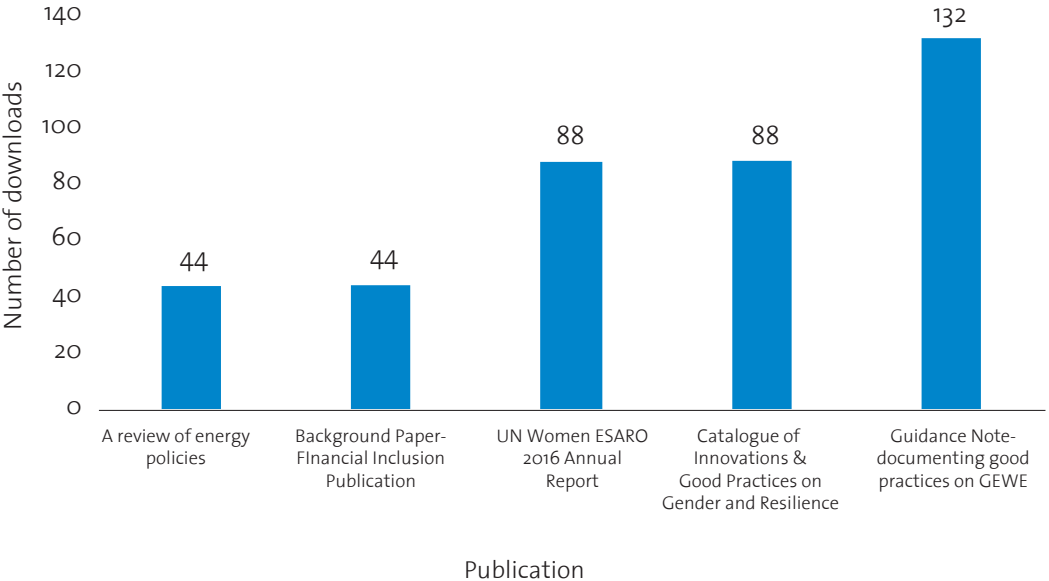
Figure 8:
Number of unique page views per publications



The survey looked at 15 UN Women publications (Fig. 8) which were produced during 2016 to 2019 period. The mean number of unique page views for the period was 143 views with the minimum being 16 views and a maximum of 305. Though the publications were produced at different time periods, extractive industries publication (305), guidance note on GEWE (300) and catalogue of innovations and good practices on gender and resilience (275) were the most viewed, while gender gap in agricultural productivity (45) and opportunities for women entrepreneurs (16) publications were the least viewed, contrary to the findings that this report has been widely read through other mechanisms. The wider readership of

the free trade area publication could be attributed to the high-level launch of the publication at the African Union Commission in 2019. Further analysis indicated that out of the 15 publications viewed, only 5 had ever been downloaded as shown in Fig. 9. The highest number of downloads per publication was experienced in guidance note on GEWE (132), with the lowest standing at 44 for both review of energy policies and background paper on financial inclusion publications. The mean number of downloads per the five publications stands at 79. The survey noted that majority of the publications listed were generated and published in 2018 and 2019 which attributes to the low downloads and page views.

Figure 9:
Number of downloads per publications



3.7
Awareness of UN Women Publications

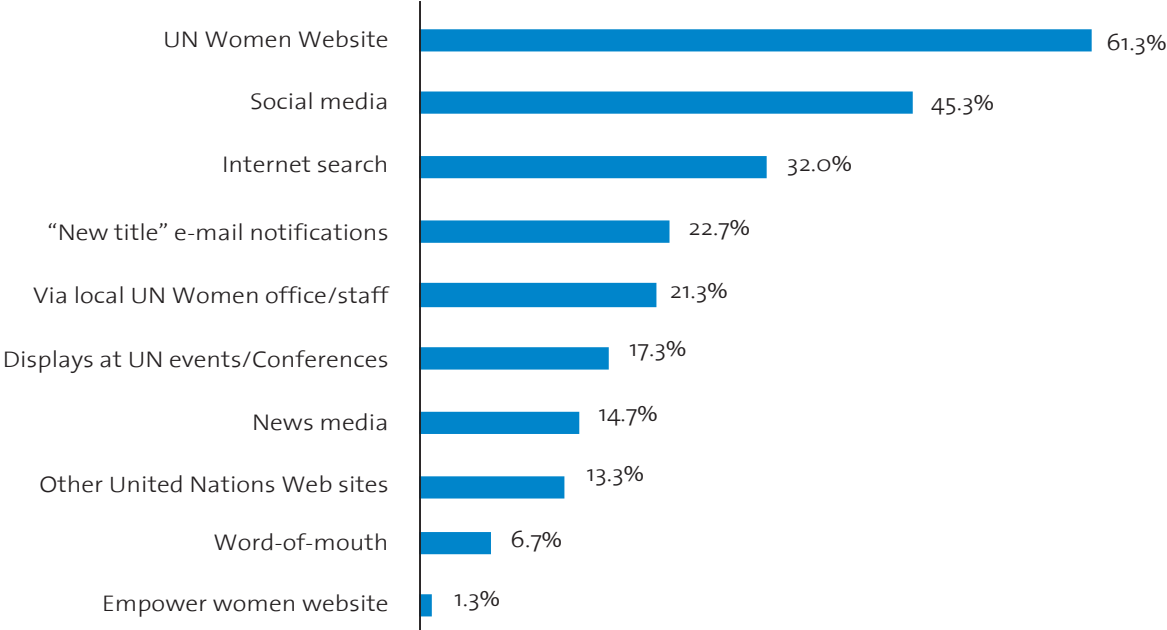
Majority of the respondents participating in the survey were made aware of the publications through UN Women Africa website.¹ Over half of the respondents (61.3 per cent) stated that they accessed the publications through the website. The other tool that enables their awareness of the publications included social media (Facebook and Twitter) with 45.3 per cent, normal internet search (32 per cent), new email titles notification accounted for 22.7

per cent while 21.3 per cent reported having been made aware of the UN Women publications through staff or a UN Women Country Office. 17.3 per cent reported that they were made aware of UN Women publications while attending various conferences and events while a small percentage (14.7 per cent) got to know about UN Women regional publications through news media, other UN Websites (13.3 per cent), word of mouth (only 6.7 per cent) and

empower women website-a global women’s economic empowerment platform-only being used by 1.3 per cent to access these publications. This emphasizes the fact UN Women publications need to continue with targeted electronic dissemination mechanisms that build a robust reach to the

target audience. The evidence shown from the study should inform more engagements in online virtual platforms to reach the targeted publications audience on a continuous basis.

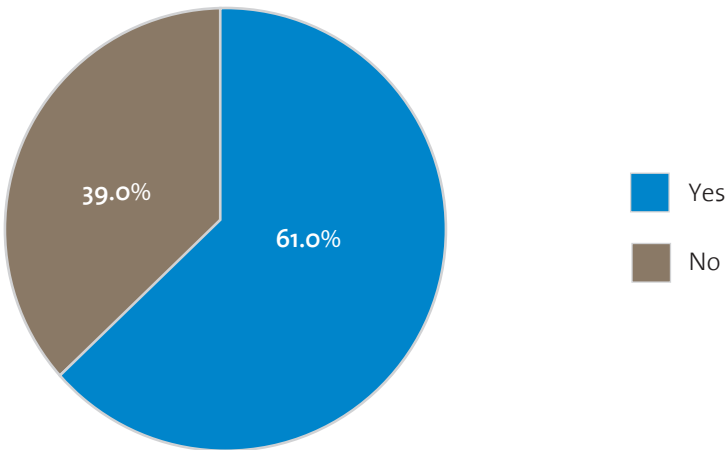
Figure 10:
Awareness of UN Women publications



The survey also reports that more than half (61 per cent) of the respondents were knowledgeable on how to access the UN Women publications list from the various sources (Fig. 11). This made accessibility

and utilization easy in the perspective of accelerating progress towards gender equality and women empowerment.

Figure 11:
Knowledge of how to access online UN Women publications list



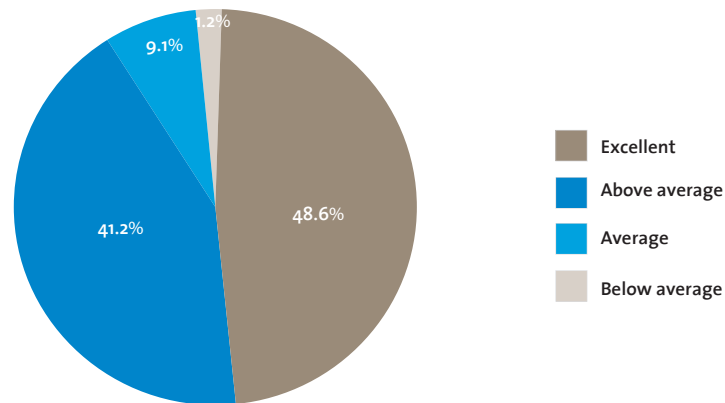
3.8

Overall Quality of Printed Publications

The overall quality of printed UN Women publications was excellent and above average as rated by 48.6 per cent and 41.2 per cent of the

respondents respectively (Fig. 12). The quality perspective is meant to drive appreciation and use of these publications.

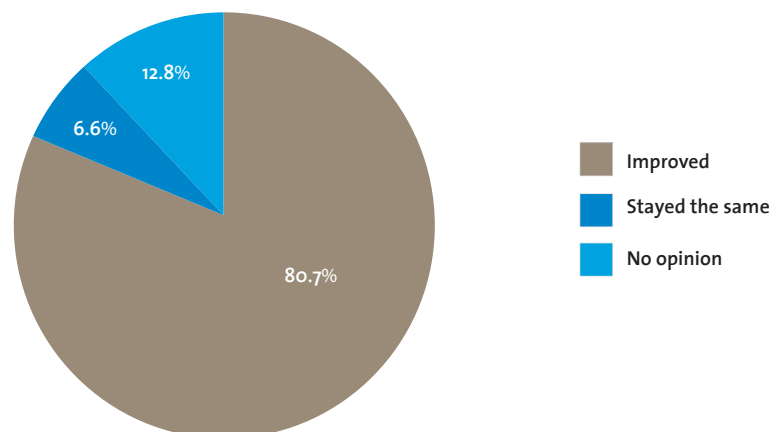
Figure 12:
Overall quality of printed publications



Further, for those who have accessed UN Women publications over the past 3 years, they noted a significant improvement in the quality of these publications as can be ascertained by 80.7 per cent of the respondents. Only 6.6 per cent of

the respondents considered the quality of the publications to have remained the same for the last three years while the remaining 12.8 per cent had no opinion on the quality change (Fig. 13).

Figure 13:
Trends on the quality of UN Women publications in the past three years



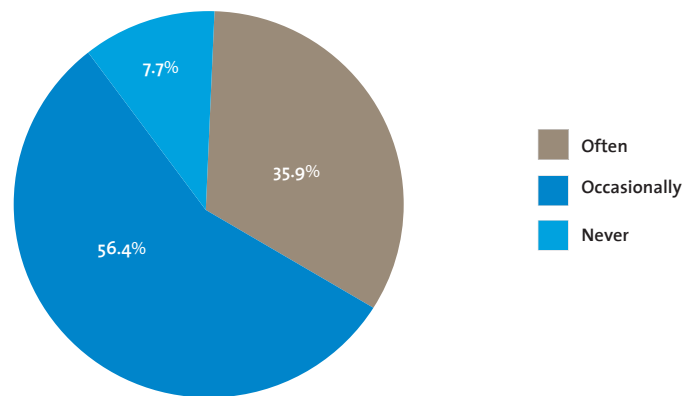
3.9

Frequency of Use of UN Women Publications

The frequency of the utilization of the UN Women publications was mainly often (56.4 per cent) while 35.9 per cent of the respondents occasionally used the publications (Fig. 14). It is worth noting that 7.7

per cent have never used UN Women publications and present a potential opportunity to be harnessed even in bringing on board the other 35.9 per cent to frequently use the UN Women regional publications.

Figure 14:
Frequency of use of UN Women publications



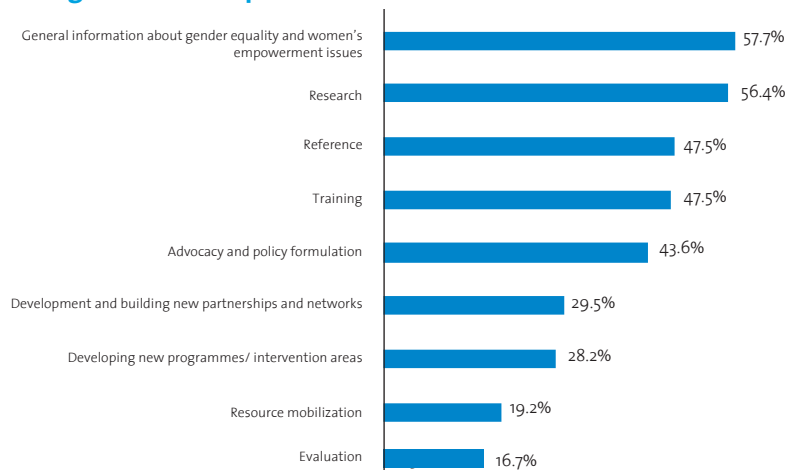
3.10

Purpose for Consulting UN Women East and Southern Africa Publications

The survey indicates that the publications are used for multiple purposes by readers. The usage of the regional publications appears to reflect the occupational make-up of the readers. Figure 15 gives a summary, for each purpose, of the uses made of each publication by respondents. The publications are used mostly for analysis and research, followed by engagement in gender equality and women's empowerment. The main drivers for the readership of different UN Women regional publications were research (56.4 per cent), and access to information

on gender equality and women empowerment issues (57.7 per cent). In addition, these publications play significant roles in training, referencing and policy formulation with a few individuals utilizing them for resource mobilization (19.2 per cent) and evaluation purposes (16.7 per cent) (Fig. 15). The tabulation shows the relationship to occupation. The main purpose for practitioners was to help them in their jobs through research, followed by personal professional development through access to gender related information.

Figure 15:
Purpose for consulting UN Women publications



User Friendliness of Design and Layout of UN Women Publications

Overall, UN Women's publication ease of usage in terms of design and layout was excellent and very good among 41.6 per cent and 36.2 per cent of the respondents respectively (Fig. 16). In addition, the contents of the publications were perceived by the respondents to range from good (20.8 per cent), through very good (42.8 per cent) to excellent (36.4 per cent) (Fig. 17). Moreover, these publications were perceived to be easily comprehensible in terms of readability by 92.6 per cent of the respondents (Fig. 18).

The study established that the process of quality assurance at the regional level has not been institutionalized yet. The unit in charge of publications was only involved in their development at the tail end of a publication chain which makes the process of quality assurance difficult to attain. The recommendation is to involve the Knowledge Management unit in the entire publications chain

to ensure continuous quality assurance process. Additionally, UN Women needs to centralize its critical quality assurance processes including those related to budgeting, editing, design and packaging of publications. That will build a stronger accountability mechanism besides ensuring coherence and uniformity of all publications with stronger visibility for all publications. The survey also noted that there are branding and design guidelines which are important tools for ensuring proper branding and use of UN Women brands-logos, templates among others. Despite the Knowledge Management unit having developed some guidance templates and checklists, they are hardly used and would need more social mobilization amongst all thematic specialists to be able to use them appropriately. This should be complemented with global corporate guidance to develop knowledge products which shall be developed in 2020.

Figure 16:

User friendliness of design and layout of UN Women publications

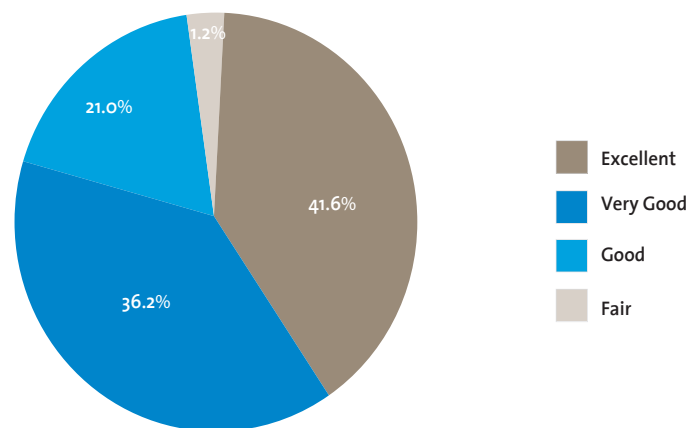
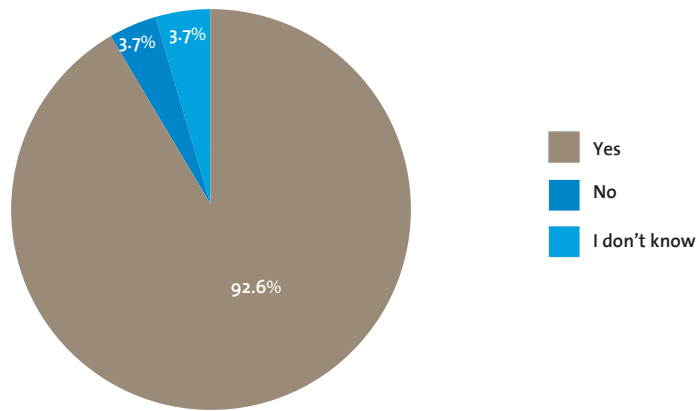


Figure 17:

Quality of the substantive content of UN Women publications



Figure 18:
Ease of reading the UN Women publications

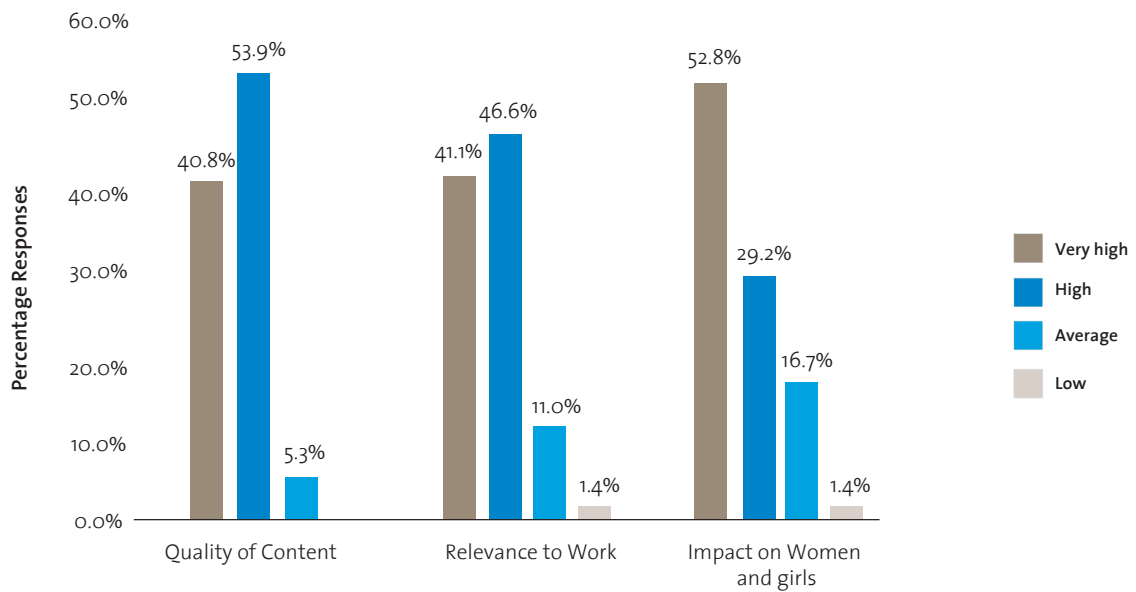


3.12 Impact of UN Women Publications

The impact created on women and girls by UN Women’s publications was ranked to be of great importance by 52.8 per cent of the respondents while relevance to work and quality content of the publications were highly valued by 53.9 per cent

and 46.6 per cent respondents respectively (Fig. 19). The case studies in the next chapter showcase how various UN Women regional publications have been used in the region and in Africa.

Figure 19:
Rank of UN Women publications based on different measures



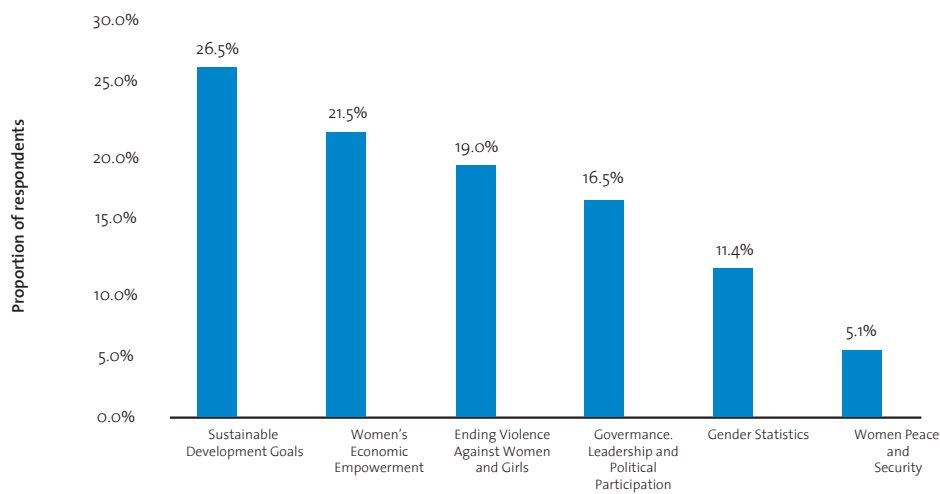
3.13

Level of Interest in Subject Matter of Publications

Based on the content of the publications, the interest of the publications accessed were mainly those which covered sustainable development goals (26.5 per cent), women economic empowerment (21.5 per cent), ending violence against women and girls (19.0 per cent), governance, leadership and political

participation (16.5 per cent) and gender statistics at 11.4 per cent. The publications that elicited least readership were those focused on women peace and security according to those who responded to the survey (5.1 per cent) (Fig. 20).

Figure 20:
Level of interest in subject matter of publications



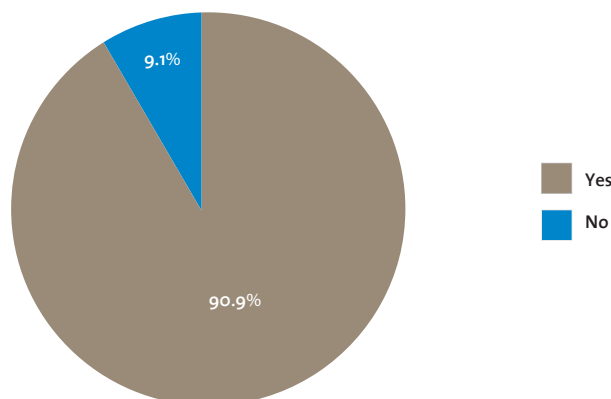
3.14

Regular E-Mail Updates About New UN Women Publication Titles

In terms of receiving information about new UN Women regional publications in the future, electronic copies are the preferred format, followed by hard copies. About 90.9 per cent of the respondents would prefer to receive regular e-mail

updates about any new UN Women's Publications (Fig. 21). This presents an opportunity of developing a publication mailing list for the regional office to be used for related notifications.

Figure 21:
Regular e-mail updates about new UN Women publication titles



4.

COMPENDIUM OF UN WOMEN REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS (2016-2018)

4.1

Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in the Context of AfCFTA

This report² presents the findings and recommendations of the UN Women commissioned study on Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in the Context of the AfCFTA. This study aimed to identify opportunities for women entrepreneurs with regard to the AfCFTA, focusing on three areas of interest: women in informal cross-border trade (WICBT), gender and value chain analysis, and affirmative action/preferential public procurement. The study further analysed challenges for women entrepreneurs in the context of the AfCFTA. The study looked at inter-linkages between trade, public procurement, value chains and gender inequality.

It assessed potential ways for improving regional integration frameworks from a gender perspective. It also analysed potential ways of integrating gender concerns into value chain development projects and programmes to help women maximize their profitability and competitiveness. Finally, the study analysed different preferential procurement schemes adopted in four countries in East and Southern Africa, namely; Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa. The selection of these countries was based on UN Women's ongoing work on preferential public procurement in these four countries.

4.2

The Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Africa: Causes, Costs and Solutions

Across sub-Saharan Africa, the agricultural sector remains critical to local and regional economies. It is the basis for food security and an important source of employment, particularly for women. Yet, studies consistently find that female farmers have lower rates of agricultural productivity than male farmers. Based on original research in five countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania), this policy brief³ shows that gender gaps in agricultural productivity do not arise because women are less efficient farmers,

but because they experience inequitable access to agricultural inputs, including family labour, high-yield crops, pesticides and fertilizer. Equalizing women's access to agricultural inputs, including time-saving equipment, and increasing the return to these inputs is therefore critical to close gender gaps in agricultural productivity. It also promises to yield important economic and social gains. Across the five countries, it could raise crop production by up to 19 per cent, boost agricultural and overall GDP, and lift hundreds of thousands of people out of poverty.

4.3

The Cost of the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity: Five African Countries

This study⁴ focuses Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. This report reviews a number of studies to help policymakers diagnose and better understand the nature of these gaps so that agricultural interventions are more effective, scalable and practical. These methods help quantify the structure of constraints which prevent women from having full access to agricultural resources. Dismantling this structure of constraints is crucial for reducing women's unpaid work burdens and raising the returns to their labour. The study shows a growing body of evidence pointing to a salient feature of the agricultural sector across Sub-Saharan Africa: lower rates of agricultural productivity for female cultivators than for male cultivators. Substantial gender gaps in productivity have arisen not because women are less efficient farmers, but because women experience inequitable access to

land and to agricultural inputs. Such unbalanced distribution frequently stems from and is bolstered by deeply entrenched sociocultural norms and traditional expectations of gender roles. This structure of constraints is multifaceted. Within this context, the UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, the United Nations Development Programme-United Nations Environment Programme Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa, and the World Bank commenced a collaboration to create evidence of the links between women's economic empowerment, sustainable agricultural production and economic growth. The evidence clearly shows that gender gaps in access to inputs have high economic costs and can affect the extent to which farmers adopt new resource management practices and technological innovations.

4.4

UN Women East and Southern Africa-Knowledge Management Strategy (2018-2021)

The UN Women East and Southern Africa Knowledge Management Strategy (2018-2021)⁵ views knowledge management as a critical enabler of UN Women's operations and programmes in the region. The strategy is anchored within regional and global priorities, with a focus on strengthening collective institutional and peer learning, as well as knowledge sharing. It brings visibility to and positions UN Women as a Knowledge Hub on Gender Equality and The Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEWE). The Strategy is premised on UN Women's triple mandate (normative, coordination and operational) and is driven by innovation, synergies, coordination and learning for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the region. It is also aligned to the UN Women Global

Knowledge Management Strategy and is positioned for relevance of Gender within the UN Development System Reforms agenda, led by the Secretary General of the United Nations. This strategy lays out the foundations for effective Knowledge Management for UN Women and provides a framework for standardization and prioritization of Knowledge Management practices in UN Women at the regional level. The strategy strives to ensure a systematic approach to knowledge management and shifting the region from ad hoc, uneven, and inconsistent Knowledge Management practices to creating synergies, providing quality assurance and availability, accessibility, and dissemination of relevant knowledge for development.

4.5

Report on the status of women in United Nations Office in Nairobi

The 2017 Status of Women in the UN Duty Station in Nairobi report⁶ was commissioned by the UN Women's Regional Office for East and Southern

Africa (UN Women ESARO), at the request of the Network of Women Leaders in the UN Nairobi Duty Station to inform efforts to support the realization

of the System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity which was launched by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 13 September 2017. In commissioning this report, it is the hope of the Network of Women Leaders in the UN Nairobi Duty station that the findings shall be taken on-board by all entities resident in Nairobi and provide a benchmark for setting targets for themselves towards the realization of gender parity. It is also hoped that through the report, individual entities will be able to identify areas of focus and opportunities for cross-

learning and collaboration to support their efforts. In speaking to the system-wide strategy, the Secretary-General stated that “this goal is not just about numbers, but about transforming our institutional culture so that we can access and capitalize on our full potential. It is about creating a working environment that embraces equality, eradicates bias and is inclusive of all staff.” It is the Network’s hope that this report will contribute substantially to the realization of this vision.

4.6

Multi-Country Analytical Study on Ending Child Marriage in Africa

This report presents a Multi-Country Analysis of Legislation, Policies, Interventions and Cultural Practices on Child Marriage in Africa.⁷ The study assessed the state of child marriage in Africa from practice to policy and interventions towards its eradication, with a focus on ten countries with a comparatively higher prevalence of child marriage in the continent, and globally. A critical emphasis of the study was on the nexus between the existence and implementation of the policies/legislation, and the dominant cultural and religious practices that affect the outcomes of the interventions in those countries, especially in identified hotspot areas within the countries. By focusing on the socio-cultural

conditions, policy environment and eradication initiatives, the study provides critical information and perspectives, effective and appropriate programs/ investment and policies in Africa to delay the age of marriage and end child marriage as a practice. The study confirms a decline in the prevalence of child marriage in the ten study countries (DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria and Tanzania) over the last three decades. Efforts have been intensified in eradicating child marriage, but it remains a persistent problem in Africa, with the study countries included in the 17 African countries ranked among those with the highest rates of child marriage globally.

4.7

Marriage Laws in Africa-A Compendium from 55 African Union Member States

This Compendium⁸ is a collection of marriage laws across African Member States developed to serve as an updated compilation of Member States’ legal frameworks and legislation related to marriage. The Compendium was first developed in 2016 and recently updated in June 2018. It was compiled through desk reviews of Member States’ legal frameworks, including constitutions, civil codes, family laws and other partner documents and publications. The Compendium is a tool to inform Governments, policymakers, researchers, advocates, partners and other stakeholders on countries’ marriage laws, to help track child marriage reforms and identify best practice of the Member States to enable targeted advocacy in the countries that require review, and reform in their marriage laws.

Child marriage legislation and laws were reviewed in all 55 African Union countries where available to determine Member States with legal frameworks outlawing child marriage and the ones with laws legalizing child marriage as a result of either the presence of exemptions within existing marriage laws or the absence of a legal framework or law outlawing child marriage. The Compendium also tracks recent marriage law reforms, identifying Member States that are making strides in introducing new laws and repealing old laws to end child marriage in Africa. The compendium was developed under the leadership of the UN Women Ethiopia liaison office to the African Union Commission.

4.8

Background paper on driving Gender-Responsive Financial Inclusion Models in Africa

This background paper⁹ highlights the current situation regarding gender responsive financial inclusion in Africa. It also highlights the key barriers that contribute towards creating and sustaining the gender gap in financial inclusion, including: collateral challenges; the gender-blind approach to financial inclusion by financial institutions; asset ownership challenges among women; uncompetitive and high interest rates and bank charges offered by financial institutions; poor documentation and business history for accessing financial loan products by women entrepreneurs; challenges of formalization of businesses by women entrepreneurs among others. The paper also outlines concrete actions that all

stakeholders and duty bearers should take to address the gender gap in financial inclusion in Africa. This paper reports that financial inclusion for women, specifically access and usage of financial services and products is increasingly attracting great attention. Financial position and participation of women in financial inclusion were the focus of discussions by different actors, women entrepreneurs and stakeholders in a workshop gathering at the SEED Africa symposium held in Nairobi in 2016. The substance of the background paper is drawn from those discussions. The emerging good practices and innovative solutions together with the valued comments from participants are published herewith.

4.9

UN Women East and Southern Africa 2016 Annual Report

This report¹⁰ presents a glimpse of some of the interventions we were engaged with in 2015/2016. In the East and Southern African region, where numerous challenges persist for women and girls, the UN Women continues to champion progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment through our diverse programming and interventions. A key objective has been to position UN Women as the lead agency on gender equality using a range of methodologies such as; programming in response to the needs of national governments, Regional institutions and the community, knowledge management, research, and evidence-based advocacy and policy support and formulation. A few highlights of key results in the year under review are: the amendment to

the Malawi Constitution, banning child marriage following consistent and persistent advocacy in collaboration with other United Nations (UN) Agencies and development partners; advocating for safe spaces for women, such as street vendors in Rwanda and survivors of gender-based violence in Ethiopia; creating opportunities for dialogue and showcasing the benefits of providing agricultural support to women in agriculture so as to reduce loss of Gross Domestic Product (GDP); supporting interventions with the military to increase safe spaces for women and encouraging recruitment and retention of women in the security sector, including their ascension into leadership positions. Across the region, UN Women continues to play a crucial networking, convening and catalytic role.

4.10

Approaches by African Countries in the Implementation and Localization of SDGs

This report¹¹ presents governments' approaches to the localization and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with specific reference to seven countries: Botswana,

Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The report was developed through a collaborative process with selected governments via their representatives, UN Women country/multi-

country offices and other stakeholders in East and Southern Africa. Initial data and information were collected from a regional consultation on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. This report is meant to increase learning among diverse actors, (including governments and non-state actors), and help replicate successful approaches and methodologies utilized by different governments in the localization and implementation of the SDGs. The report showcases how African governments should best approach the localization and implementation process to ensure the Agenda 2030 on SDGs is prioritized in national development plans and other

interventions. This report is specifically intended to enhance knowledge sharing, learning and replication among African countries on SDG localization and implementation. It speaks to the implementation-related questions of African countries and illustrates the different approaches they have employed. The selected case studies show how these governments have prioritized integration of the SDGs into national development plans and/or related policies, legislation and frameworks to facilitate local ownership and implementation, especially regarding the gender-specific goals.

4.11

Regional Sharefair on Gender and Resilience in Africa Report

This is a convening report¹² for the Regional Sharefair on Gender and Resilience in Africa held by UN Women in collaboration with key partners in November 9th-10th 2016 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. Focusing on the main theme of "Strengthening Resilience by Empowering Women", the Sharefair provided a platform for sharing and learning, availed an opportunity to further explore the role of women in building and strengthening resilience, and promoted dialogue and sharing of experiences on gender responsive resilience related programmes and policies in Africa. This is expected

to accelerate development and humanitarian response and the overall achievement of the SDGs. The Sharefair also facilitated long term collaboration amongst regional stakeholders with the aim of identifying problems, using data and predictive methods and mobilizing support and resources to incubate, accelerate and scale effective solutions. The outcome of the two-day event was the creation of a strong regional network to amplify resilience solutions, sustaining change in policy and practice within relevant macroeconomic frameworks.

4.12

A review of energy policies in East and Southern Africa

Renewable, clean energy and gender equality are preconditions for sustainable development and for tackling climate change. This linkage is tacit in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Gender equality and women's empowerment (Goal 5) and women's and men's equal access to secure energy services (Goal 7) are central to building more environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient societies (Goals 13 and 15) (UN Women and UNDP-

UNEP PEI, 2015). This brief¹³ provides an initial review of gender integration in energy policies in East and Southern Africa. The review was based on methodologies for qualitative data and policy analysis proposed by several scholars (e.g. Fisher, Miller and Sidney, 2007; Ritchie and Spencer, 1994) and is a joint product of UN Women and the Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa of the United Nations Development Programme and UN Environment.

4.13

Catalogue of Innovations and Good Practices on Gender and Resilience

This Catalogue¹⁴ resulted from partnerships with United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women) in partnership with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), African Development Bank (AfDB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and other partners who worked together to host a multi stakeholder Regional Sharefair on Gender and Resilience¹⁵ with the theme of 'Strengthening Resilience by Empowering Women.' The initiative focused on the role of women in building and strengthening resilience, promoting dialogue

and sharing of experiences on gender-responsive resilience-related programmes, innovations, good practices and policies in Africa, with the aim to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. The innovations and good practices were collected through a Call for Innovations. Innovators across Africa were invited through the call to show cutting edge innovations, including social innovations that best provide solutions on how women, girls and their communities can build and strengthen resilience through resilient technologies and associated innovative strategies, initiatives, interventions and methods which are scalable.

4.14

Promoting Women's Participation in the Extractive Industries Sector

A documentation of good practices on gender and the extractive industries¹⁶ will help guide governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in developing policy, programmes and legislation that will do a better job of addressing challenges facing women affected by-and hoping to benefit from-the

extractive industries sector. This publication on emerging good practices is a valuable contribution to exploring solutions and taking them to scale to engender the extractive industries in Africa. The documentation reported that the extractive industries (EI) remains a male-dominated industry as compared to the other industries in Africa.

4.15

Guidance Note on Documenting Good Practices on GEWE

The objective of the Guidance Note¹⁷ is to help all gender equality actors and advocates document good practices so that others may learn from these experiences and adopt similar approaches. The Guidance Note targets all gender equality and women's empowerment advocates and actors who have successfully implemented interventions to accelerate gains for women and girls not only in Africa but across the world. These are interventions that have proven successful and thereby have the potential for replicability, scalability and further investments by stakeholders and actors committed to the integration of gender issues into development

interventions and strategies. Specifically, the Guidance Note targets the United Nations, Regional Economic Communities and intergovernmental agencies, governments, Civil Society Organizations, private sector players, the academia, men and boys, women and girls themselves and others working to find sustainable solutions on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Women's empowerment helps guide all actors on gender equality and women's empowerment on developing policy, programmes and legislation that better address challenges facing women and girls.

5.

MAPPING THE UTILIZATION OF UN WOMEN REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Case study 1: Engagement with traditional leaders and cultural institutions to End Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and other Harmful Practices against women and girls

The Multi Country Analytical Study on ending child marriage informed the UN Women's engagement with traditional leaders, cultural institutions, religious leaders and authorities. Through the study, as an entry point for evidence, the UN Women convened several dialogue and consultative meetings with these institutions and leaders in Africa. Some of the consultations included; the Nairobi meeting, Malawi consultative meeting, Nigeria meeting and a culmination of the African Union convening led by the President of Zambia which visualized the role of traditional leaders, institutions and authorities in ending child marriage, FGM and other harmful practices against women and girls in Africa. These engagements, informed from the study, subsequently led to the creation of a traditional and cultural leaders' movement to end child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C) and other harmful practices against women and girls in Africa by 2030. The UN Women's conceptual framework includes policy, advocacy and programmatic aspects that harness the achievements and successes of traditional leaders' efforts to end child marriage and FGM/C in African countries. The process is phased and includes a series of consultations and dialogues with traditional leaders at the AU Economic regional level which culminated to an AU High Level Dialogue with Traditional Leaders where commitments to end child marriage, FGM/C and other harmful practices were made at continental level by governments and traditional leaders.

The UN Women approach is founded on the basics of social movements building that includes alliance building (with young women and women groups initially), creation of networks, and putting together

elements for communication and mounting sustained action beyond the AU summit early 2019. The adopted model harvests traditional and cultural leaders' voices and efforts to end child marriage, FGM/C, and other harmful practices, and builds them into a continental voice and practice of shunning negative cultural practices and embracing/ harnessing the positive norms and cultural practices that eliminate child marriage, FGM/C and other harmful practices. The approach builds on successful efforts that have been carried out by traditional leaders in several African countries and it would be essential to facilitate, replicate and scale up these efforts nationally and internationally. The principles include an emphasis on networks and alliances building, sustained action, mobilization, knowledge management and communication, cross-sharing, cross-learning, cross-pollination, and cross-fertilization of ideas, experiences, and lessons learned, from one community or country to another. All the actions are built and informed by gender equality principles and values.

This is a collaboration with the Queen Mother Best Foundation of Uganda and the Institute of African Royalty that brought together diverse numbers of traditional leaders and representatives from across Africa in addition to interested partners and stakeholders. The dialogue in Nairobi, which commenced the consultations and premised on the study, brought together twenty two (22) Traditional Leaders and cultural institutions from 17 countries including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, DRC, South Africa, Botswana, Cameroon, Nigeria, Liberia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Sierra Leone and Sudan, for a regional consultative and planning meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from 12-16 August, 2018

grounded on the findings and recommendations of the study. The study had produced a policy brief which was used as a basis for a policy dialogue on ending child marriage and other harmful practices against women and girls. The Policy Dialogue: identified effective and functional monitoring, accountability and information systems from the local to national and regional levels that would enable tracking of the implementation and enforcement of existing laws and policies against child marriage; explored roles and responsibilities of governments, international bodies, the private sector, traditional systems, civil society and women's organizations in shaping and influencing an end to child marriage; developed action-oriented recommendations that support gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on the commitment to gender equality and to the protection, promotion and realization of women's and girls' human rights.

The engagement with traditional leaders emerged from the recommendations from the study on developing an integrated engagement strategy and framework with traditional leaders and cultural institutions. It is informed by the finding that ending child marriage requires the collaboration and leadership of traditional leaders and cultural institutions and authorities (widely regarded as

gate keepers) who can harness the positive aspects and practices in culture and customs towards enhancing and enforcing the appropriate laws and policies. Working with traditional leaders and cultural institutions ensures a multifaceted approach in providing an enabling environment for change, accompanied by other reform strategies that encourage positive change in communities through proposed alternative rites of passage. This has enhanced and leveraged existing legislative and policy frameworks which are equally important in ending child marriage, FGM/C and other harmful practices against women and girls. Evidence has confirmed that working with traditional leaders and cultural institutions and authorities to challenge gender inequalities has a positive impact on the health and well-being of women and girls. It is therefore critical to engage them in ending these harmful practices through engagement in gender equality interventions, policy development and programming.

The following countries reported using the study to inform and strengthen their traditional justice systems in one way or the other-Malawi, Zambia, Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia, Burundi, Tanzania, Somalia and Eswatini-formerly Swaziland.

Case study 2: The Highest Authority in Sunni Islam Declared an End to Child Marriage in Africa

In 18 June 2019, Africa convened in Dakar Senegal for her 1st Africa Summit on Female Genital mutilations and Child Marriage. This convening set a historic moment for the continent on its fight against Child Marriage and FGM as the Deputy Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Sheikh Dr. Salah Abbas, boldly issued a Fatwa against child marriage in Africa. In the Islamic culture, a Fatwa is an official ruling in Islamic law, and whose authority is considered absolute. Additionally, Imam Dr Abbas' declaration was a monumental turn around since the office of the Imam of Al Azhar wields the highest authority in the Islamic law among the Sunni Muslims, who proudly account for around 75 per cent to 90 per cent of all

Muslims across the world. The Fatwa particularly spelt out that both girls and boys must attain the age 18 years to get married and thus forbid any marriage at any younger age. This declaration at the girls' summit piggy backed on the Multi-Country Analytical Study of Legislation, Policies, Interventions and Cultural Practices on Child Marriage in Africa that was undertaken by UN Women Regional Office for East and Southern Africa. During the Summit, both UN Women and UNFPA welcomed the Fatwa and underscored its importance in the journey to ending child marriage and other harmful practices against women and girls in Africa by 2030.

Case study 3: North Africa and Arab States engage religious leaders and authorities to end child marriage and other harmful practices against women and girls through UN Women multi country analytical study

UN Women Regional Office for Arab States convened a dialogue with Ministers dealing with social development-children's and women's affairs, national women and child machineries; Religious, Traditional and Community Leaders; Youth leaders and advocates particularly women and girls affected by the crime of child marriage and female genital mutilation; and development Partners, UN Agencies, Civil Society and Grassroots organization to discuss the findings and recommendations of the multi-country analytical study on ending child marriage and agree on their role in ending child marriage, FGM and other harmful practices against women and girls. The meeting was held in Cairo-Egypt in 2018.

The dialogue was grounded on the fact that the study had reported the effect and utility of religious and cultural practices on child marriage. The study noted that the place of religion in the child marriage agenda is ambiguous-it is both a driver and a potential intervention factor. The study established significant potential for the utility of religious interventions in ending child marriage because there is a growing convergence between traditional and religious norms in most of the countries' hot spot communities studied. Cultural practices that are

contradictory to religious practices tended to find common ground where both claimed moral purity as their ultimate focus in supporting child marriage. Because of this ambiguous and problematic relationship, the study recommended the establishment of robust inter-religious interventions working groups both at national and regional levels.

The dialogue emphasised the fact that religious leaders are encouraged to initiate within religious dialogue circles to question the long-held misperception on child marriages as being acceptable. In the words of Sheik Bashir, the concept of maturity for a girl in marriage should not only be based on her physical development but should also consider her mental, emotional and spiritual maturity. Dialogue within the religious circle through Arab States-led conversations helped create opportunities for greater awareness and understanding of the disadvantages of child marriages especially in light of the girl's opportunities for education and personal development. Emphasis was placed on the benefits flowing from educating the child and the opportunities this will bring at the household, community and national levels.

Case study 4: Compendium of marriage laws in Africa study informs legal and policy changes in African Countries

This was in partnership with the African Union Commission under the leadership of Ethiopia African union Commission liaison office. This compendium is a collection of marriage laws across African Member States and was developed to serve as an updated compilation of legal frameworks related to child marriage. The compendium is a tool which has been used to inform Governments, policy makers, researchers, advocates and other stakeholders on countries marriage laws, track child marriage reforms process and best practice countries, and

enabling targeted advocacy in the countries that require review and reform in their marriage legislation and practice. Malawi, for example, has used the compendium to review their marriage law to increase the age of marriage to 18 for both male and female genders as opposed to the previous 16 years age of marriage for females and 18 years for males. This has moved Malawi to the League of Nations compliant with the United Nations global set age of marriage.

Case study 5: Tanzania-Student use the Child marriage related publications for community initiatives and in school

An individual in Tanzania reported using the Compendium on marriage laws and the multi-country study on ending child marriage in building up her career through mobilizing the youth to discuss issues of child marriage and their role in ending the practice and other harmful practices against women and girls. The youth appreciate their critical role in ending these practices and have developed increased interest in engagement on gender issues as a result of the information

obtained from these publications. The publication was also useful in her academic work focusing on social cultural activities which hinder achievement of gender equality. Referring to Tanzania marriage Act of 1977, it allows girls to be married at the age of 15, while boys to marry at the age of 18 while the Child Development policy states that; a child is a human being aged below 18 years of age. This creates a sense of inequality to girls who are married as children.

Case study 6: Background paper on financial inclusion used to design curriculum for digital financial inclusion for women in informal settlements

One of the respondents reported having used the background paper on gender responsive financial inclusion for women to design a curriculum for digital financial inclusion for women in informal settlements in Kenya. This curriculum is used to train women entrepreneurs on issues of financial management, access and inclusion. It is aimed at tackling the issue of digital literacy from a gender lens in partnership with local financial institutions and educational providers in Kenya. It also emphasizes that the informal settlements must start using digital tools to manage their money. The informal settlement has the potential that can be exploited to ensure digital financial inclusion for the benefit of women.

The paper has also been used in Uganda as a motivation to starting a local community-based organization helping young single mothers in the slums of Uganda to engage in community initiatives such as group savings and investment with proper record keeping knowledge. She says, "I didn't wait to get financing and I was inspired by the background paper and registered the organization."

Other uses of UN Women Publications reported by respondents from various countries include;

- Using data from the publications in making presentations, writing proposals and resource mobilization.
- Some respondents reported using them for referencing in development work and in motivational talks on gender issues.
- Some stakeholders have used them in dialogues, discussions, conferences, social media posts and peer education sessions.
- Use of the evidence and recommendations from the publications in empowering young women and girls on how to handle gender-based violence and end gender inequality.

6.

CONCLUSIONS

The survey received a total of 243 responses, although the survey was conducted for a period of more than four weeks. While responses were received from various groups of readers-including international organizations, non-governmental organization, the UN, governments, the youth, the academia, the private sector and gender advocates-the majority of respondents (26.6 per cent) associated themselves with academic or research institutions and INGOs/CSOs.

Approximately 8.8 per cent of responses came from respondents affiliated with Governments-what this survey refers to as policy makers. This indicates that there is a continuous need to consider ways of improving the response rate, particularly from Governments, which form a critical mass and constituency for UN Women's work on gender equality and women empowerment. In general, respondents shared a positive feedback on the quality of UN Women regional publications with 88.4 per cent of the respondents agreeing that the

publications are useful. As shown by the survey, publications are used for different purposes: accessing general information about gender equality and women's empowerment and analysis, and research (prevailing). Training, advocacy and policy formulation are among the main reasons for consulting these publications. The survey shows that, while many readers indicated their interest in receiving publications via a mailing list or electronically, the demand for hard copies is continuously decreasing.

7.

READER SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build a stronger and institutionalized quality assurance process through thematic synergies particularly in editing, design and packaging of publications to ensure uniformity, coherence and visibility of UN Women. The study established that the process of quality assurance has not been institutionalized yet. The unit in charge of publications was only involved in their development at the tail end which makes the process of quality assurance difficult to attain. The recommendation is to involve the knowledge management unit in the entire publications chain to ensure continuous quality assurance process. Additionally, UN Women needs to centralize some of the quality assurance processes including those related to editing, design and packaging of publications. That will build a stronger accountability mechanism besides ensuring coherence and uniformity of all publications with stronger visibility for all publications.
- UN Women needs to continue with targeted electronic dissemination mechanisms that build a robust reach to the target audience as electronic access to publications was the highest preference by the respondents in the survey.
- The evidence shown from the study should inform more engagements in online virtual platforms to reach the targeted publications audience on a continuous basis. This is because majority of UN Women target audience are reachable in online spaces and communities as evidenced from the study.
- Develop a publication mailing list for the regional office to be used for related notifications to all target stakeholders. From the survey, over 90 per cent expressed their interest in receiving regular e-mail updates about new UN Women publication titles.
- Intensify repackaging of all publications to include infographics, fact sheets, short videos, and other messaging. This is because majority of the respondents indicated interactivity of the publications as a key priority for accessibility, readability and utilization.
- Limited readership of the UN Women publications in Western, Northern and Central Africa could be improved through increased publications that address issues that are not only particular to East Africa and Southern Africa but Africa as a continent. This is evident in the case of multi-country analytical study on ending child marriage which received wider readership beyond East and Southern Africa. Further, the translation of these publications into French and Arabic could increase the readership especially where they are of a continental scope.
- Increase coverage for dissemination to include publishing in peer reviewed referred journals. This will increase coverage for the academia and research think tanks to tease out various findings and recommendations of UN Women publications for wider outreach and use in policy, programming and investment. Currently, the region has published papers on thematic issues on the Multi-Country Analytical Study of Legislation, Policies, Interventions and Cultural Practices on Child Marriage in Africa which was undertaken in 2018. These have been published on the Journal of Culture, Policy and Development. This survey recommends intensifying these efforts to increase outreach to target audience in the region and beyond.
- Despite the Knowledge Management unit having developed some guidance templates and checklists, they are hardly used and would need more social mobilization amongst all thematic specialists to be able to use them appropriately. This should be complimented with

global corporate guidance to develop knowledge products which shall be developed in 2020. It is significant to note that the publications are not only for information purposes but also for research, policy formulation, programming and investment in gender equality. Therefore, the survey recommends that UN Women intensifies leveraging diverse dissemination platforms and build stronger networks with public institutions, universities and the academia to accelerate utilization for results on gender equality.

- The survey recommends a mapping of all knowledge products by UN Women multi and country offices in the region for the period 2016-2019 to develop a compendium of all knowledge products for ease of access, including a virtual catalogue of these products. This will not only create a one stop shop for all products but also increase efforts towards profiling knowledge products produced by all country offices in the region.

8.

ENDNOTES

1. See link <https://africa.unwomen.org/en>
2. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/07/opportunities-for-women-in-the-acfta>
3. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/06/gender-gap-policy-brief>
4. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/the-cost-of-gender-gap-policy-brief>
5. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/03/unw-esaro-km-strategy>
6. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/03/report-on-the-status-of-women-in-unon>
7. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/multicountry-fgm>
8. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/03/marriage-laws-in-africa>
9. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/03/background-paper-on-gender-responsive-financial-inclusion>
10. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/01/stepping-up-for-gender-equality--un-women-east-and-southern-africa-2016-annual-report>
11. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017-b/11/accelerating-the-implementation-of-agenda-2030-on-sustainable-development>
12. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017-b/11/regional-sharefair-on-gender-and-resilience-in-africa-2016>
13. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017-b/11/a--review-of-energy-policies-in-east-and-southern-africa>
14. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/11/catalogue-of-innovations-and-good-practices-on-gender-and-resilience>
15. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017-b/11/regional-sharefair-on-gender-and-resilience-in-africa-2016>
16. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/10/promoting-womens-participation-in-the-extractive-industries-sector>
17. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/07/guidance-note-on-documenting-good-practices-on-gewe>
18. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/06/gender-gap-policy-brief>
19. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/03/report-on-the-status-of-women-in-unon>
20. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017-b/11/accelerating-the-implementation-of-agenda-2030-on-sustainable-development>
21. See details <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017-b/11/accelerating-the-implementation-of-agenda-2030-on-sustainable-development>



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