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; 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.
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UN Women successfully advanced the gender agenda within the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018–2022, and as a result gender was included in 71 per cent¹ of the outcomes. In addition, the UN Country Team Coordination Network on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was established.

The year 2018 also marked the end of the UN Women Strategic Note 2014–2018. To inform the development of the new Strategic Note 2019–2022, UN Women reflected on the results and lessons learned from the past five years, both internally and with key stakeholders. The new strategic note prioritizes four key result areas: 1) women in leadership, including devolution and statistics; 2) women’s economic empowerment; 3) ending violence against women and girls; and 4) peace and security and humanitarian action.

The fight for gender equality in Kenya saw important results in 2018. UN Women, together with its partners, supported the development and finalization of various strategies, guidelines, and policies of key government institutions and civil society organizations. These included the Gender Action Plan by the Council of Governors, the policy framework on the conduct of party primaries by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, the Women’s Economic Empowerment Strategy by the State Department of Gender Affairs, and the inclusion of a gender pillar in the National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism by the National Counter Terrorism Centre. These mechanisms are expected to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the country.

As a special highlight of the year, and in recognition of the 18th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace, and security, UN Women, in partnership with the Government of Kenya and the Embassy of Finland, organized a High-level Peer Review Meeting that brought together experiences from Kenya, Somalia, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Finland. High-level politicians and technical experts celebrated achievements on the implementation of various National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 and shared lessons learned, good practices, as well as barriers to promoting women’s meaningful participation in peace and security. The Government of Kenya showed strong commitment to the UNSCR 1325 agenda by increasing their annual national budget allocation by nearly 30 per cent for the financial year 2018/2019.²

I am convinced that with the new Strategic Note 2019–2022, UN Women – in partnership with the Government of Kenya and other key stakeholders – will achieve even greater results, building on past achievements in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the country and beyond.

Zebib Kavuma
Country Director, UN Women Kenya

¹ 9 out of 14 outcomes.
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2018

Democratic governance

• A strong cadre of women political leaders\(^1\) was trained at national and county levels for the 2022 elections.
• Nine knowledge products\(^2\) were developed to document the journey of women in leadership, but also to enhance knowledge management in Kenya and beyond.
• The Council of Governors developed the Gender Action Plan 2019–2022.
• Ten counties\(^3\) launched County-specific Gender Data Sheets.
• One gender audit and one gender policy were developed and will be finalized in 2019 by the County Assemblies Forum to guide the counties in developing their gender policies in 2019 and beyond.
• All counties have allocated a budget to gender equality and women's empowerment through the responsible county ministries.

Women's economic empowerment

• Fourteen counties submitted Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) procurement plans and quarterly reports to the government authorities for the first time.
• Three additional companies signed on to the Women's Empowerment Principles, bringing the total in Kenya to 20\(^4\).
• Strategic partnerships were formed with the Climate Change Unit under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation to initiate work on climate-smart agriculture.
• The Agricultural Finance Corporation was supported to carry out a baseline survey on women's access to agricultural finance. The findings will provide baseline data for the corporation’s Women Affirmative Access Window project, which aims to advance agricultural credit to women farmers.
• The State Department of Gender Affairs drafted the first-ever Women’s Economic Empowerment Strategy, incorporating women in agriculture.

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\(^1\) All 97 members of parliament, 433 young aspirants from the counties, 334 county executives, and 113 ward administrators.
\(^3\) Bomet, Kitui, Kirinyaga, Turkana, Kakamega, Baringo, Kilifi, Meru, Kisumu, Marsabit.
Ending violence against women

- Seven key gender-based violence (GBV) documents, including a training tool, guidelines, policies, and strategies, were developed under the Joint Programme on GBV.
- Seven GBV Working Groups were established in nine counties; these are expected to enhance GBV coordination and access to justice for GBV survivors.
- 2,473 GBV survivors were reached with information and services through the national GBV helpline, which links survivors to urgent medico-legal and psychosocial support.
- 130 male religious leaders and 250 cultural leaders were trained on male engagement with GBV issues.
- The Survivors of Sexual Violence Network was established to demand for better services for sexual and gender-based violence survivors.

Women in peace and security

- The implementation of and reporting on the first Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) on UNSCR 1325 was finalized, and the development of the second-generation KNAP was initiated.
- The National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism includes a gender pillar, as does the Wajir County Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.
- Women’s participation in County Peace Committees increased from 14 per cent in 2013 to 29 per cent in 2018.
- Disaster risk management policies in Turkana and Baringo Counties were made more gender responsive.
- The capacity of more than 5,000 women and front-line actors was increased to prevent violent extremism in their communities, identify warning signs of radicalization and recruitment, and intervene early.

Legislation/policies

- The first-ever strategic plan for the State Department of Gender Affairs was developed.
- Two country position papers were developed for the 62nd and 63rd sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Coordination

- Costed proposals for the integration of GBV into Universal Health Coverage were developed as a result of UN Women’s leadership with ministries and civil society organizations.
- The first progress report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Scorecard recommendations was endorsed by the UN Country Team. The report holds the UN system in Kenya accountable to achieving gender equality.

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6 Kericho, Bomet, Taita-Taveta, Murang’a, Turkana, and Busia, plus one joint one for the three coastal counties of Mombasa, Kwale, and Kilifi.
7 From the total 4,505 committee members: 29 per cent women and 71 per cent men.
8 Including the National Police Service, prison officers, teachers, and parents.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report covers the period from January to December 2018.

UN Women and its partners supported efforts to collect stakeholders’ recommendations on the Political Parties Act towards making it more gender sensitive. The recommendations were shared with the Parliament of Kenya, and the act is expected to be tabled for possible amendment in 2019. To increase the number of women elected in the 2022 elections, UN Women and its partners trained a cadre of women political leaders. At the national level, all 97 women members of parliament were trained to advance the gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda in parliament. At the county level, 433 potential young women aspirants from 15 counties were mentored by members of parliament. Furthermore, a Women in Leadership curriculum was developed and rolled out, reaching 334 women county executives and 113 women ward administrators. The training will be provided by the Kenya School of Government in the future.

UN Women also supported the development of key policies and strategies that are expected to promote women’s political leadership, enhance gender-responsive budgeting, and advance the gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda in Kenya. The products included the following: 1) the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties Strategic Plan 2019–2023; 2) the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association Strategic Plan 2019–2023; 3) nine knowledge products, a review of the role of the media in the 2017 general elections by the Media Council of Kenya, and gender policies for two radio stations; 4) the Council of Governors Gender Action Plan 2019–2022; 5) County-specific Gender Data Sheets in ten counties; 5) a gender policy and gender audit for county assemblies, to be finalized in 2019 by the County Assemblies Forum to guide the counties in developing their gender policies in 2019 and beyond; 6) the first-ever strategic plan for the State Department of Gender Affairs (2018–2022); and 7) two country position papers for the 62nd and 63rd sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Three additional companies signed on to the Women’s Economic Principles, which increased the number of Kenya signatories to 20 on the global website. Ten of these signatories are implementing their commitments through, for example, pushing for a

1 See the list in the Democratic Governance section in Key Achievements above.
2 Kaya and Namu Lolwe FM station and Maitu FM.
3 Bomet, Kitui, Kirinyaga, Turkana, Kakamega, Baringo, Kilifi, Meru, Kisumu, and Marsabit.
4 12 to 23 March 2018, with the theme: ‘Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls’.
5 11 to 22 March 2019, with the theme: ‘Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls’.
6 Nestlé Kenya, Classic Mouldings, and SBM Bank.
7 https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/weps/companies (the latest two signatories are yet to be updated on the page).
minimum wage, improving occupational health, increasing procurement opportunities for women-owned businesses, providing free construction training, and training mid- and senior-level women in management to become board members.

Fourteen counties submitted their AGPO procurement plans and quarterly reports to the government authorities for the first time, using the prescribed AGPO formats. However, at the time of reporting there is no information on whether the received documents reflected the desired 30 per cent uptake, because the procurement plans and quarterly reports are done manually and because the National Treasury had insufficient staff to finalize the analysis in 2018.

UN Women supported the establishment of seven GBV Working Groups in nine counties, and these are expected to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors. In addition, the Survivors of Sexual Violence Network was established. They advocate with women members of parliament for better services for sexual and gender-based violence survivors. Under the Joint Programme on GBV, UN Women supported the development of seven key GBV-related documents, including a training tool, guidelines, policies, and strategies. In addition, government agencies were sensitized and trained to better understand and implement legislation on ending violence against women.

UN Women initiated a new area of work on gender and climate-smart agriculture, partnering with the Climate Change Unit under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation and the Agricultural Finance Corporation. The Agricultural Finance Corporation aims to increase its female client base from the current 12 per cent to 30 per cent within the framework of their Women Affirmative Access Window project, for which a baseline study was also prepared. A gender advisor was also seconded to the corporation to make their services and human resource procedures gender responsive. Furthermore, climate-smart agriculture was included in the State Department of Gender Affairs’ first-ever Women’s Economic Empowerment Strategy.

Through UN Women support, the implementation of and reporting on the first Kenya National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 was finalized and the development of a second-generation KNAP initiated. The increase of the KNAP budget by 29.8 per cent – from KES 62 million for the 2017/2018 financial year to 80.5 million for 2018/2019 – signals the

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9 Cityscape Trends.
10 Gulf African Bank, Safaricom; East African Breweries Ltd.
11 Classic Mouldings Ltd.
12 Nairobi Securities Exchange.
14 GBV Working Groups in Kericho, Bomet, Taita Taveta, Murang’a, Turkana, and Busia, plus one joint one for the three coastal counties of Mombasa, Kwale, and Kilifi.
16 1) Sensitization workshops targeting county government officials from 21 counties; 2) training of Court Users Committees in four counties; 3) establishing and strengthening GBV technical working groups in four counties; and 4) comprehensive training for duty bearers in Kakamega County.
Government of Kenya’s commitment to realizing the women, peace, and security agenda in the country.

A gender pillar was integrated into the National Counter Terrorism Centre’s National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism; a gender-responsive action plan on preventing and countering violent extremism was created by Wajir County; and the disaster risk management policies of Turkana and Baringo Counties were made gender responsive.

The capacity of more than 5,000 women and front-line actors\(^\text{17}\) was increased to prevent violent extremism in their communities by identifying warning signs and intervening early. In addition, over 400 state and non-state actors were trained to mainstream gender into disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action. UN Women and its partners also organized two key events: 1) a High-level Peer Review Meeting on UNSCR 1325, which brought together experiences from Kenya, Somalia, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Finland; and 2) the 11th UN Female Military Officers Course, which promoted the deployment of women in peace support operations.

Through UN Women’s leadership, several UN agencies came together to collaborate with strategic government ministries and civil society groups to develop costed proposals for integrating GBV services into the new Universal Health Coverage scheme. As a result, GBV services will be made available to all Kenyans as part of emergency services.

The first progress report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Scorecard recommendations was presented to the UN Country Team. The report helps to hold the UN system accountable to achieving gender equality.

\[\text{ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS}\]

\begin{itemize}
  \item **AGPO** Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
  \item **GBV** gender-based violence
  \item **KNAP** Kenya National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325
  \item **UNSCR** United Nations Security Council Resolution
\end{itemize}

\(^{17}\) Including officials from the National Police Service, prison officers, teachers, and parents.
UN Women collaborated with state and non-state actors at national and subnational levels. These included the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs; the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government; the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation; the National Treasury; the Council of Governors; constitutional commissions; the National Counter Terrorism Centre; the International Peace Support Training Centres; women’s organizations and networks; development partners; UN organizations; academic institutions; the private sector, including umbrella business and membership associations; the media; and eminent persons championing gender equality and women’s empowerment.

UN Women has supported building the capacities of key gender equality institutions in various ways, including placing gender advisors in institutions such as the Council of Governors and county governments. There are also mentorship programmes for young women leaders. In training institutions, UN Women has supported institutionalizing training programmes, building the capacity of personnel on key gender-related competencies, and developing the institutions’ gender- and human rights–related policies.

In 2018, UN Women supported the production of nine knowledge products to document evidence of women’s leadership in politics.
RESULTS

This section covers the main achievements of the programme between January and December 2018.

1 WOMEN LEAD AND PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING AT ALL LEVELS

Electoral frameworks and arrangements promote gender balance in elections

UN Women and its partners supported efforts to collect stakeholder recommendations on making the Political Parties Act (2011) more gender sensitive. In collaboration with the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, and political parties’ stakeholders, the recommendations were submitted to parliament, which is expected to table the act for possible amendment in 2019.

In addition, UN Women supported the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties to start developing a policy framework on the conduct of political party primary elections. The framework, if properly enforced, is anticipated to improve the 2022 party primary process.
Due to a lack of quorum in parliament, voting on the two-thirds gender rule (which states that no more than two-thirds of elective and appointive positions shall be of one gender) was again postponed to 2019. Throughout 2018, UN Women continued to support the lobbying of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association. This included continuous review meetings on the status of the bill to craft a way forward with the leadership of parliament.

A cadre of interested, diverse, and capable women political leaders is formed

UN Women, through its partnership with the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association, inducted 85 women members of parliament and trained all 97 women members to advance the gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda in the National Assembly. These women in turn mentored 433 young women leaders in 15 counties who are prepared to run for political office in 2022.

Women are perceived as equally legitimate and effective political leaders as men

UN Women supported the production of nine knowledge products to create evidence of women’s leadership in politics. In addition, UN Women supported the review of the role of the media in the 2017 general elections by the Media Council and the formulation of gender policies for two radio stations. These are expected to enhance the way women leaders are portrayed in the media.

Women are promoted as leaders in gender-sensitive political institutions

Two civil society organizations in four counties were supported to tackle challenges in mainstreaming gender in political parties. As a result, 405 women and men, including members of councils of elders, were reached to support and promote women’s leadership. Fifteen county women leaders were also profiled through radio shows. These women are expected to act as role models for future female leaders across the counties. In addition, through a partnership with GROOTS Kenya, over 3,500 community members were reached to increase support for women in political leadership.


WOMEN, ESPECIALLY THE POOREST AND MOST EXCLUDED, ARE ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED AND BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPMENT

Public procurement is gender responsive

A total of 20 counties\(^1\) participated in UN Women’s trainings on how to prepare and submit accurate information related to the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities programme, which aims to have 30 per cent of contracts go to women, youth, and persons with disabilities. In total, 100 government procurement and supply chain officers participated in the trainings. By the end of 2018, 14\(^2\) out of the 20 counties were able to submit procurement plans and quarterly reports to the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, the AGPO Secretariat, and the National Treasury using the prescribed formats. Prior to the UN Women support, only one county\(^3\) had been submitting its procurement documents as required by law.

However, at the time of reporting there is no information on whether the received documents reflected the desired 30 per cent uptake, because the procurement plans and quarterly reports are done manually and the National Treasury had

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3 Trans-Nzoia.
insufficient staff to finalize the analysis in 2018. An additional complication is that the AGPO process is complex, lengthy, and politically sensitive.

UN Women also continued to support the Council of Governors and other stakeholders to raise awareness about procurement opportunities for women, youth, and persons with disabilities. During 2018, over 1,200 women, youth, and persons with disabilities involved in business were reached with information on AGPO as well as procurement opportunities in the private sector and within the UN.

UN Women provided technical and financial support to the Council of Governors to develop a simple guide for beginners on how to access the government procurement opportunities. The guide, to be published and disseminated by mid-2019, will be a resource for businesses owned by women, youth, and persons with disabilities and a training tool on AGPO for future capacity building for suppliers.

Public and private investments create new economic opportunities for women-owned businesses

UN Women continued to work with companies in Kenya to advance gender equality at the workplace, in markets, and in communities, using the Women’s Empowerment Principles as a guide. By the end of 2018, ten companies4 were implementing the principles in Kenya thanks to UN Women’s efforts.

Corporations implement their commitments to the Women’s Empowerment Principles

Three additional companies\(^5\) signed on to the Women’s Empowerment Principles, and consequently Kenya had 20 signatories listed on the global website.\(^6\) Many of these companies are also investing in gender equality and women’s empowerment in the labour force – for example, by paying closer attention to internal business culture and practices.

Gender and climate-smart agriculture

UN Women initiated a new area of work in 2018: climate-smart agriculture. New partnerships were created with the Climate Change Unit under the Ministry of

GOOD PRACTICES IN APPLYING THE WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT PRINCIPLES

- **Gulf African Bank** created their new supplier diversity and inclusion programme to provide procurement opportunities for women-owned businesses in the Gulf African Bank supply chain, hoping to have these businesses make up at least 20 per cent of the pre-qualified suppliers.

- **Safaricom** opened procurement spaces for female vendors, created an academy for youth from disadvantaged families to learn from technology, and facilitated better working conditions for their employees by organizing child care.

- **East African Breweries Ltd** initiated a programme that works with smallholder women farmers. The initiative buys sorghum from the women’s groups it works with – for the women, a stable and sustainable market, and for the company, a regular supply of raw material.

- **Classic Mouldings Ltd**, an interior design and construction company, initiated the Professional Applicators Club, which organizes free weekly trainings for members of the public on practical skills such as painting, tiling, and interior decoration. This is linked to affordable housing in the government’s Big Four Agenda.

- **The Nairobi Securities Exchange** trained the middle- and high-level female management from companies listed in the stock market on corporate governance and leadership. The aim is to increase the low number of female board members.

\(^5\) Nestlé Kenya, Classic Mouldings Ltd, SBM Bank.
Fifteen key personnel were sensitized on integrating gender into climate-smart agriculture, and they are expected to transmit this knowledge to at least 3,000 women farmers.

Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation and the Agricultural Finance Corporation. Through the partnership with the Climate Change Unit, 15 national and county staff from the three pilot counties\(^7\) were sensitized on integrating gender into climate-smart agriculture, and they are expected to transmit this knowledge to at least 3,000 women farmers\(^8\) as they roll out the climate-smart agriculture implementation framework. To date, the trained staff have reached 450 farmers.

Three specific initiatives were implemented during the reporting period through the partnership with the Agricultural Finance Corporation:

1. A gender advisor was seconded to the corporation to help make their services and human resource procedures gender responsive.
2. At the Agricultural Finance Corporation, 66 senior managers and 70 credit officers were sensitized on gender issues, which is expected to enhance women farmers’ access to agricultural credit and improve production; the target is to increase the current female client base from 12 per cent to 30 per cent.
3. A baseline survey on women’s access to agricultural finance was carried out through the Kenya Institute of Public Policy, Research and Analysis, to be finalized by mid-2019.

In addition, to inform gender-sensitive planning in Kenya UN Women supported a study on the gender gap in agriculture, which is expected to be published in 2019. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics will release the data.

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7 Nyeri, Busia, and Taita Taveta.
8 Each of the 15 trained officers administers at least 10 groups, with membership ranging between 15 and 30, and at least 80 per cent of these members are women, therefore, at least 3,000 women farmers are expected to be reached with this knowledge.
A Women’s Empowerment Principles event at Nestlé Kenya in March 2018

A participant speaks at the UN Women Procurement Forum held in October 2018
3 WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVE A LIFE FREE FROM VIOLENCE

An enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on ending violence against women and other forms of discrimination is in place and translated into action

During the reporting period, UN Women steered the development of the following documents under the Joint Programme on GBV to strengthen the existing legal and policy framework:

1. The collation and harmonization of the *GBV Resource Pack*, to be used as the key training tool for duty bearers and stakeholders at both national and county levels
2. The *Options Paper for Safe Protective Spaces for Women*, to guide county governments on the establishment of safe spaces
3. An updated *GBV Service Providers Directory*, to provide the contacts of all service providers per county and enhance timely access to services
4. The Migori County GBV Policy, to guide GBV prevention and response that speaks to the unique GBV situation in the county
5. *A Global Women’s Safety Framework in Rural Spaces: Informed by Experience in the Tea Sector*, to be used to guide
tea producers globally on how to establish women’s safety in tea estates

6. The Gender Empowerment Platform road map towards addressing GBV in the tea sector

7. The Communications Strategy for the Women’s Safety Programme

UN Women supported government agencies to better understand and implement legislation on ending violence against women through four initiatives:

1. Sensitization workshops conducted for county government officials from 21 counties to enable them to understand their role in preventing and responding to GBV

2. Court Users Committees in four counties trained on referral mechanisms

3. One hundred and six duty bearers from four other counties supported to establish and strengthen GBV technical working groups, which play a critical role in ensuring that survivors are provided with quality services

4. Comprehensive training for duty bearers done in Kakamega County at the request of the Deputy Governor

Favourable social norms, attitudes, and behaviours are promoted at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women

UN Women worked with various partners in the Joint Programme on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health in six counties. Through the

1 Lamu, Marsabit, Kwale, Taita Taveta, Kitui, Kilifi, Makueni, Mandera, Embu, Garissa, Meru, Isiolo, Uasin Gishu, Wajir, Nyeri, Mombasa, Bungoma, Kajiado, Vihiga, Kiambu, Murang’a, and Nyandarua.
2 Kwale, Kilifi, Mombasa, and Taita Taveta.

3 Murang’a, Busia, Kisumu, and Turkana.
4 Migori, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, Lamu, and Wajir.
Above: Scenes from the 16 Days of Activism #HearMeToo Campus Edition Gala Night Competition held on 3 December 2018

Left: A participant signs a poster during the Kenya launch of A Global Women’s Safety Framework in Rural Spaces: Informed by Experience in the Tea Sector on 10 December 2018
More than **8,500 men, women, and children** were reached with messaging on women’s economic empowerment, the **prevention of violence against women**, and **protection from sexual and gender-based violence**

joint programme, a toolkit for training male champions in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and GBV was developed and used to train 130 male religious leaders and 250 cultural leaders in the six counties.

As a result, these male champions have implemented individual initiatives such as using traditional male spaces and community advocacy to cascade their learning to peers to expand the pool of male champions. In addition, County Action Plans were developed for the implementation of such community initiatives.

**Women and girls who experience violence are empowered to use available, accessible, and good quality essential services and recover from violence**

In total, more than 8,500 men, women, and children were reached to promote women’s economic empowerment and prevent violence against women among female small-scale farmers; to discuss and prevent violence against women among male champions of diverse ages and social status in the communities though goat-eating sessions; and to sensitize children through Kings and Queens Clubs at schools on the referral pathways and how to actively protect themselves from sexual and gender-based violence.

The Survivors of Sexual Violence Network was established to advocate for better services for sexual and gender-based violence survivors. In addition, seven GBV Working Groups were established in nine counties, and these are expected to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors.

UN Women also continued to support the national GBV helpline (1195) to provide services and link survivors to urgent medico-legal and psychosocial support. This enabled 2,473 survivors to reach out for information and services in 2018.
Women support. Furthermore, the development of the second KNAP was initiated. The Government of Kenya’s commitment to the UNSCR 1325 agenda was seen in the 29.8 per cent increase in the KNAP budget, from KES 62 million for the 2017/2018 financial year to 80.5 million for 2018/2019.

In recognition of the 18th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, UN Women — in partnership with the Kenyan government and the Embassy of Finland — organized a High-level Peer Review Meeting that brought together experiences from Kenya, Somalia, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Finland. The meeting provided an opportunity to celebrate achievements on the implementation of various National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 and to create
In line with UNSCR 1325 and 2242, UN Women strengthened the capacity of over 5,000 women at the coast and in the north-eastern region of Kenya to **prevent violent extremism** in their communities.

a platform for technical experts to share lessons learned, best practices, as well as barriers to promoting women's meaningful participation in peace and security.

UN Women also continued to build the evidence base on women, peace, and security as well as emerging issues in the field such as preventing and countering violent extremism by producing five knowledge products. These will guide evidence-based policy and programming and assist peace and security stakeholders to mainstream gender in county-level efforts to battle violent extremism.

**Women’s representation and leadership is increased in formal and informal peace negotiations**

In line with UNSCR 1325 and 2242, UN Women strengthened the capacity of over

5,000 women at the coast and in the north-eastern region of Kenya to prevent violent extremism in their communities. This was done in partnership with six civil society organizations working on gender and human rights.

**Women’s and girls’ safety, physical and mental health, and security are assured, and their human rights respected**

A gender pillar was included in the National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism by the National Counter Terrorism Centre. At the county level, gender was mainstreamed in the Countering Violent Extremism County Action Plans of Wajir and Mandera.

UN Women and its partners built on the gains made in previous partnerships with the International Peace Support Training Centre and the Ministry of Defence by continuing to disseminate the 2017 Ministry of Defence Gender Policy to raise

**Notes:**


3 Mombasa, Kilifi, and Kwale.

4 Wajir.

5 Japan Centre for Conflict Prevention, Human Rights Agenda, Muslims for Human Rights, Moving the Goalposts, Wajir Women for Peace, and Wajir Peace and Development Agency.
awareness and build ownership of the policy.

UN Women also supported the International Peace Support Training Centre to train 49 senior and mid-level officers preparing for deployment to the African Union Mission in Somalia on gender and sexual and gender-based violence, as part of the mandatory Kenya Defence Force pre-deployment training. The centre also held a targeted training for 40 female soldiers to increase their eligibility for deployment to the African Union Mission in Somalia.

At the global level, UN Women continued to promote the deployment of women to peace support operations by organizing the 11th UN Female Military Officers Course in Nairobi. The course has successfully increased the number of qualified women officers in UN peacekeeping operations, as 75 per cent of alumni have been deployed to peacekeeping operations or are currently undergoing pre-deployment training.

**Socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls is promoted in post-conflict situations**

To reduce the incidence of women and girls turning to extremist groups for economic reasons, UN Women partnered with civil society organizations to support livelihood training in hotspot counties affected by violent extremism, guided by a UN Women–supported study. As a result, 1,025 women and youth were equipped with skills on income-generating activities and livelihood opportunities in three counties. The training also provided busi-
ness linkages, which have led to women establishing small businesses.

In response to the rising inter-communal and pastoral violence due to growing competition for natural resources and various environmental shocks, UN Women and its partners engaged 46 women community leaders from Turkana and West Pokot to provide leadership in gender-responsive resource-based conflict management. Furthermore, UN Women supported the development of a county-specific action plan for West Pokot to give state and non-state actors guidance on the coordination of these women community leaders in their peace work.

**Humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction policies, strategies, and coordination processes are gender responsive**

UN Women supported various stakeholders in making their disaster risk reduction/management policies and strategies gender responsive:

2. The National Drought Management Authority’s Strategic Plan 2018–2022 and institutional gender-mainstreaming guidelines
4. Disaster risk management policies and programmes of Baringo and Turkana Counties

Further, 150 county staff were reached on gender and disaster risk reduction through two sensitization forums held in Turkana and Kilifi Counties and two trainings held in Marsabit and Wajir Counties.

UN Women continued to strengthen the capacity of both state and non-state actors to promote the inclusion and meaningful participation of women, men, boys, and girls in decision making in the humanitarian and disaster risk reduction sectors at national and county levels. Fifty humanitarian stakeholders in Turkana County developed an action plan on sexual and gender-based violence referral mechanisms.

In addition, 35 refugee and host community leaders in Kalobeyei Integrated

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1,025 women and youth were equipped with skills on income-generating activities and livelihood opportunities in three counties
Settlement were sensitized on existing referral mechanisms and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee sexual and gender-based violence protection guidelines. As a result, existing referral gaps were identified, which is expected to increase the accountability of the referral system in the settlement.

UN Women strengthened the capacity of state, non-state, humanitarian, and disaster risk reduction actors to mainstream gender into humanitarian needs assessments and programming. Firstly, the Kenya Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment curriculum and other existing tools were reviewed and made gender responsive. Secondly, a humanitarian network, embedded in the existing eight humanitarian hubs in Kenya, was established to further strengthen collaboration and gender capacities. Eighty members from five hubs were trained on gender mainstreaming in disaster risk management, and simultaneously the hub coordination was strengthened. The humanitarian network is expected to play a vital role in advocating for gender equality and women’s empowerment and providing advisory services on gender inclusion to the humanitarian hubs in contingency planning, assessments, and response.

UN Women also commissioned two studies to expand the evidence base to inform gender-responsive multisectoral humanitarian/crisis response.

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8 Sector data collection tools, checklists, interview guides, and reporting templates.

9 1) Gender Assessment of Kalobeyei Settlement and Kakuma Camp: Determining the Level of Gender Mainstreaming in Key Coordination Structures and 2) The Impact of Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement and Host Community.
5 NATIONAL AND DEVOLVED PLANNING FULLY REFLECTS ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY COMMITMENTS AND PRIORITIES

Service delivery at the national level and in selected counties is gender responsive and gender equitable

UN Women supported strengthening the capacity of the Council of Governors on gender-responsive planning and budgeting through the letter of agreement between UN Women and the council for the 2018/2019 financial year. The accomplishments include the following:

1. The Council of Governors’ Gender Action Plan 2019–2022, which will be implemented by the Kenya Network of Women Governors and Women Deputy Governors

2. County-specific Gender Data Sheets from ten select counties,\(^1\) meant to generate evidence for counties to plan, track, and report on budget allocations and expenditures

3. The secondment of gender advisors to the Council of Governors and to Kitui, Bomet, and Turkana Counties, with gender mainstreaming enhanced in County Integrated Development Plans, budgets, and sector priorities as a result

4. Two initiatives to support county authorities in gender equality and women’s empowerment: a) the Coun-\(^{1}\)Bomet, Kitui, Kirinyaga, Turkana, Kakamega, Baringo, Kilifi, Meru, Kisumu, and Marsabit.

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\(^1\)Bomet, Kitui, Kirinyaga, Turkana, Kakamega, Baringo, Kilifi, Meru, Kisumu, and Marsabit.
cil of Governors and other partners\(^2\) convened induction meetings for County Executive Committees and county officers responsible for gender from all 47 counties; b) the Council of Governors developed a user-based checklist for budget practitioners, including County Executive Committee members responsible for gender and finance, technical officers, and directors.

UN Women and its partners reviewed the second phase (2017–2022) of County Integrated Development Plans and provided technical assistance to ensure the plans included the Sustainable Development Goals, gender, disaster risk reduction, environment, human rights, and HIV/AIDS. The analysis of the 47 development plans showed that all 47 counties established county ministries responsible for gender equality and women’s empowerment issues and allocated some budget for these activities.

The County Assemblies Forum was supported to develop, launch, and roll out a leadership training curriculum for women members of county assemblies for effective delivery of devolution. As a consequence, 457 female members of county assemblies had an opportunity to develop their leadership skills. The curriculum will be anchored to the Kenya School of Government to ensure sustainability.

UN Women initiated the process of drafting a gender policy for county assemblies and compiling a gender audit. The two documents are expected to be launched in early 2019.


Participants at the Fifth Annual Devolution Conference, held in April 2018
THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN Women supported Kenya’s preparations for the 62nd and 63rd sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. UN Women provided technical assistance for the 62nd session through the development of the Country Position Paper, which emphasized the significant role played by rural women and girls in ensuring household food security, environmental sustainability, and social transformation.

UN Women provided support to the State Department of Gender Affairs in preparation of the Country Position Paper for the 63rd session, which highlights measures undertaken by the Kenyan government to accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment through social protection, public services, and sustainable infrastructure development.

UN Women provided technical support in the development of the first ever strategic plan (2018–2022) for the State Department of Gender Affairs. The plan outlines five thematic areas[^1] and the commitment to effectively deliver gender-responsive services to the people of Kenya.

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COMMUNICATING UN WOMEN RESULTS

Twelve monthly newsletters were produced to enhance the communication of UN Women results. Special editions were published on International Women’s Day and for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Additional special issues were done on youth engagement and gender statistics. The newsletter was published on the UN Kenya website[^2] and disseminated widely to key partners.

The UN Women communications team coordinated various events throughout 2018: 1) International Women’s Day; 2) International Widows Day; 3) the Fifth Annual Devolution Conference; and 4) several internal and external events around 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Internally, in partnership with the office of the Director-General of the UN Office at Nairobi, the team organized a town hall meeting to trigger conversations around gender parity within the United Nations, as part of the Secretary-General’s reform agenda.

HEFORSHE CAMPAIGN

UN Women and its partners organized the #HearMeToo Campus Edition Gala Night Competition at the University of Nairobi and an exhibition on the referral pathways to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment and other forms of GBV in universities, where GBV is rampant. Inter-university dialogue agreed on gaps and recommendations on sexual harassment and other forms of GBV in universities, [https://www.genderinkenya.org](https://www.genderinkenya.org).

[^1]: Gender policy management, research, and gender mainstreaming; social economic empowerment; elimination of GBV and harmful practices; coordination and stakeholder engagement; institutional and organizational capacity strengthening.

highlighting the importance of student-centred GBV policies, gender desks, and psychological services.

## COORDINATION

UN Women continued to engage with the new UN Development Assistance Framework roll-out process, ensuring gender and UN Women mandate areas were positioned appropriately in discussions on the implementation and reporting. In addition, UN Women convened and led other UN agencies to prepare its submission to the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on violence against women in politics.³

The adoption of a proposal to provide GBV-related services under the Universal Health Coverage scheme was significant. It ensures that survivors of violence in Kenya can access medical and psycho-social services in all parts of the country. UN Women used its coordination mandate and authority as the lead on ending violence against women to work with the World Health Organization in bringing together these actors to develop and submit costed proposals for providing GBV-related services under Universal Health Coverage: experts from other UN agencies who are part of the Joint Programme on GBV; the national gender machinery; county governments, represented by the Council of Governors; key ministries; and strategic GBV response and advocacy actors.

The first progress report on the implementation of the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Action Plan recommendations was endorsed by the UN Country Team. The report assessed the extent of the UN Country Team’s leadership in ensuring the implementation of the recommendations to improve how the UN is accountable for addressing issues of gender equality.

CHALLENGES

- **Funding and coordination of the Joint Programme on GBV.** The implementation faces challenges due to lack of funding. However, all the partners have implemented activities through their parallel funds, and some progress has been made. Many efforts remain disjointed, as the government faces challenges effectively engaging civil society and other private actors, especially at the grass-roots level.

- **Timing of women’s economic empowerment activities and quality of implementation.** Competing interests resulted in limited attendance of some activities. The tight schedule to implement the women’s economic empowerment activities under the letters of agreement with the Council of Governors and the State Department of Gender Affairs put strain on both UN Women and the implementing partners, and occasionally compromised the quality of implementation.

LESSONS LEARNED

Democratic governance

- **Sustain the momentum to have male leaders lobby for the enactment of the two-thirds gender bill.** Sustain the momentum and media coverage created by the national male leaders\(^1\) and the majority leader in parliament, Hon. Aden Duale, until the bill is next tabled in parliament.

- **Sustain the development and launch of curricula and knowledge products under democratic governance.** This included recording and institutionalizing the work and knowledge products that were housed in institutions such as the Council of Governors, Kenya School of Government, the Society of Clerks at the Table, and the County Assemblies Forum. Launching products provided significant media coverage.

- **Work increasingly through government bodies, in addition to non-state actors, to promote women’s leadership.** A balanced approach to democracy emerged from investing in the devolved side of government through the Council of Governors; the legislative side through the County Assemblies Forum, the Society of Clerks at the Table, and Kenya Women Parliamentary Association; and the citizenry and grass-roots side through various non-state actors. This is a good model, which further enhances the interconnectivity of UN Women’s support.

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\(^1\) H.E. the President, H.E. the Deputy President, and opposition leader, Hon. Raila Odinga.
Women’s economic empowerment

- **Ensure the presence of the County Director of Procurement, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, the AGPO Secretariat, and UN Women in AGPO activities.** The presence of the County Director of Procurement is cardinal during AGPO training, during on-site monitoring visits, and for successfully implementing action plans as agreed during capacity-building forums. The inclusion of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority and the AGPO Secretariat ensures successful delivery and credibility.

- **Enhance the relationships between relevant government institutions on AGPO.** The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority and the National Treasury: The cluster-based trainings and on-site support forums on AGPO have been instrumental in building a stronger partnership. This has resulted in regular meetings between the authority and the National Treasury to address issues around the timely transmission of the list of suppliers from the National Treasury to the authority. Now every Friday, a list of AGPO suppliers is forwarded to the authority for uploading on its public portal. The AGPO Secretariat and the County Treasuries: There appears to be a disconnect between the two bodies and the reality on the ground, as the County Treasuries have issued AGPO certificates against the law. The National Treasury and the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority need to put in place a mechanism to maintain a regularly updated database of all AGPO-certified companies, since AGPO certification is the entry point to doing business with the government.

Gender-based violence

**Support the Joint Programme on GBV.** The State Department of Gender Affairs depended heavily on the leadership of UN Women in the implementation of the joint programme. It is necessary to create a clear understanding of UN Women’s role in providing technical and operational support, and the coordination role of the government needs to be supported.

Women, peace, and security

- **Benefit from political will in women, peace, and security activities.** Political will is essential for creating an enabling environment for the implementation of women, peace, and security commitments, through policy and legal frameworks and accountability mechanisms.

- **Create ownership of women, peace, and security activities through enhanced coordination.** Creation of multisectoral and inter-departmental coordination frameworks – including government line ministries and engagement with civil society organizations and the private sector – is key for ownership purposes.
• **Continue to mainstream gender in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism to guarantee sustainability.** There is weak understanding among some key stakeholders of the concept of gender and why it matters in interventions to combat violent extremism, and additional sensitization is important.

• **Involve key stakeholders in gender policy development to ensure ownership.** The involvement of Kenya Defence Force Service Commandants was critical for enhanced ownership of the Ministry of Defence Gender Policy and will ensure buy-in and commitment in the implementation of the policy.

**Coordination**

**Ensure buy-in from the other UN agencies and the availability of the necessary gender expertise among all stakeholders to ensure effective coordination.** The integration of a GBV package of services in the Universal Health Care scheme is an example of a good practice for effective coordination. Buy-in and initiative from agencies leading areas beyond UN Women’s operational mandate needs to be ensured. In addition, it is important to ensure that the necessary gender expertise – from among UN, non-state, and state actors – is made available to support gender mainstreaming.

**2018 FINANCIAL REPORT**

1. Making every woman and girl count
2. Gender-responsive legislative policies
3. Women in peace and security
4. Ending violence against women and girls
5. Women’s economic empowerment
6. Women in governance

![Bar chart showing financial data for 2018]