

# WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY

2020-2021

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# WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY

2020-2021

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# FORWARD AND INTRODUCTION

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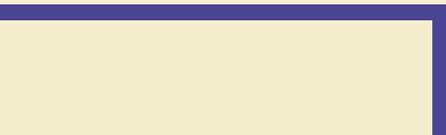


## Executive Director

**Ms Sima Bahous**

*Twenty-two years ago, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (2000) based on the recognition that peace and security are not achievable without the active and meaningful participation of women. Despite the passage of nine subsequent resolutions and advances in related policy and practice—all of which together comprise the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda—too few women are represented in peace and security decision making. Instead, global security has deteriorated, precipitating a dramatic escalation of military expenditure. At the same time, women’s peacebuilding efforts continue to be underfunded and undermined. The realization of peace and security remains distant for far too many. This report highlights areas of notable concern and of progress since that landmark resolution.*

Reports of sexual violence are increasing in the ongoing war in Ukraine. Millions of civilians, mostly women, children and older persons, have fled their homes. In



Afghanistan, women's rights have been deconstructed by the Taliban and women are painfully absent from public spaces. Across the world, the climate emergency continues to destabilize communities. While there is progress in some countries, in many others, women's rights are being undermined. Cumulatively, this is posing unprecedented challenges to global peace and security. These are challenges that the WPS agenda is uniquely suited to solve.

Women peacebuilders are meeting these challenges head on. Despite a lack of funding and other support and, in many cases, at great personal risk, they continue to mobilize constituencies for peace, hold decision-makers accountable, mediate conflict and successfully stand up for human rights.

In Colombia, the recently released report by the Truth Commission underscored the grave human rights violations that women experienced during the long years of conflict there. Women activists' tireless advocacy and community mobilization have now been validated by the Government, which has committed to implementing the report's recommendations. In Ukraine, UN Women's recent [\*rapid assessment\*](#)

highlighted the many women-focused civil society organizations on the frontlines that serve people even as conflict rages. In every crisis, from the Sahel to Ethiopia to Syria and Haiti and more, we must support such women leaders. We must listen to and respond to their many urgent needs, such as for funding and for a meaningful role in decision-making, whether in relation to humanitarian relief, peace talks or reconstruction plans. The progress to date that this report records is most welcome. However, in the context of the current challenges, we are all impatient for accelerated progress. We need ambitious and strategic responses that close the gender gap and move us towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

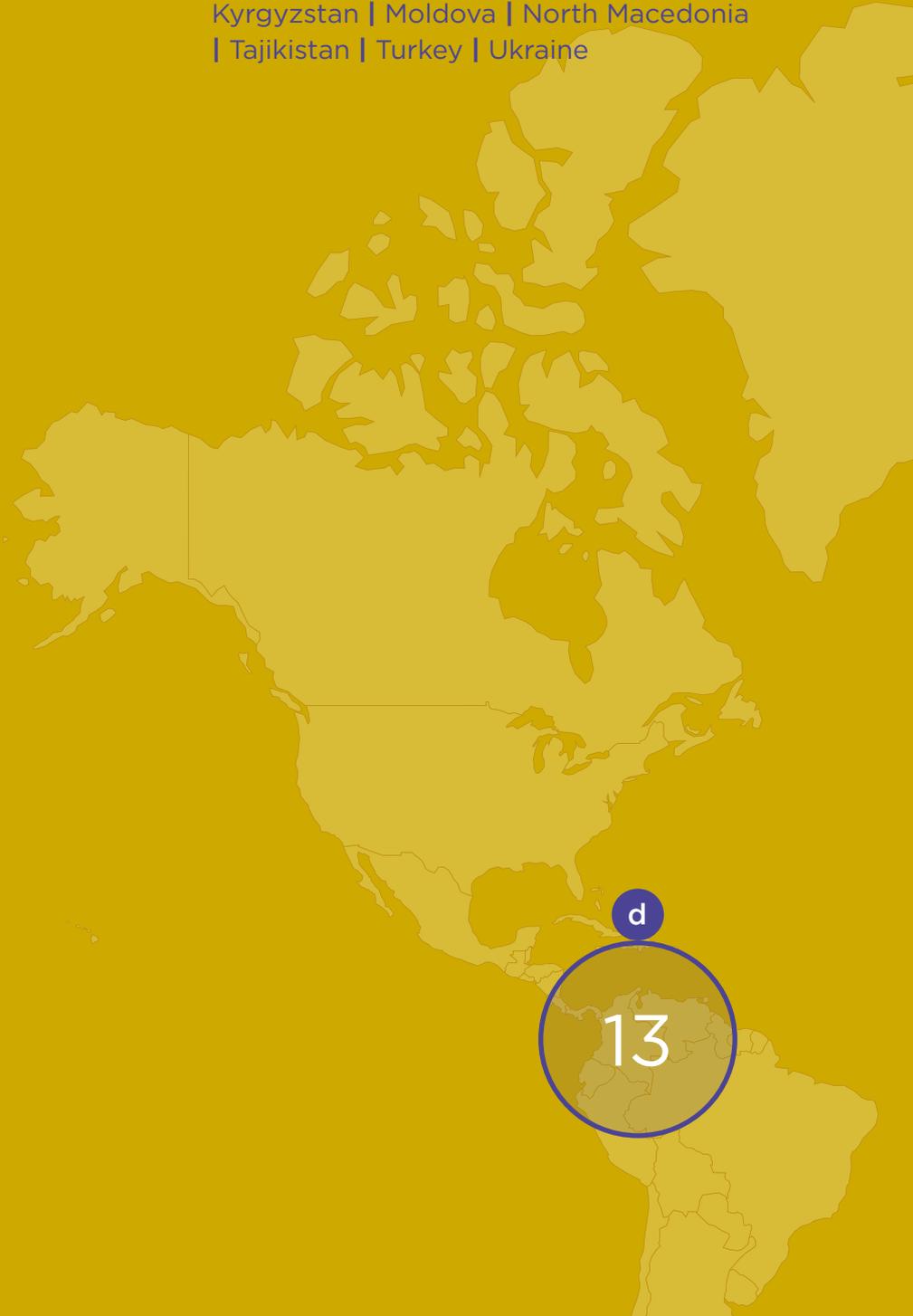
I therefore ask that all of us in the multilateral system defend our shared values and commitments with the same determination as has been demonstrated by the women's movement. In honouring women's central roles in finding peaceful solutions, we will foster and benefit from societies that are more just, inclusive and durable. Only these can stop the drivers of conflict and shape a new history, one not of constant crises but of lasting peace.

# WHERE WE WORKED IN 2020–2021

a.

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Albania | Bosnia and Herzegovina  
| Georgia | Kosovo<sup>1</sup> | Kazakhstan |  
Kyrgyzstan | Moldova | North Macedonia  
| Tajikistan | Turkey | Ukraine



d.

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Argentina | Barbados (multi-country  
office) | Bolivia | Brazil | Chile | Colombia  
| Ecuador | El Salvador | Guatemala |  
Haiti | Honduras | Mexico | Uruguay

b.

**ARAB STATES**

Egypt | Iraq | Jordan | Lebanon |  
Morocco | State of Palestine | Syria |  
Tunisia | United Arab Emirates | Yemen

c.

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Afghanistan | Bangladesh | China | Fiji  
(multi-country office) | India (multi-  
country office) | Indonesia | Myanmar  
| Pakistan | Papua New Guinea |  
Philippines | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Timor-  
Leste | Viet Nam



e.

**EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Burundi | Ethiopia | Kenya | Malawi  
| Mozambique | Rwanda | Somalia |  
South Africa (multi-country office) |  
South Sudan | Sudan | Uganda | United  
Republic of Tanzania | Zimbabwe

f.

**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

Cameroon | Cape Verde | Central African  
Republic | Chad | Democratic Republic  
of the Congo | Guinea-Bissau | Liberia |  
Mali | Niger | Nigeria | Senegal | Sierra  
Leone | Togo

COMMEMORATING  
20 YEARS OF  
RESOLUTION 1325



In October 2020, UN Women marked 20 years of the Security Council’s historic resolution 1325, which launched the women, peace and security agenda in the United Nations. Since then, women have made striking gains in political leadership as well as peace and security. They led the quest for peace in Liberia, signed a peace agreement for the first time in Somalia, took part in the first all-women peacekeeping unit, put a spotlight on rape in war, helped secure a groundbreaking treaty on arms trade, pushed through historic provisions in Colombia’s peace process and exposed the tyranny of violent extremism, among many other advances.

The anniversary became a moment for women to claim their rights and power as peacemakers, peacebuilders and leaders. As part of the celebrations, UN Women launched the “Women, Peace, Power” campaign. It combined compelling digital content and virtual events with social media promotion and media advocacy. The campaign highlighted women’s successes in advancing sustainable peace and justice and called for their systematic inclusion in all aspects of peace, on a sustained and meaningful scale.

Data and stories from women peacebuilders proliferated in multiple

2020 – 2021



languages over UN Women's social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

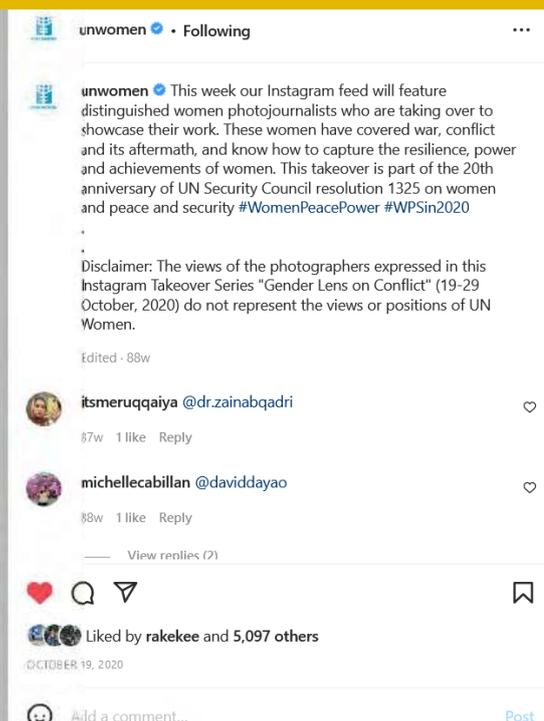
## The #WomenPeacePower hashtag garnered over 108,000 interactions, with an estimated reach of nearly 38 million

The #WomenPeacePower hashtag garnered over 108,000 interactions, with

an estimated reach of nearly 38 million.

Five renowned women photojournalists took over UN Women's corporate Instagram account with its 1.7 million followers. Each posted up to six examples of her work documenting conflicts and humanitarian crises. The takeover collectively reached 481,728 followers.

With the Security Council's annual Open Debate on the women, peace and security agenda forced to move online due





to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women streamed the event YouTube and Facebook, in addition to an online broadcast by UNTV. UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Danai Gurira, an American actor and playwright, took part, with an Instagram post of her speech receiving nearly 18,300 likes and a video on Twitter capturing nearly 17,000 views.

All told, UN Women led or co-hosted over 25 global, regional and country events to celebrate the anniversary. Media coverage topped 130 articles in multiple regions. An op-ed by UN Women's Executive Director, "Investing in Feminist Peace", was published

by Project Syndicate and ran in 21 publications in 18 countries. The piece calls out overinvestment in defence and weapons and underinvestment in women-led peace initiatives.

Country-level events included **Ukraine's "Women Are Key to Peace"** media campaign. More than 21.7 million people heard stories of women's bravery in conflict-affected communities and on the frontlines of peacebuilding. The campaign profiled doctors, teachers, entrepreneurs, military veterans, community activists, students and other women who have overcome challenges caused by conflict and helped others do the same.

## Telling the stories of women making peace

Too often, the narrative of women in war and conflict is that of victimhood.

Yet there are countless stories of women across the globe who are actively working to prevent conflict, recover from crisis and build peace, sometimes putting their own lives at risk. UN Women uses innovative and engaging

leaders, changemakers and activists.

In 2020, as part of marking the twentieth anniversary of resolution 1325, UN Women partnered for the second time with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security on the [Seeking Peace podcast](#). Audio diaries recorded by local women peace activists provided listeners with direct access to their lives and incredible work. The second season of the show saw over 17,300 downloads, primarily from Apple Podcasts. Cross promotion included collaboration with *Foreign Policy*, the World Humanitarian Forum, Carnegie, Wonder Media, Natal Stories and the Stoop. *Ms. Magazine* ran four podcast interviews as written Q&As.

Activists who took part in the Seeking Peace podcast drew additional visibility through posts on their social media accounts.

They applauded the support given to their work. “The more I hear myself spontaneously talking about the things I shared... the more I realized how important everything



communications to shine a spotlight on their side of the story as peacebuilders, decision-makers, peacekeepers, community



2020 – 2021

“The more I hear myself spontaneously talking about the things I shared... the more I realized how important everything I did to help women in my community!”

**Rawan Khalfallah from Libya**

I did to help women in my community!” said Rawan Khalfallah from Libya. “And how much more needs to be done.”

Clemencia Carabalí Rodallega from Colombia commented, “(The podcast) helps make our work visible so that these events are not repeated. It supports our work as human rights defenders. We have to keep looking for ways to find safety for everyone.”

A second podcast supported by UN Women, #HerStories, featured interviews

## BOX 2

***Harnessing the power of technology***

UN Women has increasingly turned to information and communications technology to drive progress on resolution 1325, using it to bring people together, including across barriers imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure broader access to information.

In the **Arab States**, UN Women in 2020 deepened links among civil society actors, mediation teams and peacemaking actors through the PeaceFem app. For the first time, it compiles data from several academic institutions to show the complete cycle of how women influence peace agreements, the provisions that result and the level of implementation, information key to effective advocacy. The app emerged through collaboration with Inclusive Peace, the Political Settlements Research Program and Monash University's Gender, Peace and Security Centre.

In Nigeria, UN Women partnered with International Alert to launch a website dedicated to women, peace and security that serves as a repository of national and international resources and best practices. It also hosts a community of practice for government institutions, security agencies, development partners, civil society organizations,

women groups and networks, students, researchers and the media.

A new database of 320 influential women and youth mobilizing for peace and security in Yemen has given visibility to their efforts. It has also become a resource for understanding current skills and needs for additional capacities.

Globally, UN Women supported in-person and virtual consultations with women peacebuilders at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, capturing data on pandemic impacts on the lives and work of women peacebuilders. The data were included in a new database on the nexus of humanitarian emergencies and women, peace and security. The database provides policymakers, programme designers and academics with evidence to inform gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive and locally informed analyses and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN Women's Women Count Data Hub offers updated data on gender-specific SDG indicators, including on women, peace, and security under SDG 16. It helps draw attention to concerns such as declining aid for gender equality and women's rights programmes in fragile and conflict-affected countries.



with 21 women from the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network. They described the network's impact on their work in promoting women in peacebuilding, using storytelling to reveal how they overcame obstacles. Nearly 2,000 listeners tuned in.

UN Women also supported visual storytelling, partnering in 2021 with the UN Department of Peace Operations and Photoville on the ["In Their Hands: Women Taking Ownership of Peace"](#) photo exhibition. It illuminated the stories of local women peacebuilders as seen through the lenses of local

half a million people viewed the exhibition, which featured 14 women peace activists in conflict and post-conflict settings,

women photographers. At the Photoville Festival in late 2021, half a million people viewed the exhibition, which featured 14 women peace activists in conflict and post-conflict settings, including Central African

Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. The UN Secretary-General highlighted the exhibit in his introductory remarks to the Security Council's Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security in October 2021.

In Lebanon, UN Women launched an award winning campaign called [#TheMissingPeace](#). It aims to raise awareness about the importance of including women in national dialogues and peacebuilding negotiations. Over the past 40 years, no women have taken part in peace talks in Lebanon. On 15 November 2021, in partnership with Twitter Mena and Lebanon's two largest national media outlets, UN Women removed 50 per cent of the letters from the news to denounce the exclusion of women. In just one day, the campaign garnered over 690 million impressions, reached 93.1 million followers across 61 countries and trended organically for three days. [A short YouTube video details the campaign's impact.](#)

## Our Partners

UN Women does not work alone. Our strategic partners and dedicated champions leverage our triple mandate to work on the development of norms and standards, coordinate the UN system on gender equality and deliver programmes to advance the women, peace and security agenda. Working with partners makes progress happen faster and reach further.



In human rights investigations, a roster stands ready to provide gender expertise

UN Women hosts the Secretariat

ELSIE INITIATIVE FUND FOR UNIFORMED WOMEN IN PEACE OPERATIONS

WOMEN'S PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN FUND

UN Women convenes people and coordinates change

THE UN STANDING COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY  
*(chair)*

THE GENDER WORKING GROUP OF THE UN GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION COMPACT  
*(chair)*

2020 – 2021



WOMEN, PEACE  
AND SECURITY  
FOCAL POINTS  
NETWORK

INFORMAL EXPERT  
GROUP ON  
WOMEN, PEACE  
AND SECURITY

GENERATION  
EQUALITY WOMEN,  
PEACE, AND  
SECURITY AND  
HUMANITARIAN  
ACTION COMPACT

UN ACTION AGAINST  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
IN CONFLICT  
*(member)*

GLOBAL FOCAL POINT  
ON RULE OF LAW  
*(member)*

AFRICAN WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP NETWORK  
*(co-facilitator with the  
Office of the African Union  
Special Envoy on Women,  
Peace and Security)*



# HOW WE DELIVER





UN Women triple mandate to work on women, peace and security is unique. At the global, regional, and country levels, we provide normative support, coordination of the UN system and programmes to deliver immediate changes in women's lives. These three pieces operate in a dynamic feedback loop. Norms and policies set the terms and objectives for actions implemented through coordination and programmes. At the same time, evidence from programmes and advocacy through coordination help continually push agreed standards for progress.

UN Women's network of country experts, regional policy advisers, global community of practice and knowledge management strategy and other mechanisms back ongoing real-time collaboration on thematic and geographic priorities around the world.

## Policy advice and advocacy

UN Women's normative function builds on policy advice and advocacy, from the local to global arenas. We engage with the Security Council through our stewardship of the Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security. Programme experiences, research and analysis with UN coordination mechanisms feed into contributions to the Secretary-General's Executive Committee, which addresses pressing peace, security and other issues cutting across the activities of the UN system.

Our close collaboration with civil society actors generates policy analysis grounded in evidence; it also ensures that women regularly share their perspectives at the Security Council, something that just a few years ago was exceedingly rare.

## SECURITY COUNCIL

The adaptation of working methods during the pandemic affected progress on women, peace and security at the Security Council. The share of women among civil society members briefing the Council decreased in the first half of 2020, dropping 40 per cent compared to the first half of 2019. But by the end of the year, with UN Women's support, 28 women civil society representatives had spoken to the Council, split evenly between thematic and country-specific meetings.



In 2021 a record-breaking 45 women spoke in country-specific meetings and 15 in thematic meetings

## In 2021, a record-breaking 45 women spoke in country-specific meetings and 15 in thematic meetings.

The Council heard about Syrian soldiers removing baby formula from aid trucks and dumping it on the ground, about Yemeni mothers whose children have survived so many bombings that they are now fearful of the sound of rain, and about the continued sale of Yazidi women online. Caroline Atim from South Sudan used sign language to brief the Council on the multiple forms

of discrimination faced by women with disabilities, despite resolution 2475 on protecting persons with disabilities in conflict.

The increase in targeted attacks against women leaders, activists and human rights defenders frequently came up, including against women who have briefed the Council. Reports submitted by peacekeeping and special political missions and monitoring teams or panels of experts servicing sanctions regimes provided more detailed information about these incidents. In resolutions on Afghanistan, Libya and South Sudan, the Council explicitly recognized the need to protect women's rights organizations from threats and reprisals.

Colombian Human Rights Activist Celia Umenza Velasco and Bineta Diop with the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) brief the Security Council remotely during the 2021 Open Debate on WPS.



At the [2021 United Nations Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security](#), Celia Umenza Velasco, Legal Coordinator for the Indigenous Reservation of Tacueyó, spoke on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. She reminded the Council:

*“Peace is more than the absence of war. To Indigenous women, it means an end to discrimination, respect for human rights, justice, economic equality and transformative change with human life at its center.... Women around the world show you daily that they have courage and the conviction to fight for peace. Today, we call on you to fight for us all.”*





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## INFORMAL EXPERTS GROUP

The [\*Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security\*](#) holds regular meetings on country-specific situations, providing space for Security Council members to take coordinated action. Its analysis and recommendations are shared with capitals and embassies and distributed around the UN system, through women, peace and security networks, and by other regional and international

organizations such as the World Bank. Meetings are scheduled ahead of negotiations in the Security Council. For example, shortly after the group hosted one of the first high-level meetings on pandemic fallout on women, peace and security, the Council's first resolution on COVID-19 called for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the pandemic response.

The Informal Expert Group's meeting on Libya took place as [\*the Council was debating\*](#)

resolutions to deploy a ceasefire monitoring mechanism. Agreed text touched on several recommendations, including “to protect women, including those participating in public spaces, from threats and reprisals”, and for the

interim Government of National Unity to make election “arrangements to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women”.

As an example of impact on the ground, multiple meetings on **Mali** by the

### BOX 3

#### *A community cultivates expertise*

UN Women’s Women, Peace and Security Community of Practice links experts working in a variety of contexts. As a closed community, it creates strong internal bonds, enhances trust and builds a safe space for communication and collaboration. Hosted 18 webinars in 2020, reaching 1043 participants, and 21 in 2021, reaching 1,662 participants.

After a webinar shared the experiences of UN Women-deployed gender experts as investigators in commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, UN Women staff in countries with investigations discussed how to advocate action on recommendations. UN Women commissioned a report, completed in 2020, tracking all recommendations. This shapes advocacy and awareness-raising to advance

implementation by countries and the United Nations.

A special subcommunity on peacebuilding has improved UN Women’s proposals to the Peacebuilding Fund’s Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative. It offers an example of how communities can leverage expertise for targeted skills-building. Successful proposals rose from one in 2020 to six in 2021.

The community as a whole has become a conduit for other partnerships and awareness-raising. Through it, UN Women fosters a strong collaborative partnership with DCAF - The Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Joint webinars tackle emerging and critical



2020 — 2021

topics and have shaped a gender and security sector toolkit. In 2021, six joint webinars open to the public brought together 900 key stakeholders, partners and practitioners.

Collaboration with Apolitical provided nearly 1,100 civil servants from over 68 countries with an introduction to the basic concepts of the women, peace and security agenda. This initiative built a base of understanding and support for policies and programmes to advance the agenda.

Informal Expert Group contributed to advocacy on women's participation in bodies monitoring the peace agreement, which jumped from 3 to 30 percent.

## NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

The COVID-19 pandemic presented obstacles to women, peace and security but also lessons on how to leverage national action plans to respond to challenging circumstances. UN Women worked with partners and provided technical, coordination and financial support to develop and

practices such as monitoring frameworks, now in place for 86 plans. Continued engagement through regional and country offices accompanies the steering of knowledge-sharing networks to effect change in local communities.

In **Lebanon**, UN Women actively supported the Government to draft and adopt its first national action plan in 2019 which led to a record number of women (34 per cent) to become Lebanese Armed Forces military cadets.

In **Jordan**, UN Women in partnership with the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), increased women's participation in the Jordanian security sector. The number of women in senior leadership and high-ranking positions increased from 4.7% to 5.5% and 1% to 1.6% within the CDD and the Gendarmerie respectively. Women's representation from Jordan in UN Peacekeeping Missions increased from an average of 8% in 2019 to 18% in 2020.

By the end of 2021, 99 NAPs have been adopted, covering over half of UN Member States

implement the plans plans. Fifteen first-generation plans, adopted during the reporting period mainly in Europe and Central Asia, brought the total number of adopted plans to 99<sup>2</sup>, covering over half of UN Member States. Between 2015 and 2021, UN Women supported more than 60 countries to develop and implement the plans, and institute best



In **Nigeria**, UN Women collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to adopt the “it takes the whole village” approach to localize the NAP there, including through support for capacity-building for state implementation committees set up to coordinate state action plans. Bi-weekly radio broadcasts in Bauchi and Benue states increased public awareness and support for the women, peace and security agenda in both states and beyond.

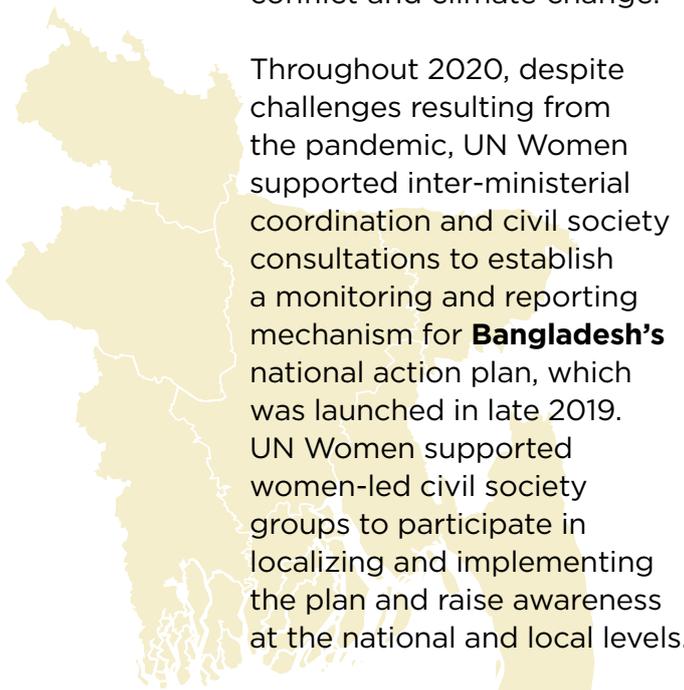
UN Women has worked closely with the Ministry of Social Policy, the leading institution for national action plan implementation in **Ukraine**, providing continuous technical and normative expertise on women, peace

and security. This resulted in the adoption of over 20 regional action plans and increased participation of women in developing the second national action plan adopted in 2020. About half of the recommendations made by conflict-affected women were integrated in the plan.

In **Myanmar**, UN Women held extensive consultations with women’s organizations in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States towards adopting and implementing state action plans. In **Mozambique**, UN Women with women’s civil society networks organized community radio debates on women, peace and security with a focus on COVID-19 impacts.



**Tajikistan** has accelerated implementation of its latest national action plan, the second in the country. Spanning 2019-2022, the plan has been important in border regions prone to conflict. It emphasizes women's participation and domestic policy reforms as well as leading-edge issues around sexual violence tied to conflict and climate change.



Throughout 2020, despite challenges resulting from the pandemic, UN Women supported inter-ministerial coordination and civil society consultations to establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism for **Bangladesh's** national action plan, which was launched in late 2019. UN Women supported women-led civil society groups to participate in localizing and implementing the plan and raise awareness at the national and local levels.

UN Women contributed to national, sub-regional, and regional women, peace and security action plans and strategies in 2020, including **Mexico's** Feminist Foreign

Policy, and plans by the **European Union** and the **Economic Community** of Central African States. Technical support and consultation space supported the development and adoption of the landmark plan for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. UN Women will continue to use diverse means to ensure that these frameworks are fully implemented.

UN Women's partnership with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (ASEAN) has galvanized strong regional political momentum behind the women, peace and security agenda. This has led to successful joint resource mobilization and the launch of a funded regional programme on women, peace and security, an unprecedented step for the Association. UN Women chronicled ASEAN's progress in a [\*flagship regional study\*](#) in 2021.



#### BOX 4

### *A national plan opens doors for women's success in brokering peace*

Customary practices usually allow few chances for women in *Timor-Leste* to be involved in conflict resolution. But that has begun to change through work on gender-responsive mediation under the national action plan on women, peace and security. UN Women's support for implementing the plan resulted in the Ministry of Interior institutionalizing plan commitments, including by increasing women's participation in conflict prevention. A drive to recruit and train women in mediation has resulted in creating a cadre of 39 women mediators. In three years, they have managed to resolve 25 civil disputes that in the past could have spurred violence and crime.

Joaquina Soares and Evelina da Costa Guterres have both successfully brokered peace in their communities, including through months of mediation efforts that culminated in a gathering of 1,000 community members who made a formal commitment to sustain peace.

Soares described how female mediators differ from male mediators. "We encourage dialogue at meetings and speak calmly. We continue analysing the conflict with the community until we know the root cause of the problem and follow up with many phone calls – to make sure tensions still don't exist."

Da Costa Guterres says they often have to find ways around the reluctance of many women to speak up in public. "We approach women in the village experiencing conflict, and it is easier for them to be open with us [because we are women]. Some women just don't have the courage yet to speak up and we can act on their behalf until they do come forward. When women are in the field, we make wide connections within the community and they are proud of us when we help solve the conflict."

## Conflict Prevention and Mediation

COVID-19 exacerbated conflict drivers in many places, underscoring the need for increasing women's participation in prevention at all levels. While still marginalized in many peace processes, women peacebuilders and women's civil society organizations in 2020 and 2021 proved vital in mobilizing support for the cessation of hostilities, inclusive ceasefires and comprehensive peace talks. UN Women helped them build skills as mediators and forge networks to power advocacy.

In **Nigeria**, UN Women provides continuous training on mediation and other components of conflict resolution and prevention, laying the ground for women's greater engagement in peacebuilding. We helped set up a coordination platform for government and non-governmental actors, development partners and UN organizations, initially to ease a farmer-herder conflict. As the model proved successful, it has been applied in addressing other conflicts in the country.

Following intensive UN Women-provided training on





mediation and other aspects of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, a network of 200 women mediators formed in Nigeria's Bauchi and Benue states. The network has mapped women's dialogue and mediation capacity and potential to respond to conflict. UN Women also helped the network broker links to other national and international mediation platforms, including Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth and FemWise West Africa, for mentoring and exchanges of good practices.

UN Women partnered with the Arab League to establish the Arab Women Mediators Network, devise a network strategy and train members on mediation skills and gender in peace processes. We helped launch the Namibia International Women Peace Centre in 2020, on the twentieth anniversary of resolution 1325. The centre champions excellence in mediation, inclusive peacemaking and conflict prevention.

UN Women continues to work with regional networks of women mediators including through the Global Alliance of Women Mediator Networks in collaboration with the UN Department of

Political and Peacekeeping Affairs. Partnership with Italy and the Mediterranean Women Mediators' Network backed the 2021 publication of three knowledge products on the role of the

#### BOX 5

### *Retooling amid COVID-19*

During the pandemic, UN Women ensured that women peacebuilders had tools to sustain their work in preventing conflict and building peace. For example, support provided to the Libyan Women's Network for Peacebuilding in establishing weekly Zoom and WhatsApp meetings enabled the network to link 36 women from across political, generational, and geographic divides to come together around their shared commitment to peace. As a result, the group was able to continue strategizing around bringing Libyan women into male-dominated decision-making and negotiation spaces, and mediating between the warring parties. To boost negotiating skills, UN Women supported online trainings conducted by Clingendael, the Netherlands Institute for International Relations.

Network members have been instrumental in highlighting the humanitarian needs of various population groups throughout the country, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the conflict. They have followed up on threats against women and youth activists and referred them to United Nations organizations; effectively advocated for releasing imprisoned activists; and worked with woman Members of Parliament to speak up on violence against women in politics.

United Nations, regional organizations and Member States in promoting women's participation in mediation and *peace processes as well as an empirical mapping of women as*

*peace mediators* which identifies good practices and explores the potential of regional networks of women mediators to bridge divides between multiple tracks of diplomacy.

#### BOX 6

### *Preventing small conflicts from becoming big ones*

"I became interested in becoming more active in my community after the political crisis of 2011. ... I could see how violence and conflict affected women much more than men," says Fatma Diamande.

She was among 50 women peace mediators who participated in a training-of-trainers organized by UN Women in Côte d'Ivoire in 2020. They have gone on to train more than 600 early warning monitors. The programme aimed to reduce political and ethnic tensions at the community level, while training women and youth in mediation, dialogue, social cohesion and gender-based violence prevention.

"My job is to listen to everyone and try to be supportive and prevent small conflicts from becoming big ones," explains Diamande, who is often consulted by authorities.

Gradually, a network created by the mediators has become a key referral point for gender-based violence survivors and their families, particularly in cases of child rape. "Parents often do not want to file a complaint out of shame or fear," shares Diamande. "But we also see that attitudes are beginning to change. Some mothers are encouraged, and we accompany them to make their voices heard, to present their case to the authorities.... We are at their side and in that sense, the role and responsibility we have as peace mediators is very important."

Our efforts encompass working with the UN Peacebuilding Commission, undertaking country-specific analyses and advancing gender-responsive programming.

Building and Sustaining Peace - UN Women





2020 – 2021

## Building and Sustaining Peace

In 2021, in *Our Common Agenda*, the UN Secretary-General proposed a new agenda for peace, with more investment in prevention and peacebuilding. UN Women plays an important role in promoting and developing gender-responsive efforts to build and sustain peace, including in response to the long-term impacts of the pandemic and compounding shocks from climate change. We support local peacebuilders and inform global policies with knowledge and experience on the ground. Our efforts encompass working with the UN Peacebuilding Commission, undertaking

country-specific analyses and advancing gender-responsive programming.

### MONITORING PROMISES OF EQUALITY AND PEACE

Even progressive peace agreements mean little without comprehensive implementation, which is why UN Women lends important support to women's groups in advocating and monitoring follow-up action. In **South Sudan**, despite delayed action on the peace agreement overall, ongoing work with women's groups achieved significant results in honouring gender provisions. The **number of women**

**ministers doubled**, from 5 to 9, or nearly 26 per cent of the total. One woman was appointed the Minister of Defense and another became the country's first female Vice President.

While the appointments are steps in the right direction, UN Women has continued supporting women in their call to fully realize the 35 per cent minimum quota for women's representation stipulated in the agreement. A South Sudanese women leaders' conference underscored the urgency

of this commitment, which was further echoed through a women, peace and security working group of key donors and partners and strategic media outreach.

UN Women provided high-level gender experts to support the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to engage with political parties and assess government capacity to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

Several significant advances in **Sudan**, coordinated in large part by UN Women, included dialogue on women's peace and security demands between women and top leaders in the Sudan Revolutionary Front and Sudan Sovereign Council. Women gained an accountability mechanism they had advocated for monitoring the Juba Peace Agreement and became part of five other monitoring mechanisms linked to the accord.



After **Mali's** coup in 2020, UN Women, in partnership with the Government and UN Mission, organized a high-level workshop on women's participation in monitoring and implementing the peace agreement. The meeting led to the creation of a parallel structure, the platform for

Malian women leaders, at the request of the transition authorities. The platform links the national chapter of the African Women Leaders Network and the Coordination des Associations et ONG féminines du Mali.



## Increasing women's representation from 0 to 31 per cent of committee members and crossing a 30 per cent quota for the first time.

Signatory parties subsequently agreed to nominate nine women to the agreement's Monitoring Committee, increasing women's representation from 0 to 31 per cent of committee members and crossing a 30 per cent quota for the first time.

### ENLARGING SPACE AT THE TABLE

UN Women continues to draw attention to the gaps in women's participation in peacebuilding and mobilize efforts to close them. In 2020, two iterations of **Libya's** Libyan Political Dialogue Forum opened scope for advocacy on including more women in peacebuilding. In response to concerns raised by civil society groups about the importance of inclusion of grass-roots women, UN Women leveraged our broad

network to raise awareness and advocate for increased attention to priorities raised by local women peacebuilders. UN women supported the UN Mission in developing consultations, including young women, that would inform recommendations shared with the Forum. Following the announcement of the extended list of participants to the second Libyan Political Dialogue Forum in October, gender equality advocates applauded a new set of 19 women, welcoming their diverse competencies. A women's declaration called for the forthcoming Government of National Unity to apply a gender quota of 30 per cent.

In **Haiti**, UN Women advocated for implementing a 30 per cent quota in local elections, provided essential training to women candidates and supported their visibility. UN women drew national stakeholders into dialogue building awareness of the lasting contributions of women to peace and security. This process built on the historic 2019 National Forum on women, peace and political participation, where the State, civil society and private sector



2020 – 2021

devised a blueprint to boost women's participation in politics and the construction of a durable peace.

### **CONNECTING MOVEMENTS OF WOMEN AND YOUTH**

Women's and youth groups often share common concerns in building and sustaining peace. UN Women helps them join forces while coordinating peace actors to ensure their participation. In **Yemen**, UN Women took several steps to include more women and youth in a multi-track peacebuilding process,

such as by helping to create the Group of Nine Coalition. The platform, linking the nine most active groups on women, peace and security, has a membership of 1,000 women and men, including youth. The International Gender Coordination Group, also initiated by UN Women, became a new and sustainable mechanism for collaboration among women rights' advocates and activists, civil society and non-governmental organizations, UN entities and members of the international community.

A National Youth, Peace and Security Alliance, hosted by UN Women and UNFPA, enhances the inclusion of young women and men in all phases of peace, security and humanitarian action.

In tandem, systematic advocacy campaigns in Yemen have proved successful in persuading high-level leaders to listen and commit to the effective participation of women and youth in peacebuilding. Opportunities to engage with officials affiliated with diverse parties to the conflict have given visibility to women and youth leaders and highlighted their ability to advocate their issues and advance peace agendas.

In **Guatemala**, UN Women with UNODC and the International Labour Organization (ILO) is supporting intergenerational and multicultural political

alliances among 51 women peacebuilders and young women pathfinder leading art-based, cyberfeminist and political communication movements. Together, they are safeguarding peacebuilding gains and advancing the implementation of peace agreements and the national action plan on resolution 1325, including through working with key State institutions to prevent and respond to traditional conflict-related violence as well as new forms emerging through technology. The project has created a Women's Assembly to lead conflict analysis and collective strategies strengthening political impact. Preparing the next generation to influence peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements has included UN Women-sponsored capacity development for 54 young women from **Iraq, Libya, Syria** and **Yemen**.





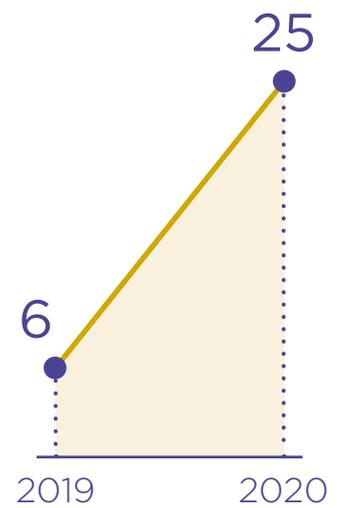
The training built skills and cultivated a nascent alliance of young women peacebuilders. In **Bangladesh**, Women Peace Cafes, online and offline platforms for female university students to exchange knowledge and pursue social entrepreneurship, were established and supported by UN Women and BRAC University. Through the cafes, 253 young female students gained skills to use social entrepreneurship for promoting peace and social cohesion. They in turn engaged 245 community women affected by the pandemic in innovative social entrepreneurship activities.

## SUSTAINING ATTENTION TO GENDER IN GLOBAL PEACEBUILDING

Globally, UN Women mobilized UN partners, Member States and civil society organizations through a series of consultations for the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, which took stock of progress in the implementation of Security Council resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. To inform the process, UN Women brought in women, peace and security advocates from Colombia, South Africa and the West African Network for Peacebuilding.



With support from UN Women and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the [\*UN Peacebuilding Commission\*](#) has taken steps towards more systematic engagement with women peacebuilders and better mainstreaming of the gender dimensions of peacebuilding into its analysis and advice. The number of women peacebuilders briefing the Commission has significantly increased from 6 in 2019, to 25 in 2020.



*Briefings to the Peacebuilding Commission  
by women peacebuilders since 2016.*

30

25

20

15

10

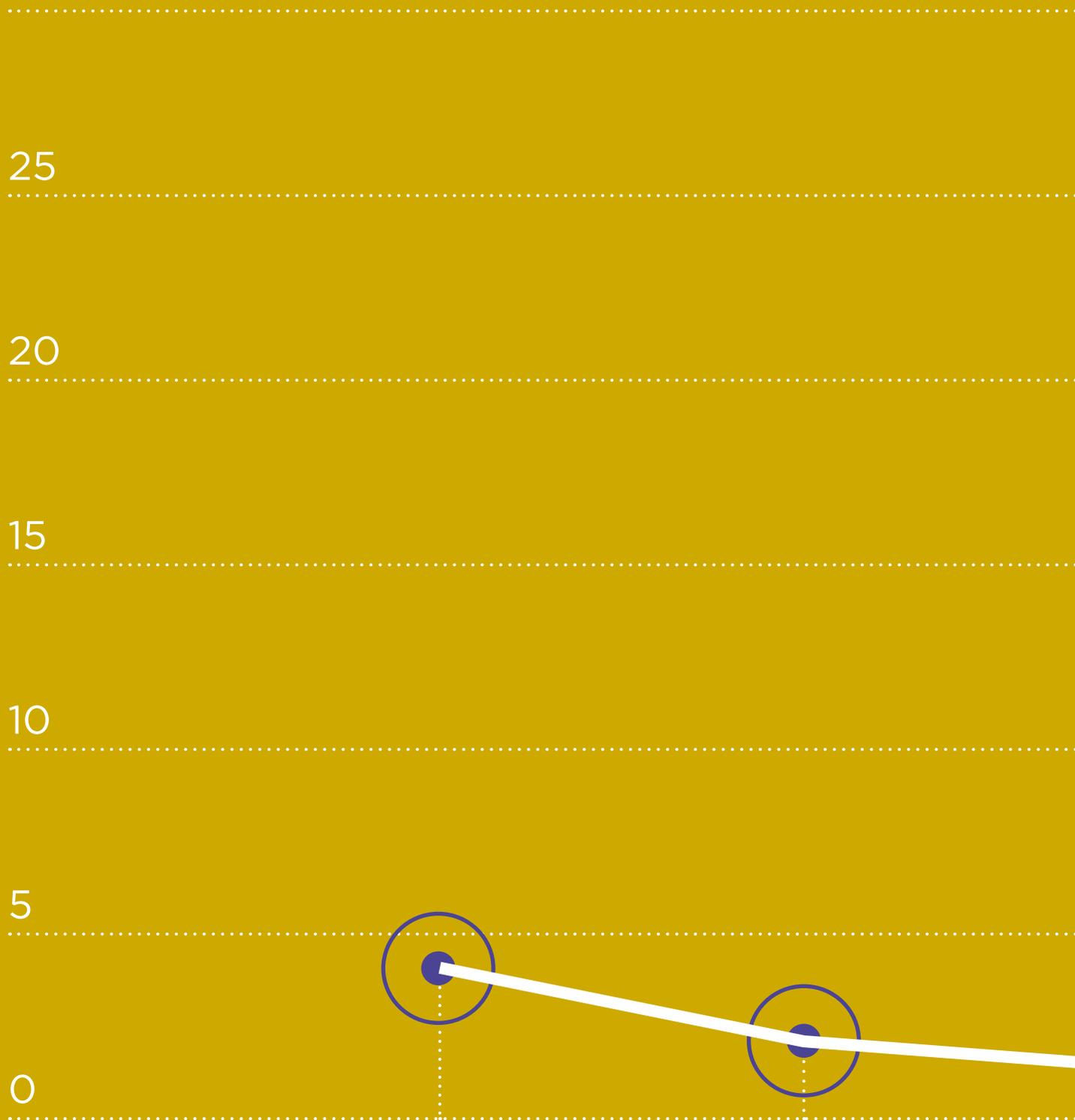
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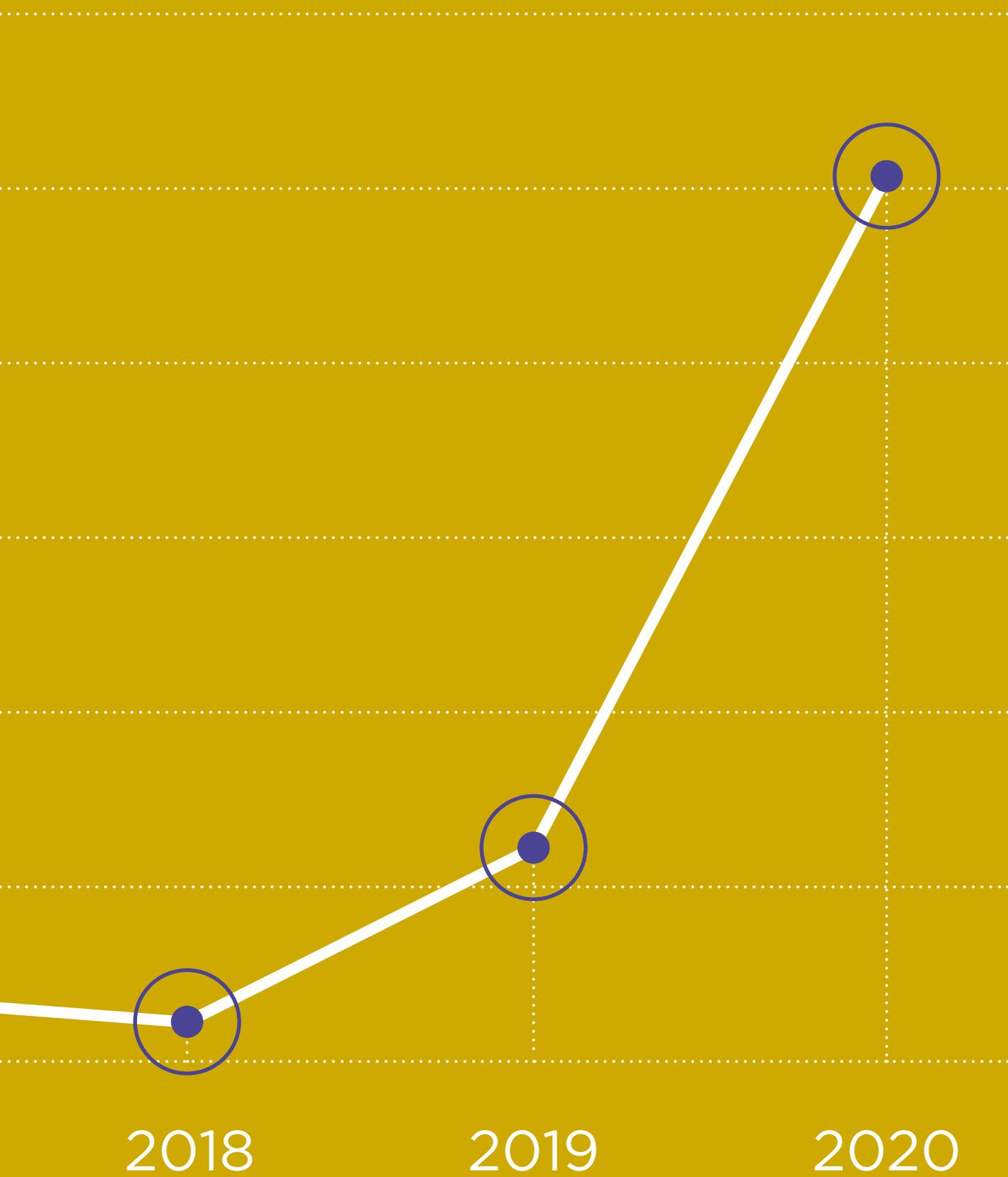
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2020 – 2021

2016

2017





2020 — 2021

2018

2019

2020

## BOX 7

***African Women Leaders Network***

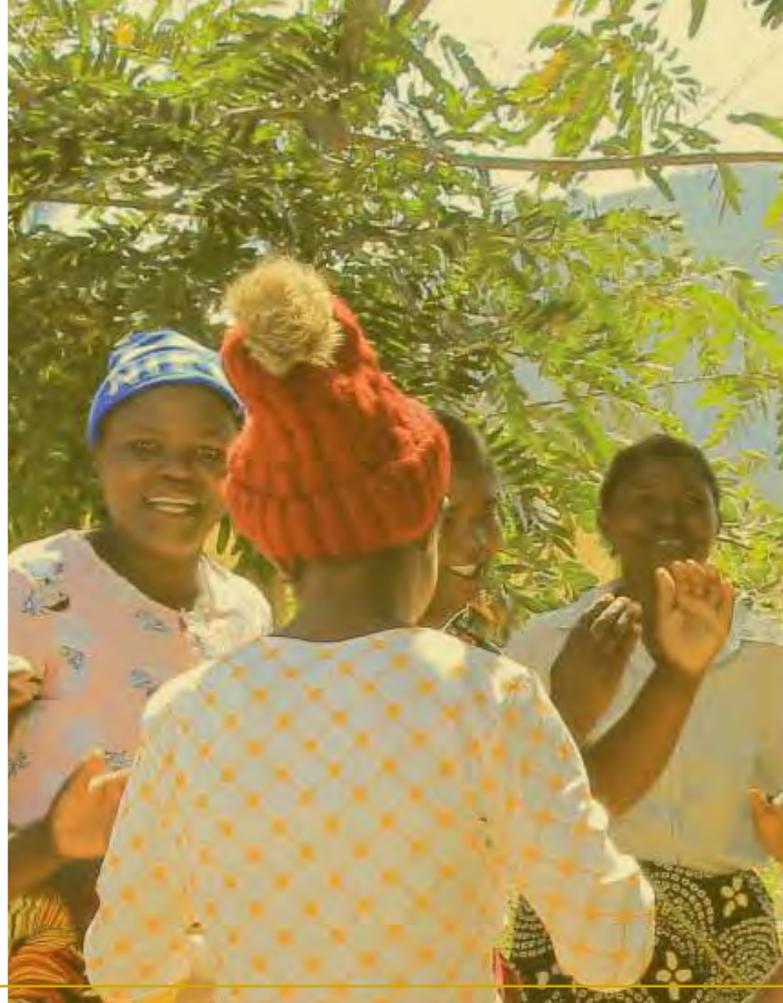
UN Women and the African Union launched the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) in 2017 to create a continent-wide force of women leaders who advance Africa's transformation in line with the continent's Agenda 2063 and the global 2030 Agenda.

The network has quickly established itself as a unique and credible movement, building on women's leadership, partnerships and advocacy.

Network members have led joint solidarity missions with the United Nations, African Union and regional economic commissions to the Lake Chad Basin, Sahel Region, Horn of Africa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Somalia and South Sudan to advocate for women's and girls'

rights and representation. Both the UN Security Council and the African Union Security Council have reviewed mission outcomes and recommendations.

In May 2021, the network held a virtual solidarity mission for Mozambique in response to the crisis in Cabo Delgado and the Northern Regions of the country. The mission led to a call to action highlighting women's needs, condemning serious violations of their rights through sexual abuse and exploitation and urging their systematic inclusion in peace and reconstruction processes. AWLN leaders committed to delivering the call to action to the Mozambique Head of State and African Union and UN leadership.





The network's Young Women Leaders Caucus now has over 100 members from Africa and the diaspora. In December 2020 and 2021, in retreats hosted by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, and convened by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of Liberia and a patron of the network, over 60 senior women leaders and young women met to recalibrate women's leadership and mentorship post COVID-19. The caucus launched an intergenerational mentorship platform in November 2021.

## Prevention of Violent Extremism

*Globally, responses to violent extremism prioritize securitized and militarized approaches over development and resilience. Gender equality and women's rights, while at the core of prevention, are largely overlooked and underfunded.*

Strategies typically assume women are either victims and/or peacemakers, giving little attention to women as political agents or to gendered power dynamics that define roles in violent extremism. At all levels, the proliferation of counterterrorism frameworks harms civic space and limits the work of women-led civil society organizations. In some contexts, human rights activists are labelled sympathizers of terrorist groups.

UN Women regularly draws the attention of Member States to these issues. On behalf of the Gender Working Group of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact,

we organized a global digital consultation on the gendered dimensions of violent extremism and counterterrorism responses in 2020. Over 140 civil society representatives from 40 countries participated, expressing their views, challenges and recommendations. They described how current measures to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism impact their work and rights. Recommendations from the consultation were presented to Member States and the Compact ahead of the revision of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2021, informing UN-led global policies. UN Women also



### ***Fatima Askira***

a young Nigerian leader and peacebuilder born and raised in a hotspot of the Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria, argued, *“The steady shrinking of women’s places at decision-making tables, their progressive exclusion from political spaces, and the ongoing lack of governance structures have created a fertile ground for violent extremism – which can be stemmed through education and women’s grassroots mobilization.”*



### ***Abdinasir Saman***

spoke about north-east Kenya, a region engulfed in vicious clan conflicts. *“Insecurity and violation of rights are an everyday occurrence,”* he said. *“But violence against women and girls, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, has increased with the rise of violent extremism. Women are systematically targeted by both extremist groups and security actors. Until the day-to-day challenges of women and girls are addressed, violent extremism and conflict will continue to grow.”*



### ***Samar Muhareb***

who leads Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development in Jordan, spotlighted women’s roles in prevention. *“Women are usually seen as either the victims or contributors to extremist ideologies, and little attention is paid to the role they can play in preventing violence,”* she emphasized. *“We have come a long way in deepening our understanding of the impact of violent extremism on women and girls and their essential role in addressing it. But the path to change is long.”*

provided research on the gender dimensions of violent extremism and called for alignment with normative standards in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda, UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other relevant conventions.

Misogyny and harmful gender stereotypes have always been at the forefront of the ideology of violent extremist groups, repeatedly cropping up in propaganda and recruitment techniques. [\*A UN Women analysis of social media and misogyny in Asia and the Pacific\*](#) in 2020 detailed how digital platforms and online spaces are increasingly used to spread sexist, inaccurate and dangerous rhetoric about women, inciting hatred and potentially provoking violence. In 2021, a second joint study with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), [\*“Conflicting Identities: The Nexus between Masculinities,\*](#)



[\*Femininities and Violent Extremism in Asia\*](#), traced the specific relationship between violent extremism and gender power relations in **South and South-East Asia**, looking at radicalization and recruitment, and making proposals to improve programme and policy responses.



Digital literacy can empower individuals to recognize disinformation and hate speech, stop their spread and promote messages of tolerance and social cohesion. UN Women provided digital literacy trainings to 535 people in **Bangladesh**, the **Philippines** and **Timor-Leste** as part of preparing a cadre of online advocates for peace. We also partnered with Ridgeway Information

and Girl Security to develop a free online e-learning module, “Navigating Disinformation”. Adapted to seven countries and available in 10 languages, the module is one of the only resources on digital literacy and online security contextualized for Asia and the Pacific.



## Strengthening the rule of law, including access to justice and security sector reform

*The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the deep, gendered inequalities in the rule of law, especially in conflict- and crisis-affected countries, where justice needs are most acute.*

Gender inequality and women's lack of access to justice also fuel cycles of violence and conflict. Although there have been significant advancements in UN policy and programmes on the rule of law and gender equality, the gap between the vision of a just, peaceful and equal world, and the reality on the ground for women and girls remains stark. In response, UN Women has

sought to put women's rights and leadership at the centre of UN support for strengthening the rule of law, including by contributing gender expertise to the UN Global Focal Point on Rule of Law, a system-wide coordination mechanism.

### **CLOSING THE GENDER JUSTICE GAP**

In 2020, UN Women and UNDP embarked on a new partnership to close the gender justice gap, the Gender Justice Platform. In 2020-2021, the platform reached more than 42,000 people, 84 percent of whom were women in 14 conflict-affected contexts across Africa and the Middle East.



to provide witness statements and participate in inquiries and public hearings.

UN Women has put forward a range of innovative programmes that simultaneously advance gender equality, the rule of law and sustainable peace, including through transitional justice and reconciliation efforts.

In **Lebanon**, partnership with UNDP and OHCHR supports peace consolidation and the prevention of a relapse into civil conflict. UN Women has increased recognition of the role women played during the country's brutal civil war and documented the impact of cycles of violence on women's rights and gender equality.

In tandem, we collaborate with UNDP to back women's community organizations, representing diverse ages and backgrounds and coming from across Lebanon, to hold community dialogues and oral history activities that foster peacebuilding and reconciliation.



The partnership includes a special focus on supporting transitional justice to address the full range of women's human rights violations and creating a safe and enabling environment for women to participate in decision-making and more broadly. In **Mali**, for example, the partnership supported the country's truth, justice and reconciliation commission to raise awareness of its work and encourage women and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence





In **Colombia**, UN Women has supported capacities and advocacy by LGBTI organizations, Afro-Colombian groups, Indigenous civil society organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities to participate in the country’s transitional justice process, which includes a special court, reparations process, truth commission and commission to search for the disappeared.

## WOMEN’S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION REQUIRES:



Women’s **access** to justice systems and spaces, safely and without obstacles



Women’s **presence**, in order to seize opportunities

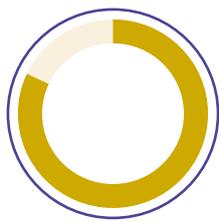


Women’s ability to **influence** outcomes by representing their diverse interests

The Justice Rapid Response-  
UN Women SGBV Justice  
Experts Roster counts:  
With the support of a gender

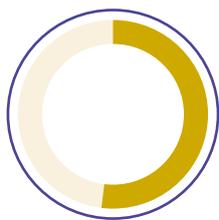
## 101 deployments

by UN Women to national and international  
accountability mechanisms

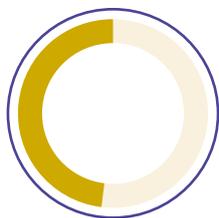


241 experts  
82 per cent women

## 44 different languages



52 per cent from  
the Global South



48 per cent from  
the Global North

and child rights adviser  
deployed by UN Women,  
the [\*Independent  
International Commission  
of Inquiry for the Syrian  
Arab Republic\*](#) produced a  
thematic report on child rights  
violations in January 2020.  
The report, [\*“They Have\*](#)

[\*Erased the Dreams of  
My Children”\*](#): [\*Children’s  
Rights in the Syrian  
Arab Republic\*](#), documents  
multiple violations, including  
devastating conflict-related  
sexual and gender-based  
violence against girls and  
boys. It advocates urgent  
provision of services for  
survivors given acute  
suffering and pain from  
a brutal war of nearly  
nine years.

In January 2021, the  
United Nations Secretary-  
General transmitted the  
[\*report\*](#) of the International  
Commission of Inquiry for  
Mali to the Security Council.  
An investigator deployed  
by UN Women led the  
rigorous documentation of  
sexual and gender-based  
violence and the integration  
of gender analysis in the  
report. It describes the  
increased prevalence of  
sexual and gender-based  
violence between 2012 and  
2018 and its far-reaching,  
enduring impacts. Concrete  
recommendations to address  
the gendered harms of the  
conflict and ensure they are  
not repeated include revising  
discriminatory national laws  
to in line with international  
gender equality principles  
and standards.



## REFORMING THE SECURITY SECTOR

*Through security sector reforms, UN Women aims at enhancing the effectiveness and accountability of security institutions so they operate according to human rights and the rule of law, including gender equality and non-discrimination principles.*

Gender parity and women's meaningful participation in the security sector, including in leadership roles, are essential to ensuring responsiveness to the needs of women and girls. In 2020, UN Women partnered with INTERPOL and UNODC to produce [milestone research](#) promoting more women in law enforcement in the **ASEAN** region. As one result, in 2021, ASEAN adopted

the Border Management Cooperation Roadmap. It encourages collecting sex-disaggregated information and designing recruitment strategies to increase the number of female officers in cross-border operations. Among other advantages, the roadmap predicts that more women in border management teams will improve efforts to identify and stop the human trafficking of women and girls.

In **Kenya**, two national actions plans to advance the women, peace and security agenda have increased women's participation across peace and security institutions. The number of women in county peace committees increased twofold. Developing an environment conducive to

such results encompassed strengthening the gender-responsiveness of security institutions and empowering women to confidently and effectively participate and lead in a highly male-dominated sector.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, the adoption of regulations on preventing and combating sexual harassment by the ministries of defence and interior stemmed from advocacy by national associations of women in the army, internal affairs and the police, in partnership with UN Women. As part of achieving the national action plan on women, peace and security, the regulations apply both to the ministries and to military units, peacekeeping missions, the General Police Inspectorate, carabinieri troops and border police.



Change in national forces is translating into progress in deploying more women peacekeepers to United Nations peace operations. **Jordan** in 2020 increased the share of uniformed women by 1.6 per cent in its national security sector organizations. The Public Service Directorate launched its first gender mainstreaming

strategy in early 2021. Women's representation among Jordanian personnel deployed to UN peacekeeping missions has increased substantially, from 8 to 18 per cent between 2019-2020. UN Women is supporting these efforts through the Elsie Initiative Fund by funding the construction of a dedicated accommodation and training facility for women and the creation of a pool of 100 women police officers eligible and trained for deployment to United Nations peace operations.

The **Elsie Initiative Fund** has also supported the conduct of comprehensive assessments of the barriers to deploying women in six countries, **Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mexico, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Togo**, along with a survey of over 1,700 military and police personnel. The Togo Armed Forces, the Niger Armed Forces and Police, and the Senegal Police are developing gender equality policies to advance women's meaningful participation in security institutions and increase the pool of uniformed women eligible to deploy to United Nations peace operations.



FINANCING THE  
WOMEN, PEACE AND  
SECURITY AGENDA

UN Women multiplies the impact of funding across the WPS agenda. Funding for UN Women’s own programmes assists women peacebuilders, bolsters networks of women mediators, empowers women to rebuild livelihoods after crises, provides expert investigators to hold perpetrators of violence accountable, informs the global approach to PVE, helps Member States advance National Action Plans, and so much more. At the same time, UN Women amplifies the reach of work on WPS by channeling more funding directly to women driving the agenda, including through coordinating and supporting pooled funding mechanisms.

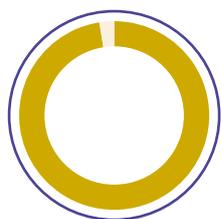


## Pooled funding mechanisms

### Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Administered by UN Women, the Fund launched a COVID-19 Emergency Response Window in 2020 to support women's organizations on the front lines of the pandemic.

It funded  
**48 projects**  
 across  
**18 countries**



**81.3 per cent**

of beneficiaries were women-led and/or women's rights organizations

**12.5 per cent** were youth focused/led organizations.

In North Darfur, Sudan, the Sahari Organization Development used funds to facilitate cash transfers to.

**400**  
 vulnerable female-headed households

and to mobilize women's groups to disseminate COVID-19 messages in local communities. Across its multiple funding windows, the Fund mobilized



**USD 90 million**

with 560 civil society organizations reaching

**3.5 million**

direct beneficiaries



**72 per cent**  
 women and girls

The process re-energized action and stimulated financing for women's participation and leadership in humanitarian action and peace and security.

## Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations (EIF)

Established by the United Nations, Canada and Member States in 2019, and hosted **by** UN Women, the Elsie Initiative Fund - a [UN Trust Fund](#) raised



more than  
**USD 30 million**

in donor contributions  
and commitments  
between 2019 and 2021

with a  
**USD 40  
million target  
by 2024**

**In 2021, EIF approved  
USD 4.5 million** for projects to  
increase the meaningful participation  
of uniformed women in United  
Nations peace operations.

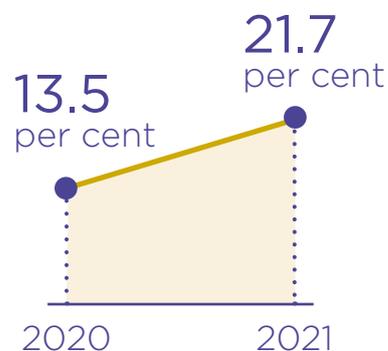
## Peacebuilding Fund

UN Women's partnership with the United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding and resulted in a funding target of 30 per cent for gender-responsive projects. In 2019-2020, the fund continuously exceeded this share, allocating 40 per cent. In 2021, the allocation increased to



**47 per  
cent**

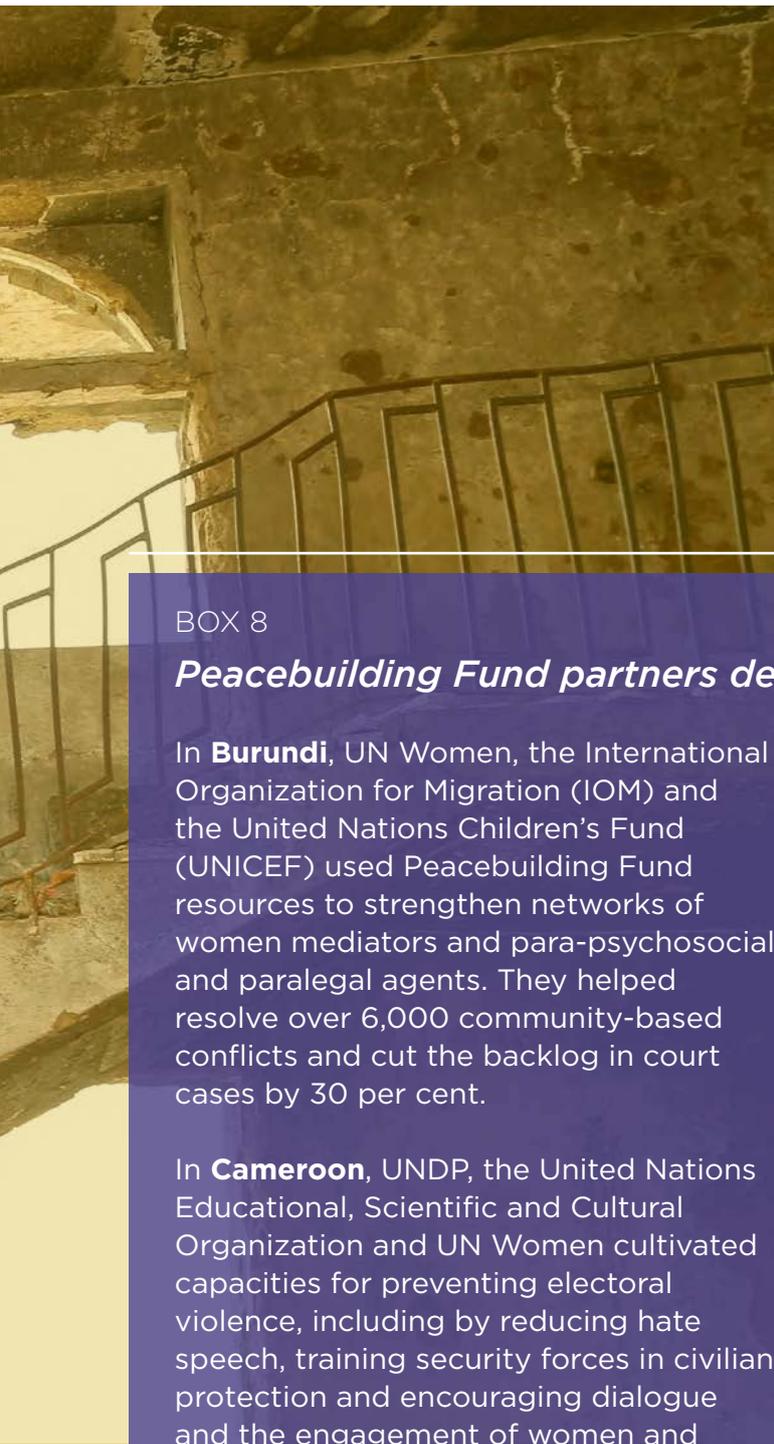
The portion of projects with gender equality as a principal objective rose:





2020 – 2021

*UN Women both applies finance from the Peacebuilding Fund and acts as a strategic partner. We contributed to the 2021 Gender Thematic Review of the fund and helped steer joint United Nations capacity-building on gender-responsive peacebuilding. UN Women also coordinated United Nations country teams around women, peace and security priorities in Peacebuilding Fund resources.*



## BOX 8

### *Peacebuilding Fund partners deliver gender-responsive results*

In **Burundi**, UN Women, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) used Peacebuilding Fund resources to strengthen networks of women mediators and para-psychosocial and paralegal agents. They helped resolve over 6,000 community-based conflicts and cut the backlog in court cases by 30 per cent.

In **Cameroon**, UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UN Women cultivated capacities for preventing electoral violence, including by reducing hate speech, training security forces in civilian protection and encouraging dialogue and the engagement of women and young people. In the North-West Region, mediation by local young people, women and traditional leaders reduced intercommunal violence.

UN Women, UNDP and IOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Peace in **Ethiopia**, promoted peaceful conflict management through intercommunity

dialogue and inclusive mediation in Oromia State and Somali Regional State. Women mediators worked through Women Peace Forums to defuse intercommunal tensions and facilitated the peaceful resettlement of internally displaced persons. Shared social infrastructure destroyed by earlier violence was restored to encourage communal trust.

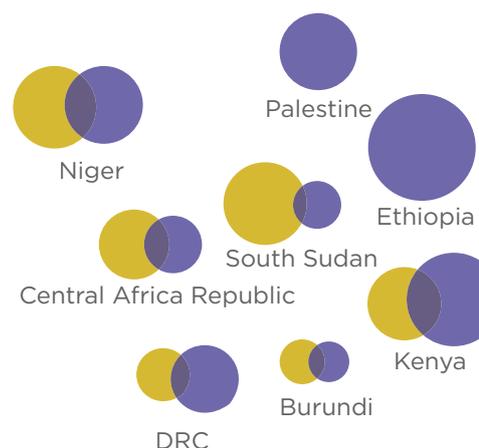
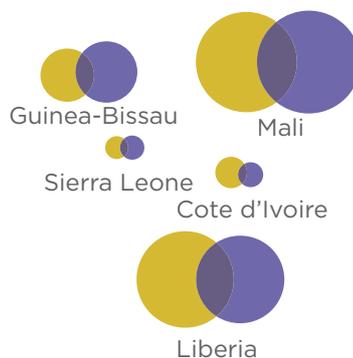
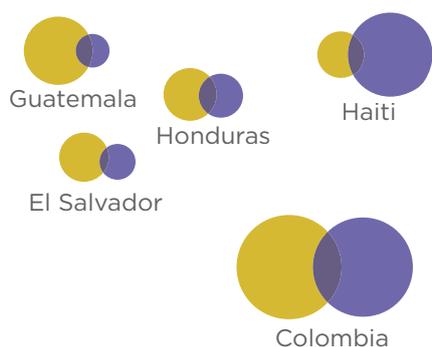
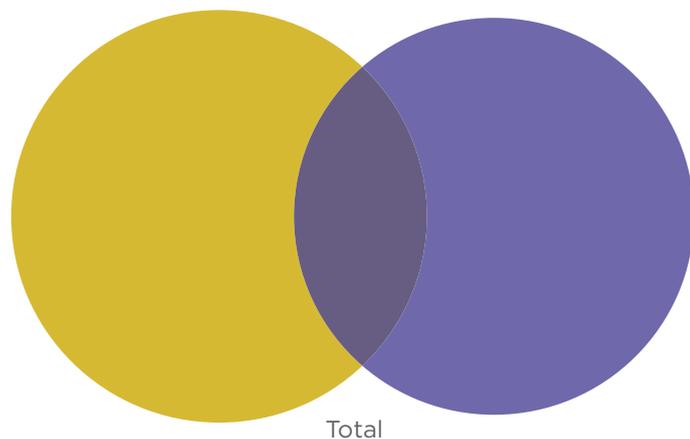
Through the efforts of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and UN Women in **Niger**, more than 350 local peace structures comprising more than 10,000 members in 60 villages resolved over 480 local conflicts between farmers and herders from January to May 2020.

In **South Sudan**, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women provided coordinated support services to more than 8,000 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Work with traditional leaders has encouraged them to begin referring cases to statutory courts.

## Partners for Women, Peace & Security

Support for UN Women working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts in 2020 and 2021

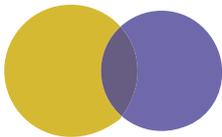
	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)
Total	142,263,744	153,694,621
Afghanistan	8,420,570	13,913,927
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,639,881	1,908,939
Burundi	1,898,425	1,559,380
Central Africa Republic	4,609,589	3,121,075
Colombia	10,265,023	9,310,785
Congo Democratic Republic	2,661,486	4,313,832
Cote d'Ivoire	932,091	586,750
El Salvador	2,283,750	1,209,025
Ethiopia		10,766,404
Guatemala	4,407,001	1,066,040
Guinea-Bissau	443,669	
Haiti	2,042,992	6,671,099
Honduras	2,625,534	1,826,111
Iraq	6,324,711	3,882,704
Kenya	5,066,362	8,261,237
Kosovo	1,183,440	1,121,850



2020 – 2021

\* Fragile and conflict-affected contexts as defined in the Secretary-General's annual report to the Security Council on Women, Peace, and Security.

UN Women works with dedicated partners who provide the financial support that enables our work at the global level and across fragile and conflict-affected contexts.\* Our offices working in these contexts help lay and strengthen the foundations for peaceful, sustainable, and gender-equal societies across all of our programme areas. These efforts are essential to preventing conflict and recovering from crises.



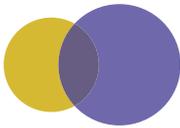
UN Women HQ - WPS, HA, DRR



Iran



Kyrgyzstan



Afghanistan



Yemen



Somalia



Myanmar



Sri Lanka



Indonesia

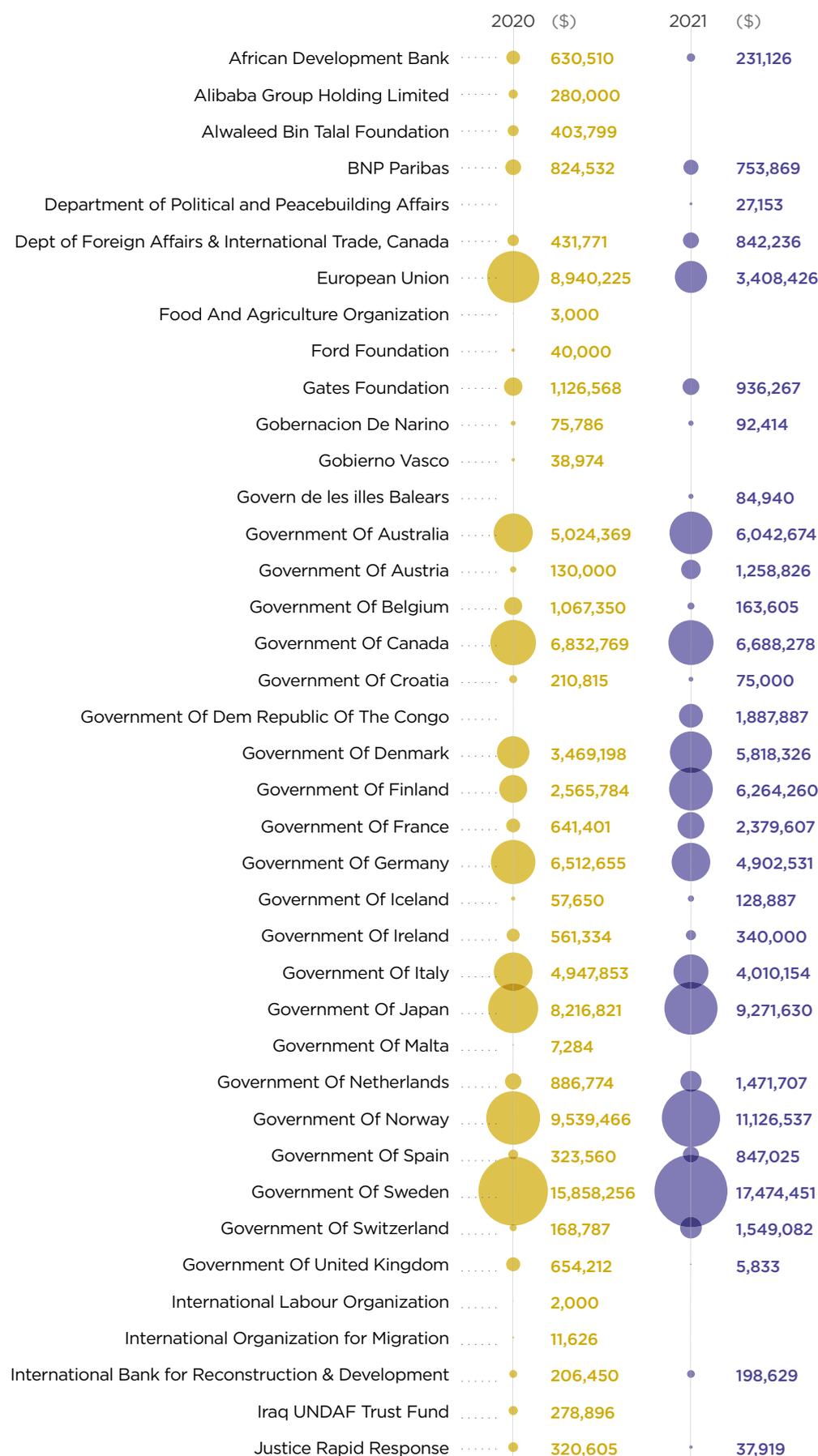


Papua New Guinea

	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)
Kyrgyzstan	1,549,800	1,945,943
Lebanon	5,498,388	5,855,514
Liberia	8,792,554	7,250,748
Mali	9,502,616	9,988,506
Myanmar	5,007,416	5,587,333
Niger	6,436,819	5,705,871
Palestine		5,591,960
Papua New Guinea	6,101,718	6,224,993
UN Women HQ - WPS, HA, DRR	16,542,048	13,667,960
Senegal	2,681,825	3,558,032
Sierra Leone	493,501	551,788
Solomon Islands	2,639,270	2,028,584
Somalia	3,679,736	1,359,672
South Sudan	6,455,642	2,159,635
Sri Lanka	2,770,364	2,665,525
Ukraine	4,822,397	5,083,931
Yemen	4,485,126	4,949,468

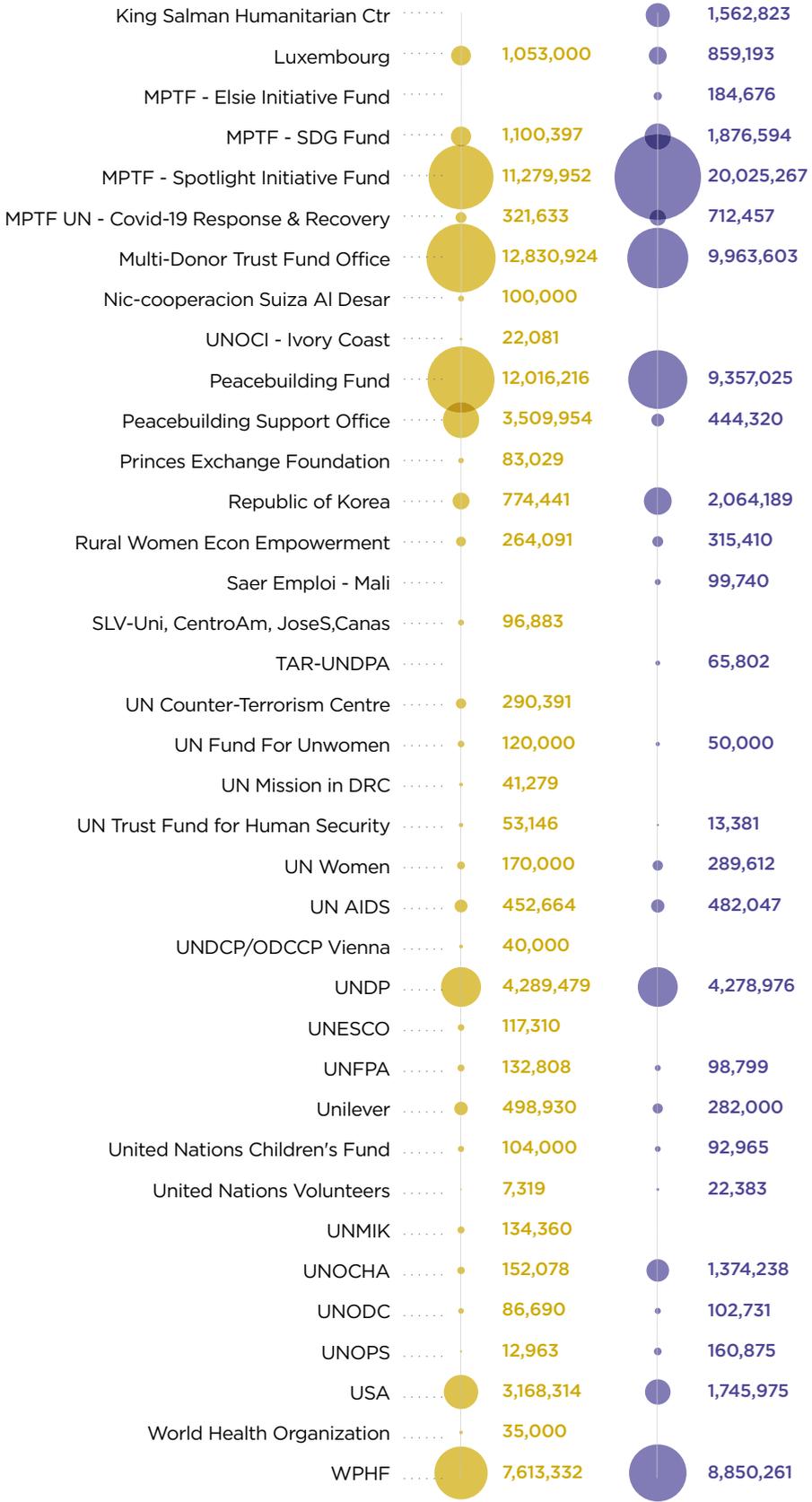
2020 – 2021

*All funders supporting UN Women working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts in 2020 and 2021*



2020 – 2021

UN Women counts nearly 80 donors supporting our work on gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, contributing over USD 142 million in 2020 and USD 153 million in 2021, totaling nearly USD 300 million over two years. We want to thank all of our donors for their dedication and support of gender equality when it matters most.



2020 — 2021

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHIEF

2020 – 2021



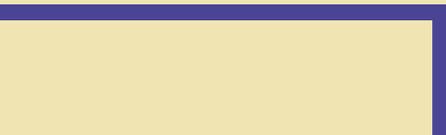
**Chief**

**Ms Paivi Kannisto**

*As I write this, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Sudan and Ukraine – among many other places – are faced with humanitarian crises and violent conflicts.*

*Now, over two years into the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that there are serious societal, political and economic impacts—including on how UN Women works to serve women and girls through its mission to fight for gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide. We are living in unprecedented times. But these challenges have not undermined UN Women's resolve and commitment to deliver on the WPS agenda.*

This annual report provides a mere glimpse into the incredible work that our dedicated global team accomplished throughout 2020-2021, and showcases, with sincere gratitude, our partners who make it all possible. UN Women is a driver of progress on



the WPS agenda. Our global team of experts work by developing innovative programming, coordinating strategic partnerships and providing evidence-based policy advice that supports and amplifies the work of women of all ages as agents for peace and stability. We are a globally recognized and trusted leader on the agenda, as evidenced by the many secretariats we host, including the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), the Elsie Fund Initiative for Uniformed Women in Peace operations (EIF), the WPS Focal Points Network (WPSFPN) and now, the Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA Compact). We leverage our capacity to bolster the work of our partners, whether it's the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), the Gender Working Group of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact or the UN Standing Committee on WPS. During this reporting period, we worked in 76 countries and territories across six regions, supporting local women peacebuilders and civil society, mediation networks, regional bodies,



governments and our sister UN agencies to advance women's empowerment and agency as peacemakers. We fight to prevent new conflicts even when peace may be unravelling around us. As new conflicts emerge, we know that the women and girls will be the first and the worst impacted, and we do all we can to stand by them, to work for their protection, to secure access to justice for them and to support them as they rebuild their communities.

At this most critical hour, our collective commitment to the WPS agenda cannot falter. In the face of violent conflict and existential climatic crises, the only way to truly, comprehensively, holistically and permanently prevent these crises in the future, is through redoubling our commitments and dedication to the fundamentals of the WPS agenda—prevention, participation, protection and relief and recovery. We hope you will continue to stand with us, as we continue stand with women and girls working for peace.

# LOOKING AHEAD - 2022 AND BEYOND



*The current moment is exceptionally challenging as escalating conflict intersects with a fractured multilateralism. Military spending remains high and likely to trend upward even as development budgets struggle for funding. Civic space is shrinking in many places. More than 25 years since the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and more than 20 years after the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325, concrete action and investment has not yet met the ambition of public rhetoric on women's rights. From peace tables to security forces, women remain woefully underrepresented, their concerns marginalized.*

Some progress is being made. At the Security Council, in the European Council and in national debates, on conflicts from Afghanistan to Libya to Ukraine, women, despite often monumental challenges and even risks to their own lives, are standing up to insist on being heard.

Other hope and momentum come from a new international effort, the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact launched at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris in July 2021. Nearly *160 signatories* have joined it in just the first 12 months. With UN Women serving as its Secretariat, the Compact has already become a

force reshaping processes around peace, security and humanitarian action so they more systematically include women and girls. Signatories pledge to take concrete action on existing commitments for women and girls in five key areas:



**INCREASED FINANCING FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AND GENDER EQUALITY IN HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMING**



**MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES**



**ECONOMIC SECURITY AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES**



**LEADERSHIP AND AGENCY**



**PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CONFLICT AND CRISIS**

While it's too soon to begin monitoring implementation of Signatory actions, the Compact Monitoring Framework and key monitoring indicators will allow Compact stakeholders to report on impact of Signatory actions in the coming years.

in promoting innovative interventions where natural resources become an entry point for strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding. Such integrated approaches open options for accelerating progress for women on multiple fronts. New investments by the Peacebuilding Fund in Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Mali, Niger and Sudan support projects that simultaneously address climate adaptation, peacebuilding and gender equality. Climate fallout disproportionately affects women in fragile and conflict-affected countries, combining with disease and economic instability to leave hundreds of millions of people facing hunger and poverty.

UN Women's investment in research and knowledge management has provided policymakers with tools to better integrate climate and environmental considerations into the women, peace and security agenda, and gender dimensions into climate change and security priorities. Notably, for the first time, the 2020 Secretary-General's annual report on women, peace and security dedicated a section to

UN Women has been successfully partnering with UN Environment, UNDP and the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs





climate change and its peace and security implications, drawing directly from a UN Women [flagship report](#). Other progress towards policy integration and a more effective response to current challenges was evident during a high-level meeting between the Group of Friends on Women, Peace and Security and the Group of Friends on Climate Security. Both emphasized the importance of the nexus between gender, climate and security and committed to taking further action.

UN Women has been on the vanguard in drawing attention to other emerging issues for women, peace and security, such as [cybersecurity](#). UN women has assessed a litany of concerns from the use of digital tools in fomenting violent extremism to oppressive digital surveillance and made recommendations to address gender blind spots in cybersecurity. Recent work has also examined the implications of [artificial intelligence](#), which is often embedded

with gender biases and poses risks from use in military technologies to the spread of hate speech and disinformation. Equally, many benefits could be harnessed for gender equality, including in enhancing gendered conflict analysis and shaping counternarratives of peace

The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for some actors intent on reversing progress towards gender equality. With conflicts engulfing the globe, women have been sidelined, subjugated and scorned, a tendency that will ensure the perpetuation of crisis, not its resolution. The WPS agenda offers an alternative vision, a more sustainable, equal, peaceful future. To win back the gains lost over the last two years demands an unwavering recommitment to the agenda and to women and gender equality as foremost priorities. Only that will ensure we do better in preventing and responding to violence, and can move towards a world free from discrimination and strife.

# ENDNOTES

- 1 All references to Kosovo in this report should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)
- 2 Azerbaijan (2020-2023), Bulgaria (2020-2025), Congo Brazzaville (2018-2022), Cyprus (2021-2025), Djibouti (2020), Gabon (2020-2023), Latvia (2020-2023), Malta (2020-2024), Romania (2020-2023), South Africa (2020-2025), Slovakia (2021-2025), Sudan (2020-2022), Mexico (2021), Malawi (2021-2025), United Arab Emirates (2021-2025)

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