



# UN WOMEN KENYA Annual Report

# 2020



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# Foreword

Guided by a multisectoral approach to addressing structural inequalities, our work at UN Women focuses on increasing the participation and representation of women in leadership; economically empowering women; supporting women to participate in peace processes and peace institutions; and ending all forms of violence against women and girls.

The year 2020 will forever be remembered for the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It defined global thought, conversation and action. At the onset of the emergency, we quickly negotiated with our development partners to reprogramme resources to not only identify the country's emergency needs through a gender lens, but to then deliver those needs in line with our mandate. In this regard, we contributed to the national gender-based violence helpline 1195, which experienced a massive increase in reported cases of gender-based violence, from an average of 1,000 in 2019 to over 6,000 in 2020. In addition, 436 women and girls accessed safe shelter from domestic violence through our contribution to safe shelters in the country. Cognizant of how the pandemic has eroded the most vulnerable jobs and livelihoods of

women, our programme supported 669 women-owned businesses to stay afloat by linking them to affordable finance to recapitalize their businesses, while connecting women suppliers to ready markets for COVID-19 personal protective equipment.

Outside of the COVID-19 results, Kenya joined the community of African women leaders through the establishment of the Kenyan Chapter of the African Women Leaders Network, with support from UN Women, the Ministry of Public Service and Gender, the African Union and the Government of Germany. The network brings together women leaders across age, social and political divides to

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advocate with one voice on key issues that affect women and girls in Kenya. In 2020, the network advocated for the implementation of the two-thirds gender principle; raised alarm at the increase in cases of women killed by their intimate partners; and advocated strongly for a gender-responsive COVID-19 response plan at national and local levels.

Further building on our normative work, UN Women Kenya contributed significantly to the proposed Party Primaries Bill, the Political Parties Act and the draft Constitutional Amendment Bill, with key provisions to help the country operationalize the constitutional provision on the two-thirds gender principle, which has remained elusive for a long time. With national elections approaching in 2022, a standardized training manual for women candidates, designed to respond to the key knowledge and skills gaps expressed by current and aspiring women leaders, was published with UN Women's support.

As Kenya assumed a seat on the UN Security Council, UN Women Kenya and the Government of Kenya coordinated the adoption of the country's second *Kenya National Action Plan for the Advancement of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security* to enhance women's



Kenya Country Representative Anna Mutavati

participation in national and local peace and security processes and institutions. In Kenya's informal settlements and refugee camps, there were increased protection and livelihood opportunities made available to the most vulnerable refugee women and those from host communities. In Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement, we are delighted to have supported the opening of a multipurpose Women's Empowerment Centre that provides a safe space for women and girls to receive vocational training and psychosocial

support and to access facilities for child care, creating opportunities for thousands of women to protect their rights and empower themselves economically.

We would not have achieved these milestones without the generous technical and financial contributions from our development partners\*; our collaborating sister UN agencies; our partners in government, especially the Ministry of Public Service and Gender; our most valued implementing partners; the

vibrant team at UN Women Kenya; and, most importantly, the incredible women and girls of Kenya, whose sheer resilience and deep conviction that a gender-equal world is not only possible but achievable in our generation continues to inspire the work that we do!

***Anna Mutavati***

*UN Women Country Representative to Kenya*

\* The Government of Finland, the Government of Japan, Unilever, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Italy, Korea International Cooperation Agency, and donors funding the Joint Programme on Devolution (the Governments of Finland, Sweden and Italy); in addition, UNDP, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNFPA.





# Introduction

At the strategic level, UN Women Kenya's programmatic focus is guided by its Strategic Note 2019–2022 and aligned to the UN Women Strategic Plan (2018–2021) and national, continental and international frameworks that have the ultimate goal of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Gender equality and women's empowerment are a prerequisite for strong institutions and stable communities and economies.

UN Women Kenya's programme supports and is fully aligned with Kenya's national priorities stipulated in the Third Medium-Term Plan 2018–2022 of Vision 2030 and President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big 4 Agenda, as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018–2022.

UN Women Kenya has four priority key results areas: Women in Leadership and Democratic Governance (Women in Decision Making); Women's Economic Empowerment; Ending Violence against Women and Girls; and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

In 2020, UN Women Kenya operated in and delivered programme interventions in 34 counties, with further advocacy and media initiatives conducted at the national level and extending to some additional select counties.



## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
GBV	gender-based violence
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HAK	Healthcare Assistance Kenya
KNAP	Kenya National Action Plan [for UN Resolution 1325]
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

# Where We Work

The programme Women Count is implemented at the national level. UN Women also works with the Council of Governors, representing all 47 counties.

## Women in Decision Making

Fourteen devolution counties: Garissa, Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit, Isiolo, Lamu, Tana River, Turkana, Samburu, Kilifi, Kajiado, Narok, West Pokot and Busia, in addition to Kiambu, Nakuru, Bomet, Machakos, Kitui, Mombasa and Kwale, and at the national level.

## Women's Economic Empowerment

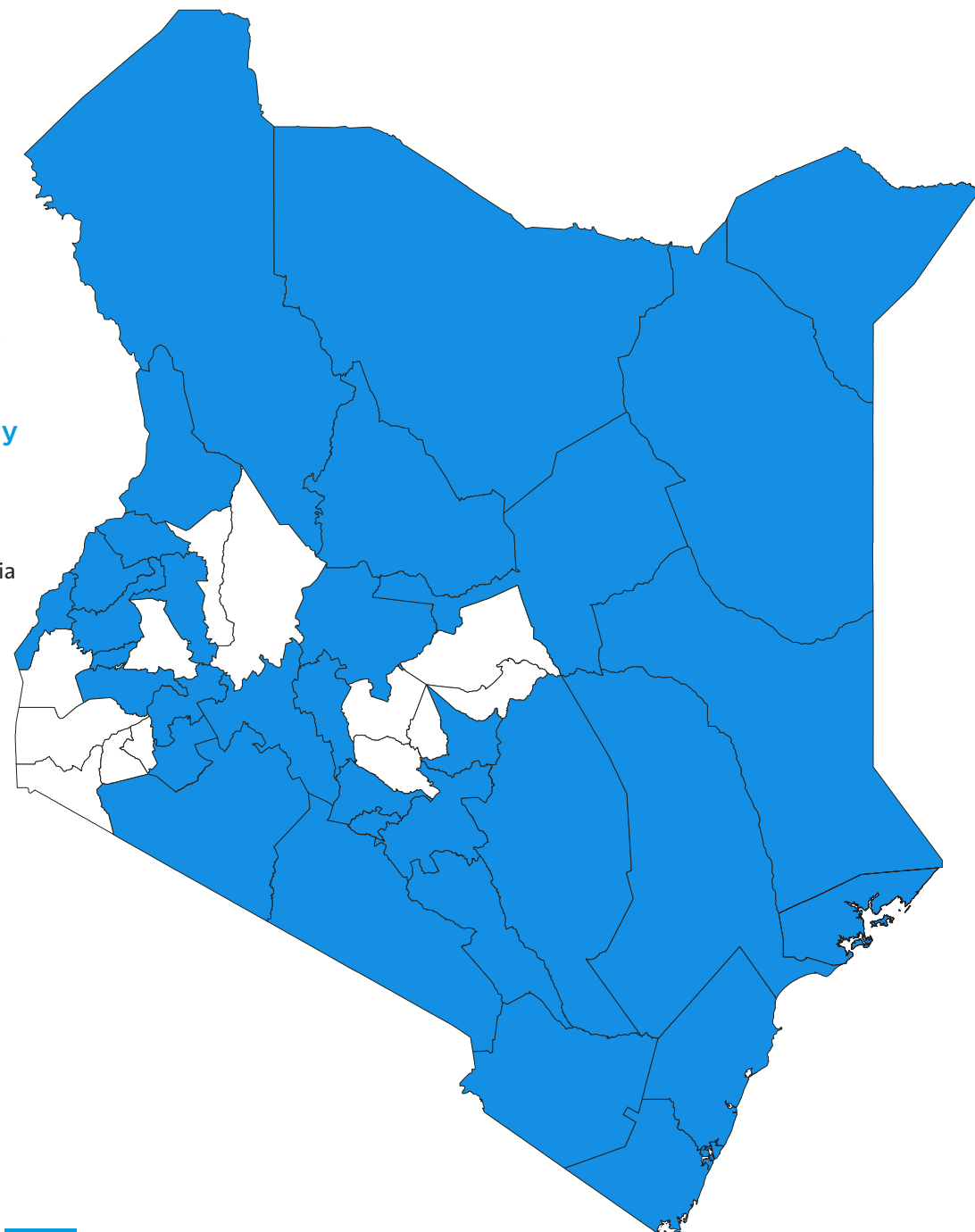
Nakuru, Trans Nzoia, Taita Taveta, Embu, Kisumu, Mombasa, Uasin Gishu and Kilifi.

## Ending Violence against Women and Girls

Nairobi, Kisumu, Bungoma, Vihiga, Turkana, Kwale, Kitui, Marsabit, Kericho and Bomet.

## Women, Peace and Security

Wajir, Mandera, Turkana, Garissa, Tana River, Uasin Gishu, Kakamega, Kisumu, Kilifi, Mombasa, Makueni, Machakos, Nyandarua, Laikipia, Isiolo, Kericho, Busia and Nakuru.





# Key Achievements

## Women in Decision Making

- The participation of women in political leadership and decision making increased through equipping 100 women aspirants with leadership skills and mentoring 95 young women. The impact of COVID-19 on women was elevated to inform the national response agenda, and gender gains were retained in the Building Bridges Initiative through advocacy. With UN Women support, gender was mainstreamed in the Party Primaries Bill by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties and submitted to the relevant committee.
- Kenya developed and submitted its progress report relating to the Eighth Periodic Report and participated in the 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women with UN Women support. Institutional mechanisms and systems were strengthened in all 47 counties on gender and inclusion to improve public financial management and service delivery.
- The national statistical system in Kenya was strengthened to facilitate the production of gender statistics to enable the monitoring and reporting of national policies and progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The first ever gender chapter was published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in the *Economic Survey 2020*.



## Women's Economic Empowerment

In the 2019–2020 period, women entrepreneurs received credit financing totalling US\$1.6 million to grow their micro, small and medium-sized agriculture-based enterprises. This was a result of business development training and financial and market linkages created in seven Kenyan counties by UN Women and its partners.



## Ending Violence against Women and Girls

In response to the life-threatening crisis facing women and girls in Kenya during the shadow pandemic, which is a consequence of stay-at-home restrictions imposed by the government to curb the spread of COVID-19, UN Women supported 6,483 survivors with access to services ranging from health care and legal aid to child protection, counselling and police assistance. One hundred ninety were linked to legal aid, out of whom 23 accessed justice and had their cases closed. Total referrals by the helpline increased 360 per cent from 1,410 in 2019 to 6,483 in 2020. A total of 23,465 people received tele-counselling through helpline 1195 in 2020. A further 479 survivors (176 women, 260 girls and 43 boys) accessed safe shelters.



## Women, Peace and Security

A framework that amplifies the voices of women in peace and security was established through the development and launch of the second Kenya National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (KNAP II). The framework was not only key in enhancing the government's commitment to including women in peace and security, but KNAP II also puts women at the front and centre of Kenya's peace and security landscape.



# RESULTS

## 1. Women in Decision Making

The Women in Leadership programme aims to increase women's participation in politics and decision making by developing the capacities of targeted institutions on gender mainstreaming in legal reforms to advance and advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment, strategic partnerships, and developing the capacity of women to participate in decision-making spaces.

In preparation for the 2022 general elections, UN Women Kenya, working with key strategic partners, has been laying the groundwork for an environment that allows aspiring women leaders to thrive in politics.

The 2010 Constitution of Kenya established a ground-breaking gender quota, requiring that “not more than two-thirds of elective public bodies shall be of the same gender”. Ten years later, after numerous attempts and advocacy by gender advocates and women's rights organizations, the government still has

not adopted legislation to fully implement this constitutional requirement.

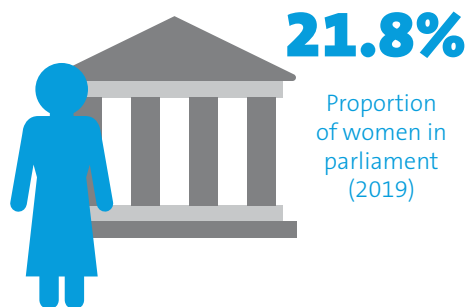
To influence political parties to nominate more women during their party primaries, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, with UN Women support, submitted a draft gender-responsive Party Primaries Bill to the relevant parliamentary committee to ensure the compliance of political parties to the two-thirds gender rule during party nominations. The bill will also ensure a level playing field for both men and women at the political party level.

UN Women, in partnership with Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, initiated the process of amending the Political Parties Act (2011) to make it more gender responsive. The office was therefore supported to harmonize all views from various stakeholders in readiness for drafting the amendments in 2021. Once adopted, the bill will enhance the participation of women in political party



Participants at the launch of the Kenya Chapter of the African Women Leaders Network, March 2020.





processes, as it introduces more accountability mechanisms on how political parties are supporting special interest groups, including women.

In 2020, through UN Women's support, the two-thirds gender rule was included in the Building Bridges Initiative Draft Amendment Bill through advocacy efforts by the African Women Leaders Network, the Common Women's Agenda, women rights organizations, civil society organizations and women leaders in the country.

The *Women Leaders' Training Manual* and *Facilitators' Guide* were developed and launched to enhance the capacities of women aspirants in campaigns and political processes. The tools were used to train 100 women aspirants on political leadership. Ninety-five young aspiring leaders, including 10 women with



disabilities, were mentored by African Women Leaders Network members. The mentorship programme seeks to help the women leaders navigate leadership spaces, including within the arena of politics.

### Advocacy on women's leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic

UN Women partnered with African Woman and Child Feature Service and GROOTS Kenya to enhance awareness on women's leadership and participation in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, using various media channels.

Over 2.9 million women were reached through 30 interactive radio shows on the need to include women in COVID-19-related decision-making, response and recovery plans. The impact of COVID-19

on women was elevated to inform the national response agenda, and the radio shows led to gender-sensitive approaches (e.g. including women in task forces) in dealing with the pandemic at all levels. The deployment of a gender and public health specialist was instrumental in making in the national COVID-19 response mechanisms more gender responsive, including the socio-economic stimulus package.

More than 8 million people were targeted in the outreach. Forty-four gender champions (12 males, 32 females) were supported to promote women's leadership and participation in decision making during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was done through messaging and radio shows.

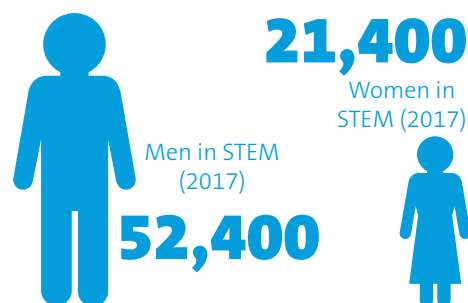
Twenty-nine stories were developed, documenting the voices and situation of women, their experiences and struggles with COVID-19, and their proposals for government action. The stories reached more than 4,000 people. On Facebook and Instagram, the African Woman and Child Feature Service messages on women and COVID-19 generated interest from more than 1,500 people. On Twitter, the campaign achieved over 200,000 impressions.

### National government to assess progress in implementing global normative frameworks

The Government of Kenya met its reporting obligations to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) through the submission of a report detailing specific actions taken to implement the recommendations arising from the Eighth Periodic Report. UN Women provided technical support in the development and validation of the report through a consultative process that brought together state and non-state actors during the first and second quarter in 2020.

Guided by the concluding observations of the committee, the report highlights the institutional and legal mechanisms undertaken to increase women's participation in political and public life and the challenges that remain.

In order to support monitoring and increased accountability towards the implementation of the CEDAW recommendations, UN Women supported the Government of Kenya to develop, validate and disseminate a national action plan that specifies actions to be taken, responsible parties, performance indicators, implementation timelines, etc.



## Consolidating gains and deepening devolution in Kenya

The overarching objective of the Devolution and National Programme is increased budgetary allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment at national and county levels. UN Women, in collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF, is implementing a four-year joint programme to consolidate gains and deepen devolution in Kenya in 14 select frontier counties for increased accountability in public financial management and equitable service delivery.

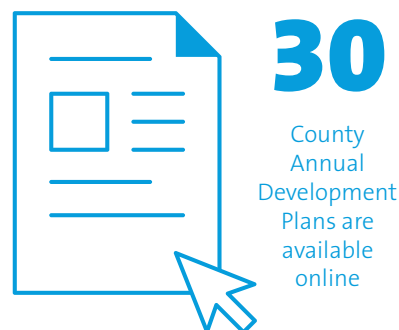
### Strong policy on legal and institutional mechanisms

The programme supported the County Assemblies Forum to develop a draft Model County Gender Policy in Kilifi and Tana River Counties, which stimulated

a review of the current status of gender balance in the counties based on the findings of the gender audit conducted in 2018 with support from UN Women.

To enhance gender-responsive business continuity within county assemblies, the programme supported the Society of Clerks at the Table to develop guided procedural advisories to facilitate inclusivity in legislative processes. As a result, eight county assemblies (Kajiado, Tharaka Nithi, Bomet, Laikipia, Kirinyaga, Elgeyo Marakwet, Homa Bay and Machakos) operationalized the advisory, while 25 made reference or drew guidance from the advisories on standing orders, ensuring gender parity during virtual sittings and rotational physical sittings.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, a Gender-Responsive Oversight

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.socattkenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SOCATT-UN-Women-County-Assemblies-Covid-19-Technical-Advisory-No.-2-September-2020.pdf>.



Checklist was developed to monitor the implementation of COVID-19 county plans and programmes to establish how the resources allocated to the pandemic have been utilized to cater to the varied needs of women and men. The checklist will facilitate data generation to support a gender audit during the post-recovery phase of the pandemic.

The programme partnered with the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, the National Treasury and Planning, and public financial management institutions to develop county budget briefs. The briefs provide specific recommendations on the inclusion of women-, children- and youth-related priorities in county planning, budgeting and implementation. The 47 counties were supported in the fourth quarter to include some of the key recommendations in the 2020/2021 budgets.

### Strong public financial management institutions

With UN Women's technical support, the Commission on Revenue Allocation developed gender-responsive county revenue administration and enforcement frameworks in Turkana and Isiolo Counties, and supported Samburu, Kilifi, Busia and Lamu Counties to mainstream

gender in County Budget and Economic Forum training tools to strengthen citizen participation for effective and equitable service delivery and transparent and accountable use of public funds.

The County Budget and Economic Forums have representation from youth (4 per cent), persons living with disabilities (11 per cent), the elderly (12 per cent) and women (13 per cent). The forums for Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Busia were actively involved in the budgeting process.

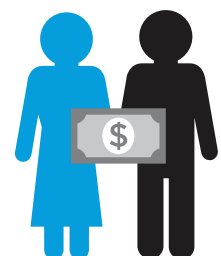
UN Women supported the National Treasury to develop a new Standard Chart of Accounts for use by county governments in the thematic planning/budgeting process. It is comprised of classification segments that aim to improve inclusion, consistency, uniformity, adherence to international standards and benchmarking.

The new chart is awaiting approval by the cabinet. By aligning budget lines to County Integrated Development Plan targets, the new Standard Chart of Accounts simplifies budget tracking and reporting based on the plan.





Dr Josephine Kulea speaks at the launch of the Kenya Chapter of the African Women Leaders Network, March 2020.

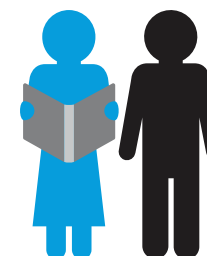


More than  
**65%**  
of women are  
multidimensionally  
poor compared to  
**56%**  
of men

### County-level institutions have strong capacity for evidence-based planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for accountable service delivery

The programme worked with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to produce and disseminate inequality and employment monographs for counties. These monographs will be used for planning and implementing initiatives to promote social inclusion and employment. An analysis of inequality in Kenya, its trends and underlying drivers, with a focus on outcomes, is ongoing. This analytical work will provide evidence to support the prioritization of the needs of children, youth, women and men in the national and county development plans and budgets.

Disaster risk management coordination, including preparedness and response, was enhanced through the development



**76%** of adult  
women are  
deprived of  
secondary or  
higher education  
compared to **62%**  
of men

of a gender-responsive Socio-economic Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy and localization of the strategy's gender provisions into county-specific recovery plans, County Integrated Development Plans and Annual Development Plans in the 14 counties. Information on COVID-19, floods, food insecurity and the refugee crisis was shared regularly. The programme also supported the development of county disaster risk profiles for Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot, Samburu, Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River and Lamu Counties.

### Accountability and transparency in devolution

Seven county policies were published and publicized in 2020. In last year's County Open Budget Assessment, 30 counties had published Annual Development Plans online, which represents a 20 per cent increase from the 2018/2019 assessment. Due to the Joint Devolution Programme support, the number of

counties publishing citizen budgets, Annual Development Plans and County Budget Review and Outlook Papers has been growing steadily.

The programme provided capacity development and networking support (buyer/seller) to 89 small, micro and medium-sized agribusiness enterprises run by youth and women.

Technical assistance was also offered to counties monitoring and reporting on the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities initiative, with dissemination of the related handbook. There are currently 32 companies signed up to the Women's Empowerment Principles at the national level.

## Making every woman and girl count in Kenya

The Women Count programme (2016–2021) seeks to bring about a radical shift in how gender statistics are used, created and promoted. The initiative focuses on strengthening the capacity of the government and key partners within the national statistical system to implement and monitor Kenya's gender-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Participants at the launch of the Kenya Chapter of the African Women Leaders Network, March 2020.

### Strengthen the policy and financial environment to enable gender-responsive national adaptation and effective monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Gender Sector Statistics Plan 2019–2023 was launched. It is part of the

Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics aimed at strengthening Kenya's capacity for developing gender statistics. The plan is geared towards addressing the data gaps between what is currently produced and available and what is required to inform policy, advocacy, accountability and other priority development issues.

### Strengthen the production of gender statistics to enable the monitoring of national policies and reporting

With UN Women's technical assistance, the first ever gender chapter was published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in the *Economic Survey 2020*.



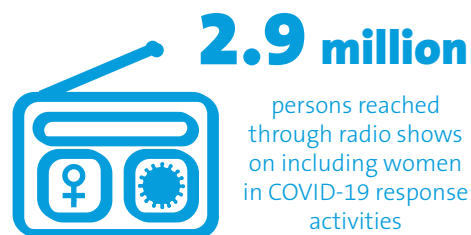


**44**  
gender  
champions  
trained

This provided data and variables for the gender sector for policy review advocacy on the status of women and men in the economic empowerment, political leadership and social protection domains.

The bureau also published and launched the Women's Empowerment Index and the Comprehensive Poverty Report. Kenya now has a baseline for measuring women's empowerment and monetary and non-monetary poverty. These two reports will also enable Kenya to adequately report on Sustainable Development Goal 1 on reducing poverty. UN Women and UNICEF provided technical and financial support.

In the third quarter of 2020, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics adopted a select minimum set of Sustainable Development Goal gender indicators and proposed indicators for a minimum set of gender indicators for Africa to



**2.9 million**  
persons reached  
through radio shows  
on including women  
in COVID-19 response  
activities

develop the Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019 monographs. UN Women provided technical assistance in the compilation of the indicators.

With UN Women's technical and financial support, the National Treasury has now approved the final proposals (peer reviewed by the International Monetary Fund) on including gender, children and climate change as programmes to be included for tracking allocation and expenditure in the updated Standard Chart of Accounts. This will enable Kenya to report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.c.1: "Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment".

Through technical and financial support from UN Women, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics for the first time developed Time Use Survey methodology and tools in preparation for the survey rollout in 2021. Specifically,

the questionnaire, training manual, training programme, and coding and tabulation plans have been developed. The first and second pilot surveys were also undertaken. The Time Use Survey in Kenya is intended to update national accounts statistics as well as estimate the time spent by women and men in unpaid care work in order to formulate and implement programmes for women's economic empowerment. Unpaid care work has been observed to be one of the major barriers to women's economic empowerment globally.

UN Women Kenya, in partnership with the Government of Kenya, UNFPA, Oxfam Kenya and CARE Kenya, commissioned a COVID-19 Gender Assessment using computer-assisted telephone interview methodology in order to understand the gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls in Kenya. The assessment also provides policy recommendations that will guide COVID-19 responses and recovery plans for Kenya.

### Gender statistics are accessible to all users

Following UN Women's collaboration with the University of Nairobi in 2019, two grantees of that research project were selected to join the Young Professionals Programme at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and

Analysis, which aims to improve the technical and research capabilities of participants. In addition, the University of Iceland Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme also nominated two former grantees to join their programme.

In the same period, UN Women and the University of Nairobi signed a second project cooperation agreement to facilitate the documentation of students' research findings on women's economic empowerment, women's reproductive health and gender-based violence in a peer-reviewed compendium.

## In Her Own Words



***Gladys Koech** has been working as an occupational therapist for persons with disabilities in Kenya's coastal region for more than 10 years. Through the Association of the Physically Disabled of Kenya, she also works with communities to strengthen their understanding of disabilities and combat widespread stigma. UN Women's partnership with the Council of Governors in Kenya has boosted resources to helplines around the country. As COVID-19 has increased demand for psychosocial services, Koech has witnessed a growing trend of mothers of children with disabilities being abandoned by their partners. Part of UN Women's COVID-19 response in Kenya is being carried out in conjunction with UNICEF and UNDP as part of the Joint Devolution Programme supported by the Governments of Sweden, Finland and Italy.*

"Many persons with disabilities feel discriminated against and excluded from the community because of the way they are. We create awareness in communities that disability is not 'inability' and try to make societies more inclusive. Parents, and particularly mothers, of disabled children face significant stigma. It is not uncommon for husbands to leave their wives because the child has a disability. It also increases the risk of gender-based violence against mothers.

Parents of children with disabilities need more information and awareness to eradicate stigma. The question that parents often ask is, 'Why me?' We also manage unrealistic hopes of rehabilitation. Some conditions such as cerebral palsy are long-term cases and can often worsen. We try to show them that this is a journey they can take on, with our help and with other support services.

So many families have separated during COVID-19. Traditionally, mothers are blamed for giving birth to a child with disability. They are [often] forced to relocate, and some women have even received death threats from their husbands for exposing their disabled child in public.

State services are only available to those with the appropriate identity cards, and in the rural areas, many people are not even aware [of such services]. Also, acquiring passports and accessing transportation to complete registration and paperwork for acquiring identity cards is not easy. Finding even 20 shillings [less than 50 US cents] can be challenging, and taking a child to where services are offered is also a challenge – does the child need a wheelchair? Can s/he access transportation to get there?

Since COVID-19, we have had to increase tele-counselling because of movement restrictions. In Kenya, persons with disabilities during COVID-19 have been worse hit by loss of livelihoods, as many of them, especially women, work as vendors in the informal sector. Programmes need to support mothers of children with disabilities, providing education and empowerment, because they are under so much pressure. If you sit in the group discussion and listen to what these mothers are saying, you can see there really is a gap that needs to be filled by the government."



# UN Women Supports the COVID-19 Response

UN Women Kenya and partners commissioned the *COVID-19 Gender Assessment* to reveal the gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls in Kenya. The assessment provides policy recommendations that guide COVID-19 responses and recovery plans for Kenya.

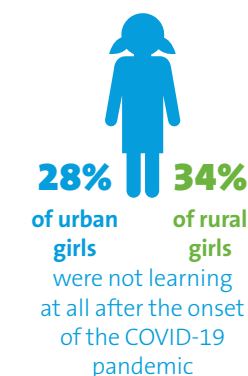
The programme deployed 17 tele-counsellors to provide psychosocial support to health-care workers, gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and people living with HIV to address fear, anxiety and stigma. Local and national media initiatives had the potential to reach more than 20 million people through TV, 23 million people through vernacular radio, and 202,050 people through short messaging services (SMS) with targeted messaging on COVID-19. Through SMS, 16 key messages were sent to 2,934 members of county assemblies. Through the hotline 1195, 753 survivors were reached and supported, while 2,601 survivors of GBV were connected to essential services (justice, health, police, child services, referral mechanisms, COVID-19 services and counselling).

A total of 9,898 full personnel protective equipment kits, 3,038 face masks, 490 bottles of sanitizer and 3,626 packets of gloves were distributed. Another 35 protective kits, 10 packets of masks, 10 bottles of sanitizer and 15 packets of gloves were given to United Nations Volunteers posted to support the COVID-19 response in the 14 target counties. The programme facilitated cash transfers to 3,000 urban vulnerable households in the 14 priority counties and 5,800 households living below the poverty in the urban areas of Garissa, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kakamega and Migori Counties.

The programme provided technical assistance to the development and launch of the County COVID-19 Socio-economic Re-engineering Recovery Strategy to help counties build forward better, strengthen their crisis and disaster response, and revitalize economies ravaged by the pandemic.

The programme strengthened the participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in County Emergency Response Committees from 14 counties. The programme supported the Ministry of Devolution and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands to implement a national COVID-19 recovery framework in collaboration with other national government actors. The programme provided technical assistance to the COVID-19 Secretariat at the Council of Governors, coordination of the county COVID-19 emergency response, and strengthening of the Maarifa Centre of the Council of Governors. This helped to strengthen the multi-stakeholder COVID-19 emergency response command centre in the development of strategies aimed at reducing transmission and enhancing testing, contact tracing, and the quarantine and isolation of positive cases. The strategies at the command centre guided the national response to COVID-19.

Under its Women's Economic Empowerment theme, UN Women partnered with four organizations on COVID-19 response projects: Echo Network Africa, Uweza Foundation, GROOTS Kenya, and the Kenya Association of Women Business Owners. The focus was to support women to diversify their businesses by producing and distributing masks for income and to keep the women safe. Approximately 200,000 masks, along with sanitizers, were distributed in Laikipia, Kitui and Nairobi Counties. Women's groups also received information on COVID-19 prevention. Additionally, through Echo Network Africa, UN Women is de-risking loans for micro and small businesses to make women's businesses more resilient. This revolving microcredit fund had benefited close to 700 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises by early 2021 and disbursed more than 6 million shillings.



# COVID-19 and Women's Economic Empowerment Impact Story: Face Masks for All

“When COVID-19 came, I had just started learning to sew again,” said Alice Wanjiru, 56 and mother of four living in Kenya’s Mathare Valley – one of the oldest slums in Africa. “It really affected us because you couldn’t go out, you couldn’t search for income; you just sit there and wait to see if you will be helped.”

Since the onset of the pandemic, containment measures have led to loss of livelihoods and increased insecurity, including a rise in gender-based violence. The lives of women are directly impacted. The pandemic hit female-dominated sectors the hardest; these sectors already had low pay, poor working conditions and insufficient basic worker protections. A recent UN Women study in Kenya showed that women are nearly twice as likely as men to lose all their income. In addition, one in ten women-owned businesses could not restart their business after closing. Supported by the Government of Japan, UN Women in Kenya started working with Uweza Foundation during the height of the pandemic amid concerns about the virus spreading in informal settlements due to overcrowding and limited access to running water. Demand for face masks in informal settlements was high following government directives for their mandatory use, providing an opportunity for women to sew masks and meet the demand.

“The training lasted two months, and when it finished, we were given material and started the work,” said Alice. “I bought two chickens. I went to the bank right away and withdrew the funds. I will also buy bags of cement so that I can start building a new home!”

Like Alice, Janet Mwanzia closed her small tailoring shop when the country went on lockdown: “The biggest challenge was closing the business. We missed meals and were struggling to pay rent. My husband lost his job, and there was no work to be found. When I received a message on joining a group to start training on sewing masks, I registered immediately, and I was trained on the phone.”

“Following the training, I sewed a total of 520 masks in almost eight days,” continued Janet. “One day I would cut and then the next day I would sew almost 100 masks. I would make sure that I cut a material of 6 yards in two days and finish those masks. A mask like this one sells at 50 shillings [less than half a US dollar]; its quality is better than what is being sold on the streets.”

“As a result of the Empower Women Tailors Financially and Protect Communities through the Production of Face Masks Project, 105 women tailors have earned an average increase in their income of 10,857 shillings [around US\$100]. In addition, over 50,000 masks were distributed across six of Nairobi’s informal settlements, and over 40,000 received gender-based violence awareness materials. The project has not only built the capacity of the participants beyond the reporting period, the outputs are protecting their communities,” said Elizabeth Obanda, Women’s Economic Empowerment Analyst, UN Women Kenya.

“Because I joined the association, I know I won’t struggle to get a job. Members of the association get jobs all the time. It’s not a must that [customers] come to my stall, I will get work from outside. It can keep me going with my work,” said Janet Mwanzia. “I was fighting a lot with my husband because we both lost our jobs, but now we fight less.” One hundred five women tailors across six informal settlements are now members of the Kenya Tailors Association, which provides them access to new contract work, potential clients, new networks with other tailors throughout Kenya, and further training.





## 2. Women's Economic Empowerment

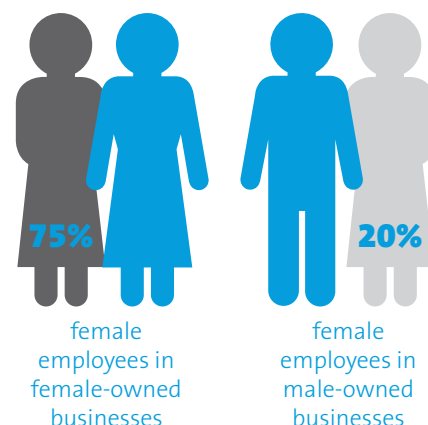
The overarching objectives of the Women's Economic Empowerment Programme are twofold: the first is to increase the productivity of women in the agricultural value chain, and the second is to increase access by women entrepreneurs to existing and emerging markets and procurement opportunities.

The programme is supporting women in rural areas, especially those in the agriculture sector, to access decent jobs and income and to benefit from entrepreneurial opportunities in the country. In 2020, agreements with FAO and Korea International Cooperation Agency were finalized in preparation for implementing the Climate-Smart Agriculture in Arid and Semi-Arid Central Areas project in the counties of Kitui, Laikipia and West Pokot. This project will build and strengthen the capacity of national and county institutions to develop and implement gender-responsive, climate-smart agricultural policies while building the capacity of targeted women, youth and people living with disability to increase their agricultural productivity and be resilient to climate change.

### Women's access to agricultural finance in Kenya

In order to mitigate the challenges facing women in accessing agricultural finance, UN Women is supporting the Agricultural Finance Corporation to develop a Women Affirmative Access Window, which is a credit-plus-delivery financial inclusion model. The model builds on the findings of the *Women's Access to Agricultural Finance in Kenya: Baseline Report, 2019*, a national study funded by UN Women, FAO and the European Union that identified various obstacles to women accessing credit to grow their agribusiness. The insights from the report shed light on why the Agricultural Finance Corporation's loan portfolio for women stood at less than 10 per cent.

The Women Affirmative Access Window initiative looks at the workplace, policies and gender-related norms and traditions and how this affects participation, decision making and control. It targets women with alternative collateral systems, increasing women's access to agricultural finance as well as their



participation along the entire agricultural value chain. UN Women is helping to enhance the Agricultural Finance Corporation's capacity in gender mainstreaming, in the Women Affirmative Access Window baseline survey, in the operationalization of the model, and in its uptake through the countrywide sensitization and mobilization of women. This action is growing the corporation's loan portfolio for women engaging in agribusiness. In partnership with UN Women, the corporation has carried out capacity building for 200 farmers per county (50 per cent women) in six counties: Busia, Kilifi, Kitui, Kericho, Uasin Gishu and Laikipia.

Additionally, this collaboration with the Agricultural Finance Corporation has resulted in training 167 trainers of trainers in four counties in business management,

1 in 10

women employers who owned businesses before COVID-19 were unable to get back to business after the pandemic began



entrepreneurship and life skills, and has further linked them to markets and agri-finance. An Agribusiness Training Manual was developed, finalized and validated in January 2021. A buyer-seller forum brought together 240 entrepreneurs (70 per cent of them women), private sector financial institutions, government affirmative action programmes, including the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities programme, buyers and civil society organizations. The buyer-seller forums were holistic, were cognizant of gender barriers, and addressed spaces occupied by women to enable their efficiency in business. These forums resulted in linkages to new markets and to new finance.

### Access to Government Procurement Opportunities Programme

The Government of Kenya has been implementing the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme with a view to empowering



Women  
own less  
than  
**2%**  
of all titled  
land in  
Kenya



Training for women tailors on making face masks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (see story on page 14). The new products boosted the tailors' businesses significantly.

women, youth and persons with disabilities through public procurement.

The law requires all public procurement entities to reserve not less than 30 per cent of their budgets/contracts for enterprises owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities. The programme is monitored jointly by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority and the AGPO Secretariat at the National Treasury.

Monitoring exercises were conducted in Kilifi, Uasin Gishu and Kisumu Counties, which benefited from UN Women-supported trainings. The monitoring and evaluation exercises are aimed at sustaining the gains realized in the implementation of AGPO by these counties and further improving the uptake of AGPO. In the year 2018/2019, 1,941 contracts worth 4.1 billion shillings were issued under AGPO. In 2019/2020, this figure increased to 2,698 contracts worth 6.1 billion. However, this data needs to be more nuanced to capture all the categories that benefit from AGPO.

UN Women is furthering gender-responsive procurement in the industry through the Women's Empowerment Principles signatories, as well as within the UN system.

## Climate-Smart Agriculture in Arid and Semi-Arid Central Areas

The formal launch of the Climate-Smart Agriculture in Arid and Semi-Arid Central Areas programme was held in December 2020 through the signing of the partnership memorandum of understanding between Korea International Cooperation Agency, FAO and UN Women. The agreement between UN Women and FAO to jointly implement the programme was also developed and signed.

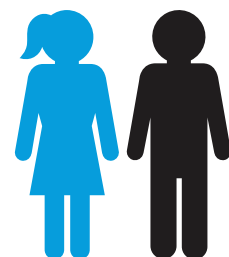
## Responding to COVID-19 and growing women's small businesses

UN Women partnered with four organizations on COVID-19 response projects (see pages 14 and 15). Additionally, through Echo Network Africa, UN Women is de-risking loans for micro and small businesses to enhance the resilience of women's businesses. This revolving microcredit fund, which was set up with US\$50,000, had benefited 669 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises by the end of March 2021.

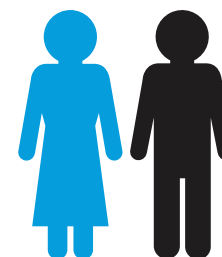




Participants at the Kisumu Buyer-Seller Forum in November 2020.



**46%** of young women are deprived of economic activity compared to **34%** of young men



**81%** of adult women are deprived of access to the labour market compared to **67%** of men



### 3. Ending Violence against Women and Girls

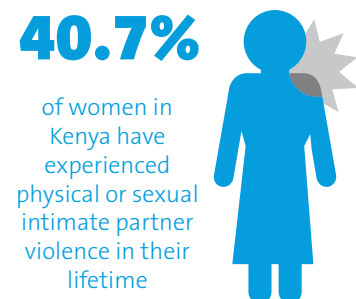
The work on ending violence against women and girls builds on the previous results achieved. We work towards prevention of and response to violence against women and girls through the following:

- Support to improve the legislative and policy environment for ending violence against women in line with international, regional and national standards
- Promoting favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours at institutional, community and individual levels towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women; and working to promote respectful relationships and positive masculinities
- Supporting enhanced service delivery and enhancing the utilization of quality essential GBV services for survivors and the facilitation of safe spaces for women and girls
- Working with the private sector and other key stakeholders to prevent sexual harassment, with a focus on the tea industry and institutions of higher learning

The importance of the agenda to end violence against women was highlighted by the President of Kenya in his speech of 6 July 2020, when he said he was concerned by “increasing tensions” within the home, noting that gender-based violence had increased, mental health issues had worsened, and instances of teenage pregnancy had escalated.

Further, the cabinet approved the inter-agency programme for the prevention of and response to GBV. These steps forward can be attributed to intensive advocacy efforts by UN Women and its partners in 2020. As an example, the national GBV helpline reached 1,065,000 people across the country.

FEMNET reached over 3 million people with advocacy messages in Marsabit, Isiolo, Lamu, Mandera, Wajir, Migori, Kericho and Bomet Counties. The Gender Violence Recovery Centre reached 247,967 young persons on male engagement through online platforms. The Centre for Rights Education and Awareness reached more than 50,000

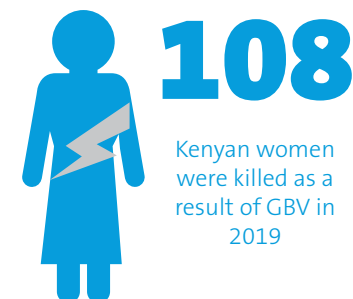


people through radio programmes in Bomet and Kericho Counties.

#### Duty bearers to develop and implement the national and county gender-based violence policies

A total of 13 guidelines on the prevention and management of COVID-19 were engendered to enhance the protection of women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic, given the sharp rise of GBV cases in the country.

Due to the restrictions in movement during the pandemic, UN Women initiated the process of developing e-based learning modules to strengthen the capacities of duty bearers to provide comprehensive services for survivors of GBV. The training content will be implemented in 2021 in four counties.



#### Access to services and justice for gender-based violence survivors

There was improved access to services by GBV survivors, according to the national GBV helpline 1195, managed by Healthcare Assistance Kenya, a UN Women implementing partner.

Total referrals by the helpline increased 360 per cent from 1,410 in 2019 to 6,483 during 2020. These 6,483 survivors got access to services ranging from health care and legal aid to child protection, counselling and police assistance. Specifically, 190 were linked to legal aid, out of whom 23 accessed justice and had their cases closed.

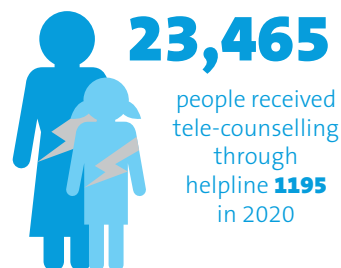
The hotline operates 24 hours each day; it hired 14 tele-counsellors in 2020 to respond to 29,234 calls across the country. A total of 23,465 people received tele-counselling support related to GBV and COVID-19.



The high number of calls can be attributed to Healthcare Assistance Kenya's advocacy and visibility campaigns in all 47 counties, where 29 media engagements through local radio stations had the potential to reach 1,065,000 people.

The Let It Not Happen Again project strengthens both authorities' and community organizations' ability to support survivors and help them access potentially life-saving services. UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights trained 38 human rights defenders in the project's four target counties and provided them with appropriate support mechanisms with which to support survivors. This included the provision of COVID-19 personal protective equipment and psychosocial support to avoid burnout. Sixty duty bearers were trained on GBV case management.

As a result, 789 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors were able to report to police stations and access medical and psychosocial services and/



or safe shelters across Kisumu, Vihiga, Bungoma and Nairobi Counties.

The programme successfully trained 69 survivors of sexual violence who are also human rights defenders from Nairobi, Kisumu, Vihiga and Bungoma Counties to hand-hold other survivors through the criminal justice system; they have handled 1,146 cases of SGBV thus far.

UN Women Kenya supported the training of 34 health, justice and security stakeholders, as well as survivors, which led to strengthened multisectoral engagements towards offering services to survivors. UN Women provided handsets to members of the Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya network, and they can now document cases on the SV\_CaseStudy mobile application.

### Criminal Justice Manual

The finalization of the *Criminal Justice Manual* is a milestone for Kenya in standardizing the process to strengthen capacity for GBV response. The manual anchors the process of collecting, preserving and presenting evidence in Kenya, which will ultimately increase access to justice for SGBV survivors. The production of this resource was informed by the programme's 2019 analysis of the institutional weaknesses undermining effective prevention and response.

Workshops in Nairobi, Kisumu, Vihiga and Bungoma Counties sensitized key stakeholders on the tool. The *Criminal Justice Manual* has been formally adopted by Kenya's National Police Service. Kenya's Inspector General has confirmed that it will be formally domiciled within the National Police Service as the government agency that will take responsibility for its roll-out and implementation from January 2021.



### Further support during the COVID-19 pandemic through the Gender Violence Recovery Centre and the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness

Type of Support	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
Provision of personal protective equipment to frontline workers	32	60	0	0	92
Provision of personal protective equipment to GBV survivors	19	37	0	180	236
Online tele-counselling	3	163	9	27	202
Provision of dignity kits to female survivors of GBV	0	1,075	0	1,367 (60 of these girls are living with disabilities)	2,442
Shelters	2	205	75	369	651
Provision of psychosocial support for frontline workers	41	210	57	314	622



## Impact Story: UN Women Supports Kenya's National Helpline for Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) helpline 1195 is one of Kenya's primary frontline service responses to the "shadow pandemic". For the months of March, April and May 2020, the helpline's recorded cases rose from 115 to 461 to 753 respectively.

In emergencies, this often means coordinating an ambulance or directing law enforcement to the scene. "They said had the survivor been waiting 30 more minutes, she would not be here today," explains Maria Ngugi\*, a new recruit who arrived at the beginning of the pandemic. The team has a direct line to local police and health headquarters across the country, which often places them at the centre of many cases.

A large part of the service is dedicated to psychosocial support, via tele-counselling, to assist survivors to manage traumatic experiences. All HAK responders are trained counsellors, with many offering expertise on a volunteer basis as the demands of COVID-19 require a bigger support network. The June 2020 case load consisted largely of psychological torture, physical assault, rape and defilement, 67 per cent of which was experienced by women and girls.

Suicide is common. Maria explains that "violence, particularly prolonged violence, has damaging effects on an individual – they may report a case in 2014; they call again in 2015; 2016 it happens again. People want to give up, they feel that nothing can be done. We receive a lot of calls from people wanting to commit suicide."

However, HAK's commitment to survivors stretches beyond emergency response and counselling. They also track the progress of cases through the court system. This is crucial given the complexities inherent in obtaining justice for survivors and low conviction rates. And although resilience is a prerequisite, it is not always an easy job. Paul Chego has worked for HAK since 2018 and admits that, while you have to leave your work in the office, some things can be difficult to accept:

"Defilement cases which you cannot follow up are the hardest to deal with. Imagine a child has been defiled; the case comes to you. But the caller reporting on behalf of the child (usually a family member) changes their phone number – it becomes near impossible. Sometimes even the family disappears. That is why it is so important that cases get reported and there is an OB number [reference number]."

SGBV remains one of Kenya's biggest human rights challenges – 45 per cent of women aged 18 to 45 have experienced some form of sexual or gender-based violence. Yet the coordination role HAK plays, linking survivors with health services and law enforcement, is evidence that more must be done to raise awareness about what SGBV is and what is in place to help. HAK's national reach and immense responsibility sits in the hands of a small, dedicated group of tireless professionals. The team increased in response to COVID-19 from 18 to 30 counsellors, with the help of UN Women funding. The increased capacity is saving more lives, supporting more survivors and their families through recovery, and increasing access to justice.

*\*All names have been changed to protect confidentiality*



## 4. Women, Peace and Security

UN Women Kenya supports the implementation and localization of the Kenya Nation Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (KNAP) by promoting women's participation in decision making. Humanitarian assistance provided by the UN Development Assistance Framework 2018–2022 is being made gender responsive through technical assistance to sister agencies working in the humanitarian field. The national and county governments are being supported to develop disaster risk management capacity, create and implement related strategies and activities, and enhance community resilience.

### Implementation of the women, peace and security commitments in line with UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2242

In the 2019/2020 Women, Peace and Security Index, Kenya ranked 98 out of 167, an improvement from 2017/2018, when Kenya ranked 107. In 2020, the Government of Kenya continued to

promote an enabling environment for the implementation of women, peace and security commitments in Kenya, demonstrated by the development and implementation of the second-generation *Kenya National Action Plan for the Advancement of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2020–2024)*, known as KNAP II.

The institutional capacity of the KNAP Secretariat was augmented in 2020 in providing oversight and strengthened coordination and reporting mechanisms. A key achievement stemming from this coordination support was the finalization of the African Union Continental Results Framework progress report for 2019 on the KNAP.

Due to government resources being redirected to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, among other priorities, ministry commitments to the women, peace and security agenda declined by 31 per cent.

### State actors at the national and county level coordinate, implement and monitor KNAP II and the Gender Pillar of the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism

In 2020, UN Women supported Kenya to develop, launch and begin implementing KNAP II.

KNAP II puts women at the front and centre of the country's complex peace and security landscape by providing a framework that enhances women's participation and amplifies the voices of women at grass-roots, county and national levels. This is in line with the "leave no one behind" principle. KNAP II builds on the gains and lessons from KNAP I (2016–2018) and prioritizes emerging issues, including localization, climate change, violent extremism, GBV, youth engagement and humanitarian disasters.

**US\$5,300**

in sales generated by a Kalobeyei  
handicraft cooperative



beneficiaries had their capacity enhanced in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and COVID-19 prevention in Uasin Gishu, Wajir and Mandera Counties

Kenya developed an inclusive and gender-responsive National Peacebuilding Strategy on COVID-19 Preparedness, Response and Recovery (2020–2023), which ensures that women and girls benefit equally from COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. This is in line with the relief and recovery pillar of the KNAP, which highlights the centrality of the women, peace and security agenda in the context of the pandemic's multifaceted security dimensions.

Furthermore, as a result of amplified advocacy, Kenya commemorated the twentieth anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in partnership with UN Women and the Embassy of Finland on 28 October 2020, with the

participation of over 165 government and partner delegates. UN Women collaborated with African Woman and Child Feature Service to feature the contribution of women at the community level. This increased their visibility and acknowledged their contributions to peace and security in Kenya as part of the twentieth anniversary commemoration of Resolution 1325.

### Lead and participate in both formal and informal peace and security processes

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was increased influence of women in peace and security initiatives and COVID-19 response efforts through their increased representation and participation in various peace platforms at the county and community level.

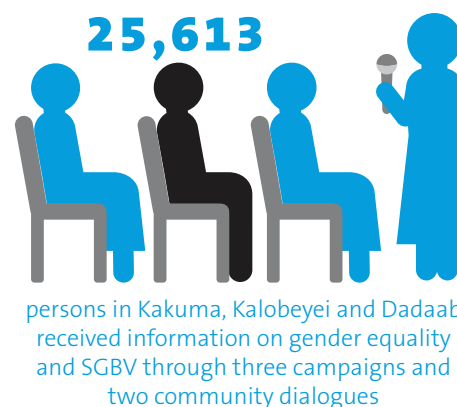
UN Women has been working with the State Department for Gender through the KNAP Secretariat and the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management to promote the localizing and sustainability efforts of KNAP II, as well as deepen the ownership of the women, peace and security agenda at the county and community level in five priority counties: Kitui, Mandera, Nakuru, Turkana West and Kisumu.

Over 4.2 million beneficiaries were sensitized; their capacity was enhanced in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and COVID-19 prevention and response measures in Uasin Gishu, Wajir and Mandera Counties.

A total of 895 women participated in prevention training towards social cohesion, inclusive recovery and sustainable peace. This was achieved through awareness raising, advocacy, capacity building, community dialogue and use of radio.

Following capacity-building efforts in Mandera on peacebuilding and early warning, 20 women leaders from warring factions engaged clan leaders and called for the conflict to end. As a result of their advocacy, the clan leaders made a ceasefire agreement. These women have been made permanent members of the county peace committees in Mandera County.

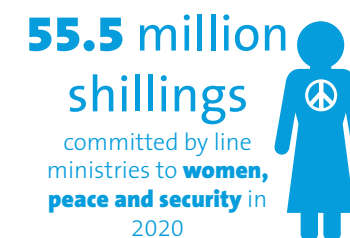
In Wajir County, 35 women were inducted into the *Nyumba Kumi* ("Ten Houses" or community policing) committees in hotspot sub-counties on the border of Somalia. This achievement is against a background of zero representation across the entire county. This was achieved through lobbying and advocacy efforts supported by UN Women through Wajir Women for Peace.



As part of efforts to ensure that the COVID-19 response and recovery are gender responsive, UN Women also played a large role in providing gender technical support within the government response and early recovery efforts through the Gender and Public Health Adviser, who has been able to participate in and influence inter-agency coordination structures.

### Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection in Crisis Response

The project entitled Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection in Crisis Response (LEAP): Promoting the Empowerment of Women and Girls



within the Humanitarian-Development Nexus in Kenya has the following objective: women and girls in humanitarian and crisis settings participate in and benefit from prevention, relief and response efforts in Kenya.

### Strong policies and programmes based on evidence on the impact of conflict, disasters and emerging issues

UN Women commissioned a study in partnership with Dalberg Research titled *Exploring Vulnerability in Refugee and Host Community Settings in Dadaab in Relation to Violent Extremism*. The research addressed the knowledge gap around the hypothesis that refugee camps are a ripe recruitment ground for violent extremists. The objective of the research was to understand the vulnerability of women to radicalization, recruitment to violent extremism and acceptance of violent extremism.



### Women and girls are empowered to participate in decision making and have access to protection spaces

The capacity of 815 women was increased to influence humanitarian programming, conflict management and peacebuilding in Kalobeyei and Dadaab refugee camps. Forty-three of the women became members of three peace committees in Kalobeyei.

A total of 315 women were trained on leadership and conflict resolution in Kalobeyei and Dadaab. Participants obtained skills to address community-level conflicts through various conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation techniques. Approximately 500 women received mentorship through a peer-to-peer support network and information-sharing sessions in Dadaab.

### Improved community awareness and advocacy on SGBV prevention and response

The programme organized three campaigns and two community dialogues, which reached 25,613 community members in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement and Dadaab Refugee Camp. This increased awareness about gender equality and women's empowerment issues in the refugee camps and host communities.

An end-of-project survey conducted for 286 male beneficiaries revealed that 85 per cent (243) of male respondents applied their acquired skills to champion for gender equality in their communities, including interventions and speaking up against SGBV.

The project supported community dialogues, sports tournaments, bulk text messaging, training on gender and human rights, and celebration of calendar events to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, reaching 25,613 individuals.

The Women's Empowerment Centre was established and operationalized to serve 5,400 women and girls in Kalobeyei. The centre serves as a safe space for women and girls, providing SGBV protection services, psychological counselling, livelihood trainings and a peer support network.

A total of 541 women and 178 men were trained on addressing community conflicts, gender inequality and SGBV, in addition to proposing community measures and strategies to address the root causes of these challenges in Kalobeyei.

In Dadaab, community dialogues reached 814 women and 1,186 men, enhancing their knowledge on peaceful coexistence,



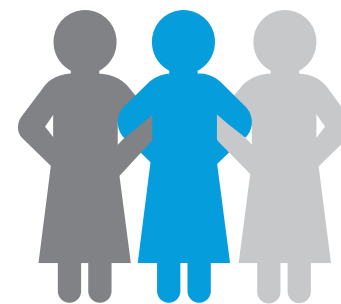
Women in the police service increased from **8%** (2015) to **14%** (2020)

gender equality, conflict management, and SGBV prevention and response.

A total of 1,394 youth (545 girls and 530 boys in Kalobeyei; 209 boys and 65 girls in Dadaab) were sensitized on peaceful coexistence and gender equality through Sports for Peace.

In addition, 564 religious leaders and elderly women were trained on leadership, gender mainstreaming and prevention of harmful practices in Kalobeyei and Dadaab. Two hundred boys were mentored by 50 men to champion gender equality in Dadaab. The end-of-project survey revealed that, as a result, child labour among school-boys was reduced and school enrolment increased.

A total of 315 beneficiaries (190 women, 125 men) became change agents after they were sensitized on the legal



Women in peace committees increased from **14%** (2013) to **29%** (2018)

instruments and frameworks for SGBV in Kenya. Participants also learned about SGBV response measures at the community and household level, including early reporting of SGBV incidences and encouraging disclosure of SGBV among children and adolescents.

### Improved economic opportunities: access to vocational, entrepreneurship and business development skills

At least 583 women were provided with economic opportunities in Kalobeyei and Dadaab. The project contributed to an average sixfold increase in income for many of the women. The vocational and business skills improved the women's ability to earn an income and elevated their decision-making status within the family. A focus group discussion in Kalobeyei revealed that incidences of

intimate partner violence consequently decreased. The initiatives included the following:

- Thirty-four women were trained as handicraft artisans and Kalobeyei Handicraft Cooperative Society, with 134 women, was registered as a legal entity.
- Forty-four young women in Kalobeyei acquired basic computer skills and received an international certificate.
- A total of 282 women gained knowledge on business development and entrepreneurship in Kalobeyei and Dadaab. An average of 5,700 Kenya shillings (US\$52.73) per month was generated through the establishment of a village savings and loan association.
- Eighty-five women acquired skills on tailoring, home decor (tie-and-dye), and henna design and application, with significant profits recorded over the following eight months.

## Impact Story: A Gendered Approach to Empower Refugee Communities

Since 2018, UN Women Kenya, in partnership with the Government of Japan, has been using a multisectoral approach to bring gender equality to Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement and Dadaab Refugee Camp. The Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection in Crisis Response project targets four interconnected areas that develop the livelihoods of women and girls; educate men and boys; and contribute to sustainable peace in communities.

The lack of women in leadership positions, particularly in crisis settings, needs to be urgently addressed the world over. In Kakuma, Kalobeyei and Dadaab, the programme has enabled women to build an understanding of conflict management that can be applied in the household and the community. Kina Adong, 39, from South Sudan is one woman who now enjoys an elevated role in her community:

“From the training, I did not keep quiet. I gathered women in the community and formed a committee. I teach women the things I learned and advise how to de-escalate situations which could lead to conflict with a partner/husband. There have been some positive changes in the community: less fighting at water points, less stealing, less beating of children. The response from men in the community has also been positive. They are happy, and I have their support – for them, their wives are gaining knowledge. The husbands can also benefit from this knowledge.”

Empowering women to control their own livelihoods and economic security creates autonomy and, in turn, reduces the likelihood that they will lose their rights. Through vocational skills training such as beadwork and handicrafts, women in Kalobeyei are now able to establish cooperatives for a production line that aims to supply customers beyond the confines of the refugee camps.

“I was a businesswoman,” explains Rivella, mother of eight, from Burundi. “From a small plot of land, I sold bananas and sweet potatoes. I learned handicraft skills in Burundi. When I was young, my mother used to make plates. In Kalobeyei, I have refined those skills and used them for different designs – but the technique is essentially the same. In the food basket, there is only food, but these skills have brought back my dignity. I’m respected at home and the family relationship is better. My children are not sent home from school because I can afford books and uniforms.”

Unaccompanied children and women experience immeasurable risk even when in the camps, with separated women being more disadvantaged. Access to health, law and legal services are therefore critical in refugee camps. In February 2020, the project was able to open the Women’s Empowerment Centre in Kalobeyei Village 3. The space serves as a multipurpose centre for vocational training, but also offers shelter to survivors of gender-based violence as well as psychosocial support. Given maternal emphasis on child care in local culture, the space also has a creche so those with young children cannot be obstructed from accessing essential services.





Kina Adong (left) and Rivella (right) at Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement.

# Coordination

## Enhanced coordination, coherence and accountability of the UN system in Kenya for commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment

UN Women's thought leadership was visible in 2020 through the production of gender analysis, guidance notes and participation in positioning gender concerns during technical discussions on the COVID-19 pandemic in platforms with other UN agencies and government, civil society, private sector and development partners. Analysis and data drawn from our programming and expertise was presented in various forums, including the Development Partners Group on Gender and national gender sector working groups, which brought together partners such as the World Bank, Mastercard Foundation and the United Nations, among others.

In the UN Country Team's COVID-19 response initiative, we influenced the inclusion of gender across two pillars of the UN's Socioeconomic Response Framework and in programme design. As

a result of this input, Pillar 2 of the framework prioritized the provision of shelters for GBV survivors and Pillar 3 included gender-responsive socioeconomic assessments. The UN Country Team proposal to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, which was selected for funding, contained interventions designed through UN Women's inputs.

Within the UN, UN Women Kenya coordinated the other agencies under the Gender Working Group to produce guidance on COVID-19 programming, to participate in the elaboration of policy recommendations on gender and COVID-19 under the auspices of the Gender Working Group, and to document the impact of gender and COVID-19 programming.

As part of ensuring that the UN system in Kenya was accountable for addressing gender equality, UN Women prepared the annual progress report on the UN Country Team SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard. Gender was mainstreamed in the 2021/2022 joint work plans for Kenya's UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (formerly the UN Development Assistance Framework). UN Women provided gender analysis, capacity building and guidance notes to strategic result area groups and, as a result, gender activities were included in the joint 2021/2022 work plans and

previously untagged activities were tagged with the UN INFO Gender Equality Marker for the 2020/2021 work plans.

Additionally, UN Women provided technical support in the analysis and integration of the Common Country Assessment. UN Women Kenya's analysis of the gender implications of COVID-19 was used by the cabinet secretary responsible for gender in formulating policy recommendations for the cabinet's consideration. The analysis was also helpful in positioning gender within the discussions on the UN's response to COVID-19 and ultimately led to the securing of US\$255,000 from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for gender equality and women's empowerment interventions (which represents 30 per cent of total funds).

Through this programme, business skills and training will be provided to young women and men in select counties, as well as efforts to challenge norms among the youth that are contributing to the rise in GBV cases during the pandemic.

To safeguard beneficiaries against sexual exploitation and abuse where the UN serves, UN Women, through its co-leadership of the inter-agency network on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, has supported the streamlining of information sharing by agencies. This has led to the increased

sharing of promising practices to address sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as ensuring that the UN Country Team is up to date in its reporting accountability.

UN Women was pivotal in supporting the Government of Kenya to set up mechanisms for the roll-out of its commitments at the country level as part of their co-leadership of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on GBV. Technical support was provided to set up the coordination structures, as well as to define the road map for the implementation of national commitments. Kenya continues to use the Action Coalition on GBV as a space to push for commitments related to ending female genital mutilation, which is the primary interest of the government.

UN Women led in the strengthening of inter-agency, high-level advocacy on prevention of and response to GBV and COVID-19, including by issuing op-eds and UN Country Team statements on the high number of GBV and teenage pregnancy cases. As part of the programmatic support, UN Women, jointly with UNFPA, led the coordination and monitoring of GBV-related interventions during COVID-19; jointly supported the national GBV helpline to strengthen psychosocial support for survivors; enhanced reporting of GBV; and strengthened data collection.



Further, UNFPA and UN Women supported the Kenya Medical Women's Association to provide technical support towards making COVID-19-related guidelines and the provision of psychosocial support for medical health practitioners gender responsive. The two agencies also led the UN GBV Working Group in developing the UN Country Team guidance note for GBV, the roll-out of the GBV module in the SpeakUP App for UN staff in Kenya, and the UN Department for Safety and Security Aide-Mémoire.

Jointly with UNESCO and UNICEF, UN Women rolled out media-related advocacy messaging through national TV. In partnership with UNESCO, Plan International and the National Council for Population and Development, UN Women facilitated high-level outreach through the popular national TV shows

*Mother-in-Law and Inspector Mwala*, where GBV messages were disseminated. Our work led to putting a spotlight on GBV in Kenya during the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting the government to approve the inter-agency programme on prevention of and response to GBV. The advocacy platforms have triggered candid conversations on GBV and are beginning to demand a shift in behaviour.

UN Women Kenya invested in defining the leadership regarding the minimum standards for GBV in emergencies jointly with UNFPA, leading to a better coordination mechanism at the United Nations. UN Women Kenya also undertook efforts to coordinate women's rights organizations to analyse reports, develop evidence-based advocacy materials, and speak with one voice from two common platforms.



Face mask distribution at a school through Uweza Foundation.



# Lessons Learned

- The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent government restrictions limiting social movement presented a great need to invest in information and communications technology for both UN Women and partners to ensure business continuity. This should be considered in budgeting for UN Women partners.
- Media is a key strategic enabler in increasing the number of women in decision-making spaces. Working with the media through support to the African Woman and Child Feature Service made it possible to potentially reach over 8 million Kenyans, including policymakers. This helped in creating awareness and bringing the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda into the COVID-19 prevention and recovery measures in a very short period.
- Creativity and innovation in facilitating the development discourse online during the COVID-19 pandemic enabled the cost-efficiency of interventions and a "new normal". However, there were serious challenges, and some women and girls were alienated from participating due to their inability to procure airtime or due to unsafe spaces and environments, meaning they could not engage openly on online/social media platforms.
- UN Women is well placed and trusted to provide technical assistance to the UN, development partners and the government and was a "heard voice" during the mitigation processes for the COVID-19 pandemic. UN Women led in the drafting of the approved cabinet memo that put in place a GBV inter-agency programme. UN Women played this role very effectively.
- The need to invest in and promote women's inclusion and participation in conflict management, peacebuilding processes and decision making at all levels is a long-term strategy and one that builds on previous results and synergies among existing actors to ensure that the gains made are sustained or advanced.
- It is necessary to emphasize the localization of KNAP II, with women's and youth organizations as the key players at the community level. As such, efforts should be made to strengthen the capacities of local/grass-roots women- and youth-led organizations, not only as beneficiaries, but as active agents of peace and as key stakeholders in achieving community resilience within the context of the peace-humanitarian-development nexus.
- Working with national government partners extended the reach of initiatives beyond 14 programme counties without additional cost and extended the sustainability of interventions; the timely response to an emergent disruption such as COVID-19 by UN agencies, donors and the government assisted in mitigating the adverse effects of the pandemic.
- Strategic partnerships contributed to programme delivery; additionally, collaboration among UN Women, UNDP and UNICEF on devolution has enhanced the achievement of programme results by leveraging organizational strengths and mandates and partnerships with stakeholders, including government partners.

# UN Women Kenya Financial Report 2020

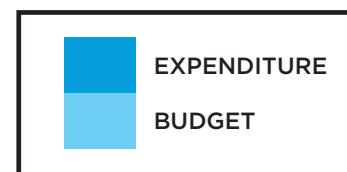


**Total income: US\$6,844,247**

**Total expenditure: US\$4,117,129**

Income sources/donors:

- Government of Finland
- Government of Japan
- UN Joint Programme on Devolution (funding from Finland, Sweden and Italy)
- Korea International Cooperation Agency
- COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund
- UNDP, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNFPA
- Unilever/Kenya Tea Development Agency
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- UN Women regular sources





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