



EXECUTIVE BOARD SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2022

UN-WOMEN'S OPERATIONAL RESPONSE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

OULIMATA SARR, REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

MAXIME HOUINATO, REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



WCA Regional Office

Location: Dakar, Senegal

Coverage: 24 Countries

- 10 Country Offices**
- Cameroon
 - Central African Republic (CAR)
 - Cote d'Ivoire
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - Liberia
 - Mali
 - Niger
 - Nigeria
 - Senegal
 - Sierra Leone

14 Countries with No UNWOMEN physical presence (NRAs): Togo, Burkina Faso, Tchad, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Cabo Verde, Guinea, Equatorial Guinee, Sao Tome and Principe and Gabon.

Work Force: 321 UNW Staff

CONTEXT

EXTREMELY VOLATILE REGION ... EXTERNAL FACTORS

- Fragility and overlapping crises: environmental, social, political, developmental, economic, humanitarian, security (triple nexus)
- Highest levels of gender inequality in the world: gender equality is a necessary precondition for peace, stability and the achievement of the SDGs
- Specific vulnerabilities of women and girls: violence, violent extremism, poverty, informality, unemployment, displacement, climate change
- Coups d'états, Ukraine- Russia crisis consequences on food security





REGIONAL DIMENSION *CENTRAL TO IMPACT & KEY PRIORITIES*

- United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)
- Great Lakes region
- Sub/Regional Bodies central role
- Regional Programmes are critical

Photo | UN Women/Photographer's name

A vibrant outdoor market scene with several women. In the foreground, a woman on the left carries a large green tray with white fabric on her head. In the center, a woman carries a large white tray with yellow fabric on her head. To the right, a woman in a pink headwrap carries a basket on her head. The background shows market stalls and other people.

UN Women Response

Some examples

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



Stronger women's organisations and representative movements and coalitions and opening space at the different peace and security mechanisms and processes at local, regional and international level built

Conducive environments to the implementation of the WPS agenda created

Enhanced leadership of young women and girls' peace advocates and investing in second chance education, especially in humanitarian settings

Protecting and empowering women to counter terrorism and addressing de-radicalization of youth

Cross-boarder approach

Women in Climate Resilient Agriculture in WEST AND CENTRAL Africa

1

Women's access to land

Strengthening women's rights to land and bridging the gap between law and practice

- Women's land rights recognized in laws in 4 countries
- 13500 women accessing land for agricultural investment
- Gender responsive land governance processes in 4 countries with involvement of more than 300 traditional leaders
- More than 4800 women understand their rights to land



2

Women's Access to Finance

Closing the gap to access finance for women agri-entrepreneurs

- More than 3700 women farmers accessing finance for value chain investments
- A US\$300,000 guarantee signed with the Development Bank of Mali for women agri-entrepreneurs, a US\$100,000 Guarantee Fund for women established in Central African Republic and a credit line for women rice producers of EUR 500,000 signed with BICIS bank in Senegal
- Digital micro-insurance services to reduce Disaster Risk Reduction under development in Liberia, Mali and Senegal



3

Climate Resilience

Reducing the carbon footprint of the agriculture sector and improving communities' ability to adapt to climate change

- More than 17000 women applying climate resilient agricultural production techniques across the region
- Energy-efficient technologies introduced by women in a range of agriculture value chains, from solar-powered irrigation systems, processing machines or drip irrigation



4

Women's Access to Markets

Getting women ready and connecting them to markets

- Stronger ecosystem for women entrepreneurship through the institutional strengthening of more than 200 women cooperatives and women-led SMEs and national networks and sectoral federations
- More than 1900 women certified in organic shea-nut production and transformation ready to access export markets in Cote D'Ivoire
- More than 200 new agricultural products developed by women along more than 10 value chains
- Women's products' value increasing by between 3 and 10 times as a result of investments in transformation, packaging and branding



EVAW

- **EVAW Laws & Policies Improved** in Benin, Cameroon, CAR, Gabon, Senegal, Nigeria
- **Traditional leaders Engagement** through COTLA : Reduction of FGM and Child Marriages in their local communities in Niger , Nigeria, Liberia,
- **Approx. USD 25 millions in grants** to strengthening Women's rights organizations support through Spotlight Initiative, UN trust Fund
- Bringing **local voices** to regional arena : more than 2,000,000 Youth engaged for social norms change.

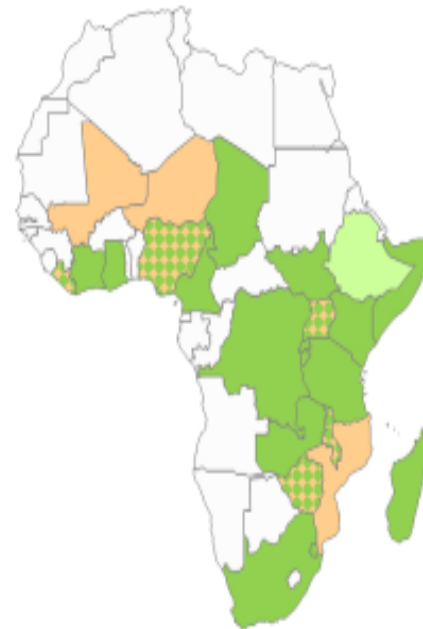


Meeting with Traditional Chiefs in Togo



COTLA

| EU-UN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE IN AFRICA



- **8 countries** (Jan 2019 - Dec 2022)
- **24 UN Trust Fund Civil Society Grantees** across 20 countries in Africa
- **Regional Spotlight** – continental-wide (July 2020 - December 2022)
 - A partnership with AU
 - focus on implementation of laws, data, evidence generation/ sharing on EVAWG, Harmful Practices (including FGM and Child Marriage), SRHR and support to women's movement/ CSOs
 - Programming to end FGM and Child Marriage
- **4 UN Agencies** (UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF & UNDP)



| Governance & Women's Political Participation

Women's political participation in Africa and its regions - key indicators 2021⁵

	Central	West	Africa
Percentage of Women in lower house of Parliament	19%	16%	25%
Percentage of Women in Upper house of Parliament	20%	12%	20%
Percentage of women in Parliament overall	19%	16%	24%
Percentage of women in local government	27%	2%	21%
Percentage of Women in political party leadership	7%	11%	12%
Percentage of women in Elections monitoring Bodies	20%	24%	28%
Percentage of women Speakers	18%	16%	21%
Percentage of women mayors of capital cities	43%	20%	19%
Percentage of Women in top executive positions	7%	7%	7%
Percentage of Women in cabinet	20%	19%	22%

⁵ UN Women, In Brief: Women's leadership and political participation <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2013/12/un%20women%20in%20brief%20webrev2%20pdf.pdf?la=en>

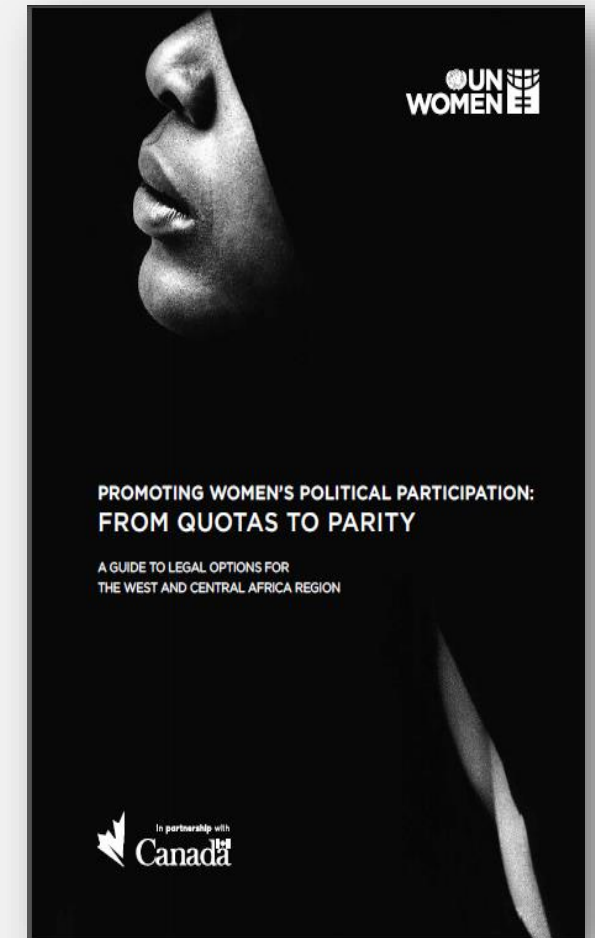


Photo: UN Photo/Maimana El Hassan



**UN WOMEN
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

MAXIME HOUINATO



CONTENT: **CONTEXT – RESPONSE & RESULTS**



- 1. Governance and Political Participation**
- 2. Humanitarian Action and DRR**
- 3. Ending Violence against Women and Girls**
- 4. Advancing UN Coordination**

GOVERNANCE & POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



REPRESENTATION

- **Uneven women's representation** ranging from 11% Botswana, 12% Eswatini, 61.3% Rwanda , 46.7% SA, 44.2 % Namibia and 42.2% Mozambique.
- 17 countries globally have 40% + (gender balance) women ministers ,**3 in ESAR** - SA, Mozambique, Ethiopia.
- Of the 13 countries globally with 50% + women ministers, 1 is from ESAR , Rwanda 54.8%
- Ethiopia and Tanzania have a head of state.
- Well **designed quotas ,effectively implemented** one of the best means to level the playing field.



VIOLENCE

- Electoral violence esp. **violence against women in elections** pervasive.
- **Recurrence** of electoral violence characterized by polarization & ethnic overtones-Kenya, Zim, Uganda.
- Upcoming elections in Lesotho and Somaliland ,**contestations and violence** –threats to peace.
- Allegations of **electoral fraud** and contestations now a key feature of elections leading to violence – Uganda , Kenya ,Angola, Zimbabwe.



ELECTORAL DISPUTES

- The **judiciary has emerged as a key interlocutor** in addressing election disputes.
- 2 countries where presidential **elections have been annulled** in ESAR -Malawi (2020), Kenya (2017)
- **RECs role** in sanctioning flawed electoral processes, mediation under scrutiny.
- RECs plagued with **weak accountability frameworks** , limited monitoring and response.



ELECTORAL ENVIRONMENT

- Growing tendencies of government to **reduce democratic space**
- **Protection of sovereignty vs transparency.**
- **Winner-takes-all approach**, high stakes, **legitimacy issues** etc. leading to electoral **litigation.**
- **Existence of discriminatory laws** , poor implementation or interpretation of laws
- Tempering with **constitutional term limits** – Burundi, Angola.
- Lack of a level playing field for opposition i.e., Uganda, Lesotho, Rwanda.

GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

OUR RESPONSE:

Reforms to electoral laws to promote gender balance and to address violence against women in elections.

Development of legal and policy frameworks.

Development and utilization of guidelines for gender responsive elections observation.

Strengthening RECs capacity to hold MS accountable for normative commitments.

Knowledge development, data production & analysis to support advocacy efforts.



ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Capacities to take Evidence to Scale

- Supporting comprehensive, evidence-driven and contextualized national and sub-national approaches to prevention, multi-sectoral responses, accountability to legal and policy commitments and support for women's rights and civil society movements



Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Impact

- Strengthening strategic synergies and connectivity from continent to community levels, across traditional and non-traditional partners, addressing the continuum of VAWG – across forms and spaces (physical and virtual) to dismantle the root causes of VAWG

Evidence & exchange for innovation

- Opening space for co-creation – e.g. EAW research priorities for Arica
- Using our convening power to foster dialogue and exchange to build solidarity and more effective joint action (e.g. AUC and faith-leaders)
- Closing evidence gaps to better track progress (e.g. status of essential services for marginalized groups, exploring cross-border approaches)
- Investing in data access and literacy to improve accountability

Intentional and strengths-based approaches

- Putting feminist leadership principles in action (from within + with partners)
- Leveraging EAW expertise in ESAR toward a shared vision
- 60 years of Pan-African Women's movements, decades of EAWG investments, movements and mechanisms
- Intersectional analysis and inclusive of engagement



HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND DRR

Gender Responsive Humanitarian Action

- **Strengthening gender mainstreaming in humanitarian needs overviews and response plans for countries in crisis**
- **Coordination of gender mainstreaming efforts with HCTs, Cluster Leads and regional entities such as IGAD**
- **Diversification of Livelihoods for women in crisis through LEAP approach**

Women's Resilience to Disasters

- **Gender mainstreaming support to key DRR and resilience building national and regional frameworks**
- **Capacity development of stakeholders on gender responsive DRR including on gender responsive PDNAs**
- **Strengthening the leadership and participation of women and girls in resilience building measures**



| ADVANCING UN COORDINATION

Institutional Coherence

- ✓ Application of UN accountability frameworks for GEWE (SWAP- Gender Equality Scorecard; UNCT Gender Equality Marker)
- ✓ Supporting operationalization of SGs systemwide strategy on Gender Parity
- ✓ Engendered OIBCs and Peer Support Group (RCP)
- ✓ Convening UN system for improved coordination & coherence on gender (RGWG & Thematic groups)

Photo: UN Women/James Ochw eri



| ADVANCING UN COORDINATION

Normative Coherence

- ✓ Strengthening accountability for normative commitments such as the SDGs, BPfA and CEDAW reviews, Africa pre-CSW consultations and CSW
- ✓ Strengthening UN Women's leadership, influence and coordination role on GEWE at continental level (Liaison office)
- ✓ Convening multi stakeholder dialogues to advance the GEF Commitments and vision regionally (AC on GBV)

Operational & Prog. Coherence

- ✓ Gender mainstreaming training for UNCTs; Quality assurance of CCAs and UNSDCFs
- ✓ Adoption of a pan-African approach to continentwide GEWE issues (**Africa strategy**)
- ✓ Building in house coordination capacity (UN Women COs)



| KEY RESULTS 2022 IN ESAR

- 45,895 women and girls are direct beneficiaries in coordinated humanitarian responses in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.

29 Laws adopted, revised or repealed to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

8 national and 53 local sectoral strategies, policies and action plans that are adopted with a focus on gender equality.

- 10 National Action Plans (UNSCR 1325) adopted on Women, Peace, and Security with monitoring indicators in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.



| KEY RESULTS 2022 IN ESAR

- Five Governments undertook national CEDAW review processes in response to global intergovernmental outcomes.
- More than 796 partners that have increased capacities to promote/influence gender-responsive legislation and its implementation.
- Over 46 multi-stakeholder dialogue processes to promote engagement of governments with civil society and other partners to advance GEWE.
- 94 partners capacities enhanced to integrate gender equality into fiscal laws/policies/standards.

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



| KEY RESULTS 2022 IN ESAR

- More than 422 national partners capacities enhanced to apply Gender Responsive Budgeting tools in the budget cycle.
- 9 countries have comprehensive and coordinated VAW prevention strategy.
- 276 women's organizations capacities enhanced to deliver and monitor the quality of services, resources and goods for women in humanitarian and development settings.
- 13 countries have completed their gender profiles and three for Ethiopia, Burundi and Sudan are under development.

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



| OUR ASKS

Institutionally: Support to ED's Vision on Pivoting to the Field

- ✓ Increased level of decentralization from HQ to the Field
- ✓ Above includes i) more decision making, ii) higher levels of staffing and iii) substantial allocation of resources
- ✓ Support to Africa Strategy, an effort to achieve cross-regional results with the AU and RECs

Operationally: Support QCPR's Recommendations on Flexible & Predictable Resources

- ✓ Commitments include: i) Increase core resources; ii) Broaden the sources of funding, iii) Double the share of non-core contributions
- ✓ Increase UN Women's resources for Non-resident Assistance to UNCTs & RCs

THANK YOU!

