



UN WOMEN KENYA

STRATEGIC NOTE



United Nations
KENYA
Umoja ni Nguvu



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

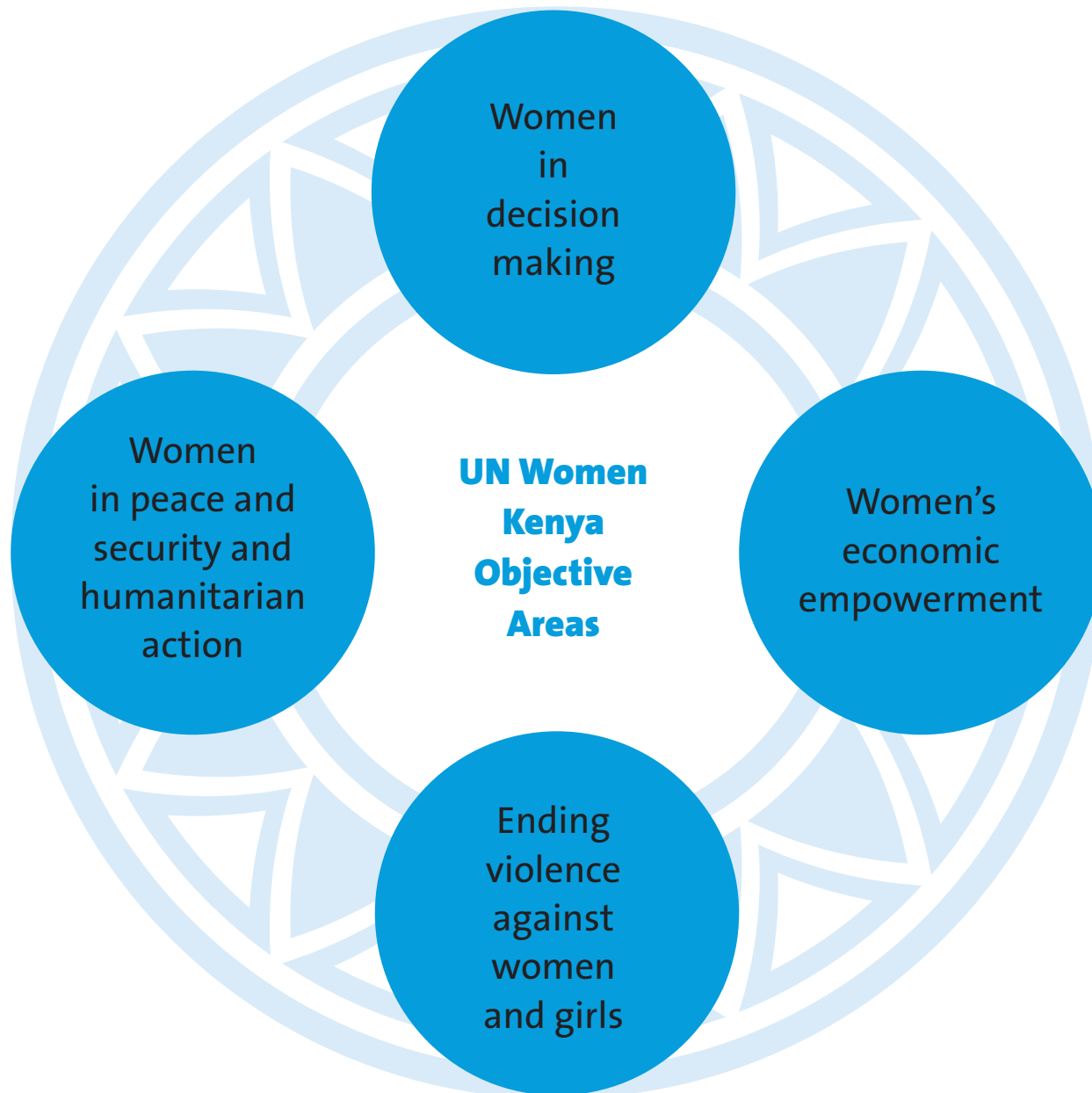
UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes, and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women and girls; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

UN Women works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls.

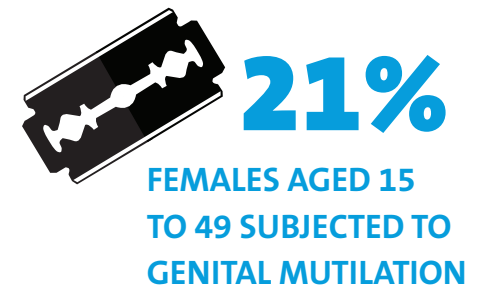
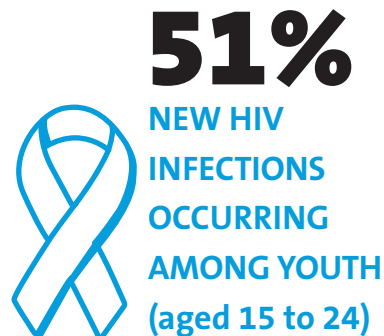
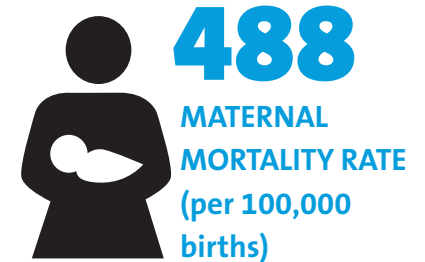


CONTENTS

Kenya statistics	1
Foreword: Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs	2
Introduction: UN Women Country Director	3
Executive summary	5
Country context	7
UN Women in the UN system in Kenya	9
UN Women's contribution and expected results	10
<i>Objective Area 1: Women in decision making</i>	13
<i>Objective Area 2: Women's economic empowerment</i>	16
<i>Objective Area 3: Ending violence against women and girls</i>	19
<i>Objective Area 4: Women in peace and security and humanitarian action</i>	20
Monitoring, research, evaluation, knowledge management, and innovation	23
Financial summary 2019–2022	25



KENYA STATISTICS



FOREWORD

The UN Women Kenya Country Office has been partnering with the Government of Kenya and particularly with the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs and the State Department of Gender Affairs. UN Women Kenya has made a remarkable contribution in women's leadership; eliminating violence against women and girls; women's economic empowerment; and women, peace, and security.

The formulation of the UN Women Kenya Strategic Note 2019–2022 marks yet another milestone in the support that UN Women Kenya has provided to the government and the people of Kenya on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Strategic Note is aligned to Kenya's key development policies, notably Vision 2030, the Third Medium-Term Plan (2018–2022), and the Big Four Agenda. The Government of Kenya is promoting gender equality and women's empowerment towards the realization of human rights and sustainable development.

I welcome UN Women Kenya's continued focus on four objectives: women in decision making, women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, and women in peace and security and humanitarian action. These are important priorities for Kenya, and I believe

that, if fully implemented, this Strategic Note will have a significant impact, which, together with the results of the programmes implemented by the government and other partners, will help make Kenya achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, particularly Goal 5 on gender equality.

As the ministry responsible for advancing gender equality in Kenya, we fully endorse the UN Women Kenya Strategic Note 2019–2022 and commit to partnership in its implementation.



Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD, MGH

Cabinet Secretary

Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs

INTRODUCTION

The UN Women Kenya Country Office's Strategic Note 2019–2022 is fully aligned with and supportive of Kenya's national priorities stipulated in Vision 2030, the Third Medium-term Plan, President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four Agenda, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018–2022, and the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Strategic Note is informed by the key lessons, evaluations, and recommendations from the previous Strategic Note (2014–2018).

This Strategic Note outlines UN Women Kenya's contribution to national results that will support the fulfilment of the country's aspirations for building a prosperous country with a high quality of life and peace and prosperity for all by the year 2030. More specifically, the Strategic Note will support the realization of four objective areas:

ACRONYMS

GBV	gender-based violence
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework

- 1. Women in decision making**
- 2. Women's economic empowerment**
- 3. Ending violence against women and girls**
- 4. Women in peace and security and humanitarian action**

The development of this Strategic Note involved lengthy discussions internally and with a wide range of key stakeholders, including the Government of Kenya, development partners, and donors.

I take this opportunity to thank our partners for playing an active role in the formulation of the Strategic Note, and I warmly welcome them to join us in the implementation of our four key objective areas.

Zebib Kavuma
UN Women Kenya
Country Director





PARTICIPANTS AT THE WOMEN'S PRE-LEGISLATIVE
SUMMIT HELD IN MAY 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN Women Kenya Country Office Strategic Note 2019–2022 is aligned to government priorities as set out in Vision 2030, the Third Medium-term Plan, President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four Agenda, and the Constitution of Kenya, and it contributes to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018–2022 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Strategic Note was developed through a rigorous participatory process with all key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, the Ministry of Defence, the National Treasury, the Council of Governors, the County Assemblies Forum, the National Gender and Equality Commission, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, civil society organizations, the media, the private sector, the UN Country Team, donors, and development partners.

The lessons learned and recommendations from UN Women Kenya's Strategic Note 2014–2018 have been incorporated into all four objective areas, which complement the government's efforts in realizing Vision 2030 at national and devolved levels:

Objective 1: Women in decision making

Objective 2: Women's economic empowerment

Objective 3: Ending violence against women and girls

Objective 4: Women in peace and security and humanitarian action

These objectives complement and reinforce each other to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment in Kenya. The objective areas are also implemented through UN Women's triple mandate: **normative**, **coordinative**, and **programmatic** work. Implementation of the Strategic Note will benefit from the innovative expertise of global, regional, and local partners to achieve tangible results by the end of 2022.

The total budget for the Strategic Note is USD 19,508,871, and our key funding partners include Sweden, Finland, Japan, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the donor partners who provide resources through the UNDP-led joint programmes: the Department for International Development, the United States Agency for International Development, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Ireland, and Australia.



A PARTICIPANT AT AN IAMTHECODE EVENT IN
KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP, TURKANA COUNTY, ON
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD, 2018

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Kenya has made significant advances in gender equality and women's empowerment in the areas of poverty reduction, the right to health, access to education, and women's involvement in decision making. These achievements can be partly attributed to the government's leadership on gender equality matters and the provisions of the 2010 constitution, which obligates the state to address the needs of vulnerable persons in society, including women and persons with disability.¹

As part of Kenya's responsibility to the global community on the Sustainable Development Goals, the government has identified 128 indicators out of which 33 were

earmarked for reporting on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In addition, nine targets were singled out for reporting under SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Kenya's development priorities are spelled out in Vision 2030 and the third Medium-Term Plan, which was elaborated in 2017. The plan has several flagship programmes to address women's economic empowerment, sexual and gender-based violence, gender mainstreaming, and policy/legal reforms to create an enabling environment for advancing gender equality. The government's Big 4 agenda (universal health care; affordable housing; manufacturing; food and nutrition security) addresses areas critical to the advancement of gender equality.

¹ United Nations Country Team Kenya, *Report on the Situation of the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, February 2017.

The 2010 Constitution of Kenya obligates the state to address the needs of vulnerable persons in society, including women and persons with disability



UNITED NATIONS
CELEBRATIONS
IN NAIROBI ON
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY 2017

UN WOMEN IN THE UN SYSTEM IN KENYA

Through the United Nations Country Team and the various result groups, UN Women actively participates in the UN Development Assistance Framework 2018–2022. Twenty-one specialized UN agencies based in Kenya contribute about USD 2 billion to implement the UNDAF.¹

UN Women successfully positioned the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda in the UNDAF. Nine of the 14 outcome-level results have mainstreamed gender equality and women's empowerment, with corresponding gender-sensitive indicators.

In the implementation of the UNDAF, UN Women is applying a twin-track approach to attain gradual, sustained societal change. This means mainstreaming gender across the UNDAF's three strategic result areas and through

effective coordination of and support to the UN Gender Working Group through the UN agency focal points. To enhance the effect of gender mainstreaming, UN Women has also seconded a gender advisor to the UN Resident Coordinator's office.

UN Women is partnering with the government and various UN agencies in the implementation of UN joint programmes:

- **Prevention of and Response to Gender-based Violence**
- **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health**
- **Devolution**
- **Deepening Democracy**
- **Gender and Climate-smart Agriculture (2020 onwards)**

¹ [http://ke.one.un.org/content/dam/kenya/docs/unct/UNITED%20NATIONS%20DEVELOPMENT%20ASSISTANCE%20FRAMEWORK%20\(UNDAF\)%20B5%20web.pdf](http://ke.one.un.org/content/dam/kenya/docs/unct/UNITED%20NATIONS%20DEVELOPMENT%20ASSISTANCE%20FRAMEWORK%20(UNDAF)%20B5%20web.pdf).

UN Women is partnering with the government and various UN agencies in the implementation of a number of UN joint programmes

UN WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Mainstreaming gender is an ongoing government focus under the Social Pillar of Kenya's Vision 2030 and in the Third Medium-term Plan (2018–2022), which is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals. Under the Third Medium-term Plan, the government's gender priorities are as follows:

1. Eliminating violence against women and girls
2. Implementing the women, peace, and security agenda
3. Promoting women's economic empowerment
4. Promoting women in leadership; building the capacity of women in political decision making; enhancing national and county capacities to plan, budget, and deliver services that are sensitive to gender equality and women's empowerment; and enhancing the production and utilization of gender statistics for accountability on the SDGs

The four Strategic Note objectives resonate well with these gender priorities. UN Women Kenya focuses its support where it is needed most and leverages public and private sector resources for better impact. Our objectives are the following:

Objective 1: Women in decision making

Objective 2: Women's economic empowerment

Objective 3: Ending violence against women and girls

Objective 4: Women in peace and security and humanitarian action

The four Strategic Note objectives resonate well with the government's priorities

The **Theory of Change** to advance the **gender equality and women's empowerment agenda** in Kenya is as follows:

If policy and legislative frameworks better conform to the constitution and international standards and ensuring gender-responsive governance; if Kenyans are increasingly socialized to uphold and respect women's rights and gender equality and oppose all forms of discrimination and violence against women; if women are increasingly empowered in driving Kenya's political, social, and economic growth led by a more coherent, influential, accountable, and coordinated women's movement; and if women have increased access to and control of productive resources and market opportunities, then gender equality and women's empowerment in Kenya will be advanced because the enabling environment will be in place and negative mindsets and stereotypes will have been transformed towards advancing gender equality and the national vision of peace and prosperity for all.



Women face legal, institutional, cultural, economic, and societal constraints when participating in electoral processes



A WOMAN REGISTERS TO VOTE
DURING A VOTER REGISTRATION
DRIVE IN FEBRUARY 2017

OBJECTIVE AREA 1: WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING

1.1: Electoral frameworks and arrangements promote gender balance in elections and decision-making bodies

The outcome builds on the Strengthening Electoral Processes in Kenya project (2015–2018), led by UNDP and implemented with UN Women, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNODC, UNHCR, UNEP, and UNICEF.¹ The successor Joint Programme on Deepening Democracy with the same UN agencies follows the electoral cycle and focuses on legislative and policy reforms in view of the next general elections in 2022. The aim is to ensure an enabling environment for women's participation in the coming elections.

UN Women Kenya will provide technical assistance to oversight institutions and the National Assembly to review, adopt, and monitor the Political Parties Act, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act, and the two-thirds gender rule (no more than two-thirds of elective and appointive positions shall be of one gender).

¹ Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights; UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UN Office on Drugs and Crime; UN High Commissioner for Refugees; UN Environment Programme; and UN Children's Fund.

1.2: National and county-level institutions have strengthened processes and systems for gender-responsive evidence-based planning, budgeting, and implementation for accountable service delivery

The first phase of devolution (2013–2018) focused on decentralizing state organs' functions and services from the national level to county levels. As devolution is now well established, the focus will be on the 14 counties² in north-eastern, coastal, and western Kenya that have high poverty levels, especially among women and children.

The outcome will be delivered through a UN Joint Programme on Devolution (2019–2022) together with UNDP and UNICEF. With the support of the World Bank, the joint programme aims at improving the county governance (using national institutional expertise)³ in gender-responsive budgeting; planning; service delivery in women's economic empowerment; the elimination of violence against women and girls; women, peace, and security; and data collection.

² Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, Lamu, Tana River, Turkana, Samburu, Kilifi, Kajiado, Narok, West Pokot, and Busia.

³ National Treasury, Office of the Controller of Budget, Kenya School of Government, Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training.

The following three outcomes are aligned to the UN Women flagship programme Making Every Woman and Girl Count:⁴

1.3: Strengthened policy and financial environment to enable gender-responsive national adaptation and effective monitoring of the SDGs

1.4: Strengthened production of gender statistics to enable the monitoring of national policies and reporting commitments under the SDGs, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Third Medium-term Plan

1.5: Gender statistics are accessible to all users (including governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector) and can be analysed to inform research, advocacy, policies, and programmes and promote accountability

These outcomes will facilitate reporting on gender-related SDG indicators, out of the 128 indicators selected by Kenya.

UN Women Kenya will support the government to improve

⁴ The key institutional actors under these three outcomes are the Kenya Bureau of Statistics, National Treasury, Council of Governors, State Department of Planning, State Department of Devolution, State Department of Gender Affairs, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Finance Corporation, and selected county governments.

the availability, accessibility, and use of gender statistics to inform policies, advocacy, and accountability for delivering gender equality and women's empowerment on three fronts:

1. Promoting an enabling environment to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs
2. Increasing data production to ensure that regular high-quality and comparable gender statistics are produced
3. Improving data accessibility and usage to inform policies and to monitor progress on the SDGs

1.6: Women in Kenya are promoted as leaders in national and county institutions

Women face legal, institutional, cultural, economic, and societal constraints when participating in electoral processes. This outcome will be delivered through the Joint Programme on Deepening Democracy with UNDP and other implementing UN agencies,⁵ and in partnership with various stakeholders.⁶ Kenya School of Government and the Centre for Parliamentary Studies will largely conduct the training, which will target women leaders in county and national assemblies, female leaders in parliamentary committees, and leaders of the women's movement. It will strengthen their voice, their capacity to advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment, their participation in decision making at all levels, and their capacity to vie for elections in 2022.

⁵ OHCHR, UNESCO, UNODC, UNHCR, UNEP, and UNICEF.

⁶ State Department of Gender Affairs, County Assemblies Forum, Society of Clerks at the Table, and Council of Governors.



PARTICIPANTS AT
THE WOMEN'S
PRE-LEGISLATIVE
SUMMIT IN MAY
2018

*The focus will
be on the 14
counties in
north-eastern,
coastal, and
western Kenya
that have high
poverty levels*

OBJECTIVE AREA 2: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Women entrepreneurs living in the rural areas have increased access to markets, financial services, and assets

In Kenya, women represent over 70 per cent of the small-holder agricultural labour force.¹

Because of the gender gap in agriculture, 'women in agriculture' is an emerging objective area in the Strategic Note. This will be done by strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Finance Corporation, the Council of Governors, and select county governments to:

- Develop, implement, and monitor gender-responsive and climate-smart agriculture policies
- Improve the capacities of women agripreneurs to access public markets and financial services

¹ 'Gender Issues in Agricultural and Rural Household Well-Being', presentation at the Third Global Conference on Agricultural and Rural Household Statistics, 24–25 May 2010, Washington, DC; Mary Clare Ahearn, Economic Research Service, US Department of Agriculture, and Diana Tempelman, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Office for Africa.

- Strengthen the capacities and voices of women entrepreneurs to participate in formulating and reviewing County Integrated Development Plans and adapting county climate-smart agriculture policies

UN Women Kenya will continue to strengthen its work in the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities programme² by, for example, targeting vulnerable women entrepreneurs in rural areas and promoting partnerships and policy changes with private sector companies.

² The Government of Kenya Affirmative Public Procurement Policy was created in 2013. It seeks to open space for previously disadvantaged groups and includes a 30 per cent target. In 2016, it was promulgated into law: the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act 2015.

Improving the capacities of women agripreneurs to access public markets and financial services



A TEA FARMER IN KERICHO
ON INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY 2017



3

GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

4

QUALITY
EDUCATION

5

GENDER
EQUALITY

10

REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

16

PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

***Strengthening
the voice of
survivors and
rights holders to
hold government
to account***

**A 'FLASH MOB'
DANCES DURING
ACTIVITIES TO
MARK 16 DAYS
OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE**

OBJECTIVE AREA 3: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Legislative and policy environment in line with international, regional, and national standards on ending violence against women and girls is enforced

The outcome builds on previous results achieved in work on ending violence against women and girls, and it is implemented within the framework of the UN and Government of Kenya Joint Programme on the Prevention of and Response to Gender-based Violence (2018–2022).¹

UN Women Kenya works to:

1. Improve Kenya's legislative and policy environment to ensure its alignment with international and regional standards on GBV by supporting the implementation of the national GBV policy
2. Strengthen the voice and capacity of survivors and rights holders² to advocate for policy implementation

¹ Key partners are the State Department of Gender Affairs; the Ministries of Health, Education, and Interior and Coordination of National Government; the Kenya National Police Service; the judiciary at national and county levels; the Council of Governors; selected county governments; survivor movements; male champions; and civil society.

² Including women's organizations and the national Survivors of Sexual Violence Network.

and to hold government and duty bearers accountable

3. Build the capacity of select county institutions (e.g. Court Users Committees and GBV Working Groups) to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls
4. Support select counties and private institutions to provide safe rural public spaces³ for women and girls

Under UN Women's global flagship programme Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, UN Women is implementing the Global Women's Safety Framework in Rural Spaces, which is informed by experience in the tea industry.

In addition, UN Women Kenya will participate in the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS led by UNAIDS and the Joint Programme on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health within the framework of the UNDAF.

³ A space where women, girls, and children, being the intended beneficiaries, feel comfortable and enjoy the freedom to express themselves without the fear of judgment or harm, intimidation, threats, stigma, and discrimination. A safe space can be physical or non-physical, formal or informal, public or private, non-stigmatizing, and culturally appropriate, where women, girls, and children can go to at any time to feel safer physically and emotionally empowered and have access to information, education, recreational activities, and support services.

OBJECTIVE AREA 4: WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

4.1 UN Resolutions 1325 and 2242 on women, peace, and security commitments are implemented in Kenya

UN Women Kenya will continue to support the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions, specifically Resolution 2242.¹ A second Kenya National Action Plan will be developed in 2019 onwards by a wide range of stakeholders² led by the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government and the State Department of Gender Affairs. UN Women will support key actors in this process.

To ensure that the needs of women and girls are addressed, UN Women will work in close partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Centre, county governments, civil society organizations, academia, and research institutions to mainstream gender in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism. Technical assistance will be provided for the review and development of the second National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism.

¹ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12076.doc.htm>.

² Government (national and county); state security agents; civil society organizations working in peace, security, and the humanitarian sector; the media; development partners; and donors.

4.2 Women and girls in target counties in Kenya influence and are better served by resilience and disaster risk management

This outcome is built on the lessons learned of the previous Strategic Note, aligned to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030)³ and the UN Joint Programme on Devolution (2019–2022). In close partnership with other UN agencies, UN Women Kenya will build the capacity of national and county governments to develop and implement policies, legislation, and action plans on resilience and disaster risk management that are inclusive, gender sensitive, and responsive to the needs of women and girls.

UN Women Kenya will also work with vulnerable women to build their capacity to lead and participate in resilience and disaster risk management interventions.⁴

³ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The framework, adopted in March 2015, makes provision for the integration of gender equality, calling specifically for all related policy and practices to reflect gender provisions. The framework states that governments should engage with all relevant stakeholders, including women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities, in the design and implementation of policies, plans, and standards.

⁴ In partnership with the National Disaster Operations Centre, the National Disaster Management Authority, county governments, civil society organizations, other UN agencies, and other disaster risk management stakeholders.



***Empowering women
in efforts to battle
violent extremism***

PARTICIPANTS AT THE
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
ON WOMEN, PEACE,
AND SECURITY IN
OCTOBER 2018



PARTICIPANTS AT THE
SECOND CHILDREN'S
DEVOLUTION
CONFERENCE IN
FEBRUARY 2019

MONITORING, RESEARCH, EVALUATION, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, AND INNOVATION

UN Women Kenya will continue to invest in research, especially in emerging areas of gender and women's rights such as preventing and countering violent extremism, as both a leader and a partner. The goal of the research is to shape policy dialogue and implementation and to scale up good practices, and it will be accompanied by a clear dissemination strategy that targets the government, non-state actors, and development partners.

Based on recommendations, UN Women Kenya will invest in continuous training of personnel and strengthening the capacity of partners in results-based management. UN Women Kenya will also continue to regularly monitor the achievement of results, including through spot checks, field visits, and participation in activities implemented by partners, which will be used to identify areas for support and risk management. Meetings and consultations will track progress, identify challenges, and plan corrective actions. The Strategic Note mid-term review is planned for 2020 and the evaluation for 2022.

UN Women Kenya will continue to explore and partner with locally based innovation hubs on technological solutions to bridge critical gender gaps in our areas of work.

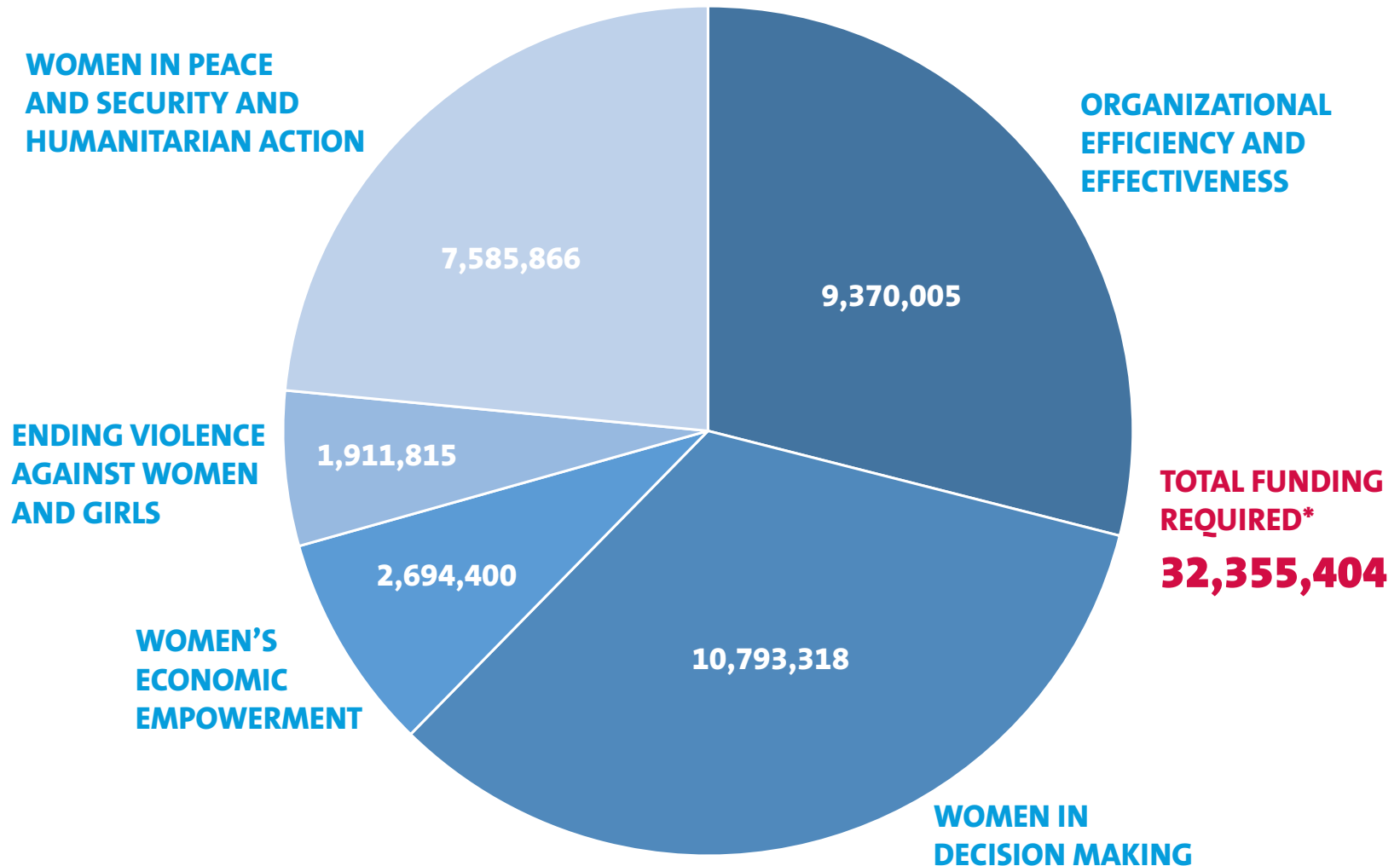


PARTICIPANTS DISCUSS DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN OCTOBER 2018



A PARTICIPANT IN THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, ACCESS, AND PROTECTION (LEAP) PROGRAMME

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2019–2022



*ALL FIGURES ARE IN USD



A WOMEN IN TURKANA COUNTY UTILIZES A WATER PUMP DURING THE DROUGHT OF EARLY 2017



SCHOOLGIRLS PARTICIPATE IN AN IAMTHECODE EVENT AT KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP IN OCTOBER 2018

