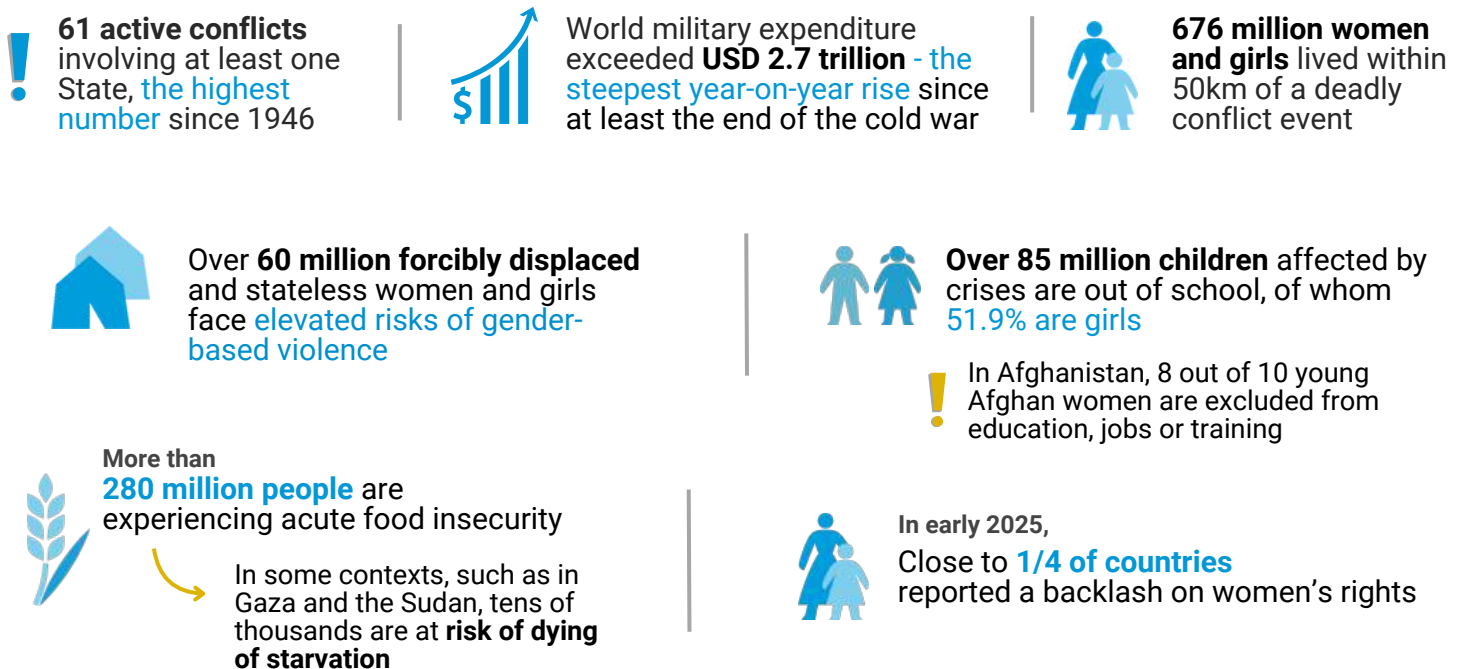


Report of the UN Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security 2025:

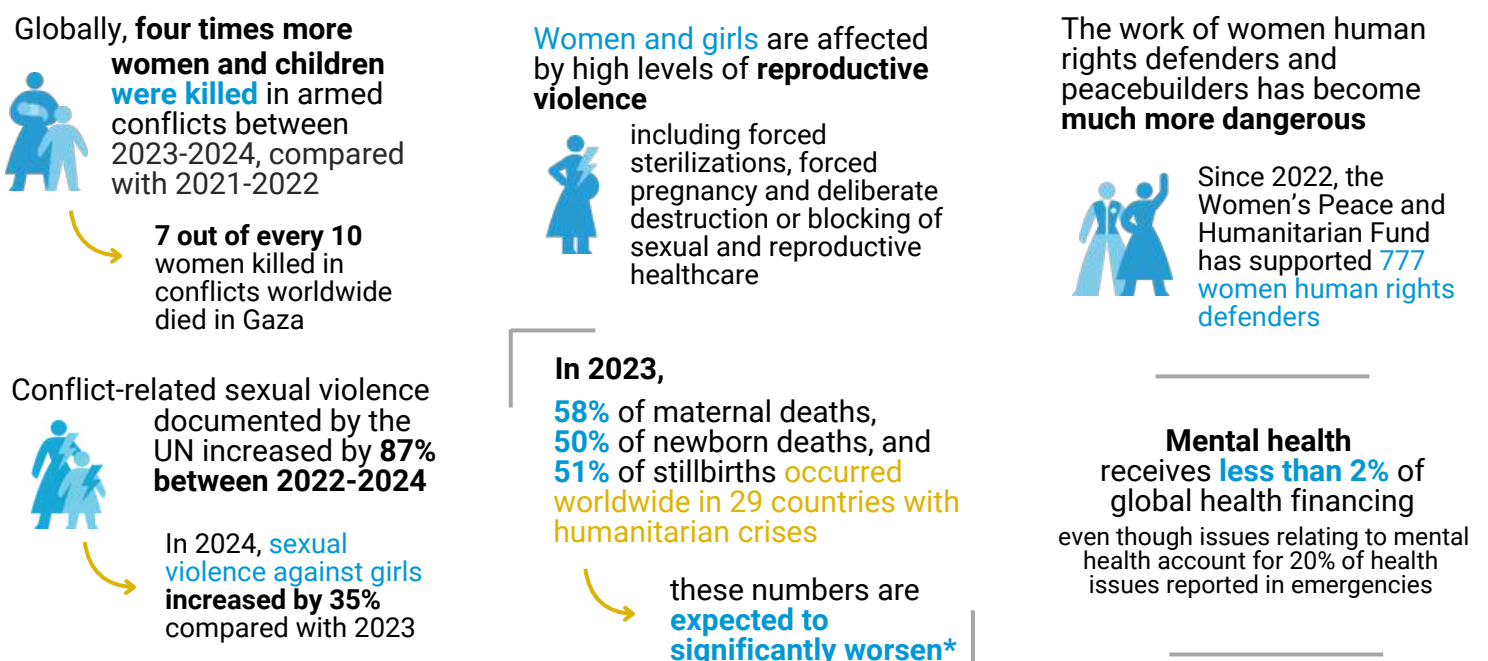
KEY HIGHLIGHTS



GLOBAL CONTEXT IN 2024: RISING CONFLICT AND MILITARY SPENDING IMPACTED MORE WOMEN AND GIRLS

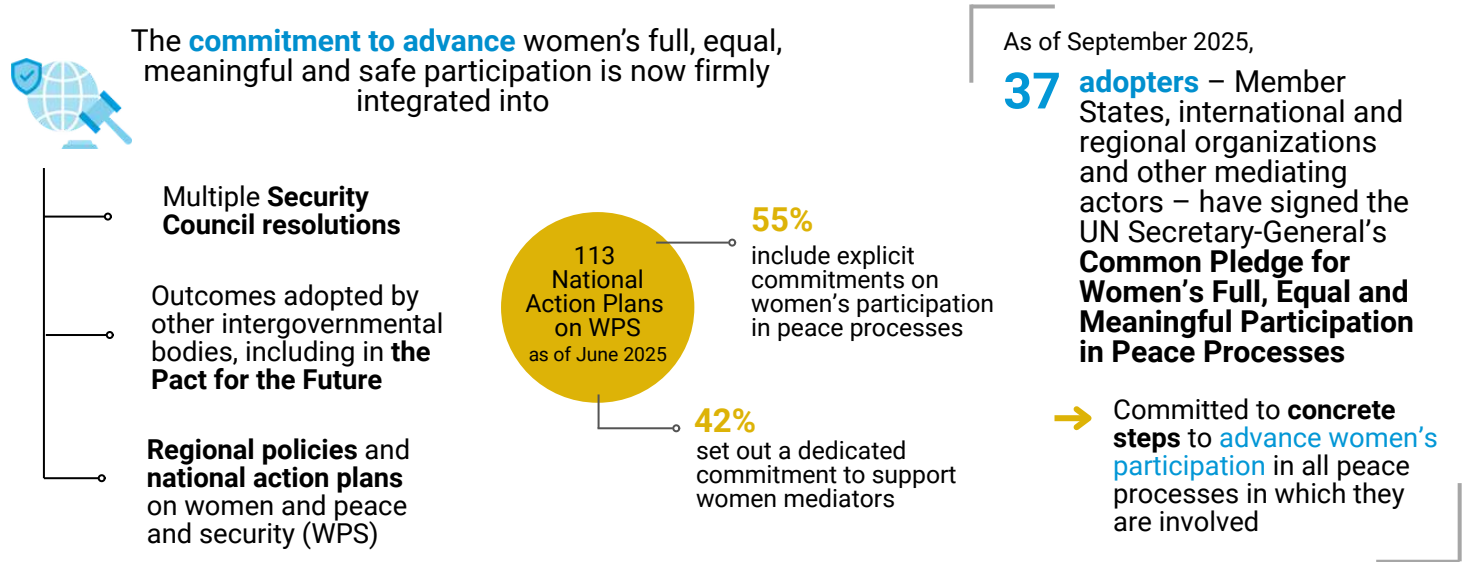


HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: GROWING BACKLASH AND STEEP RISE IN VIOLENCE

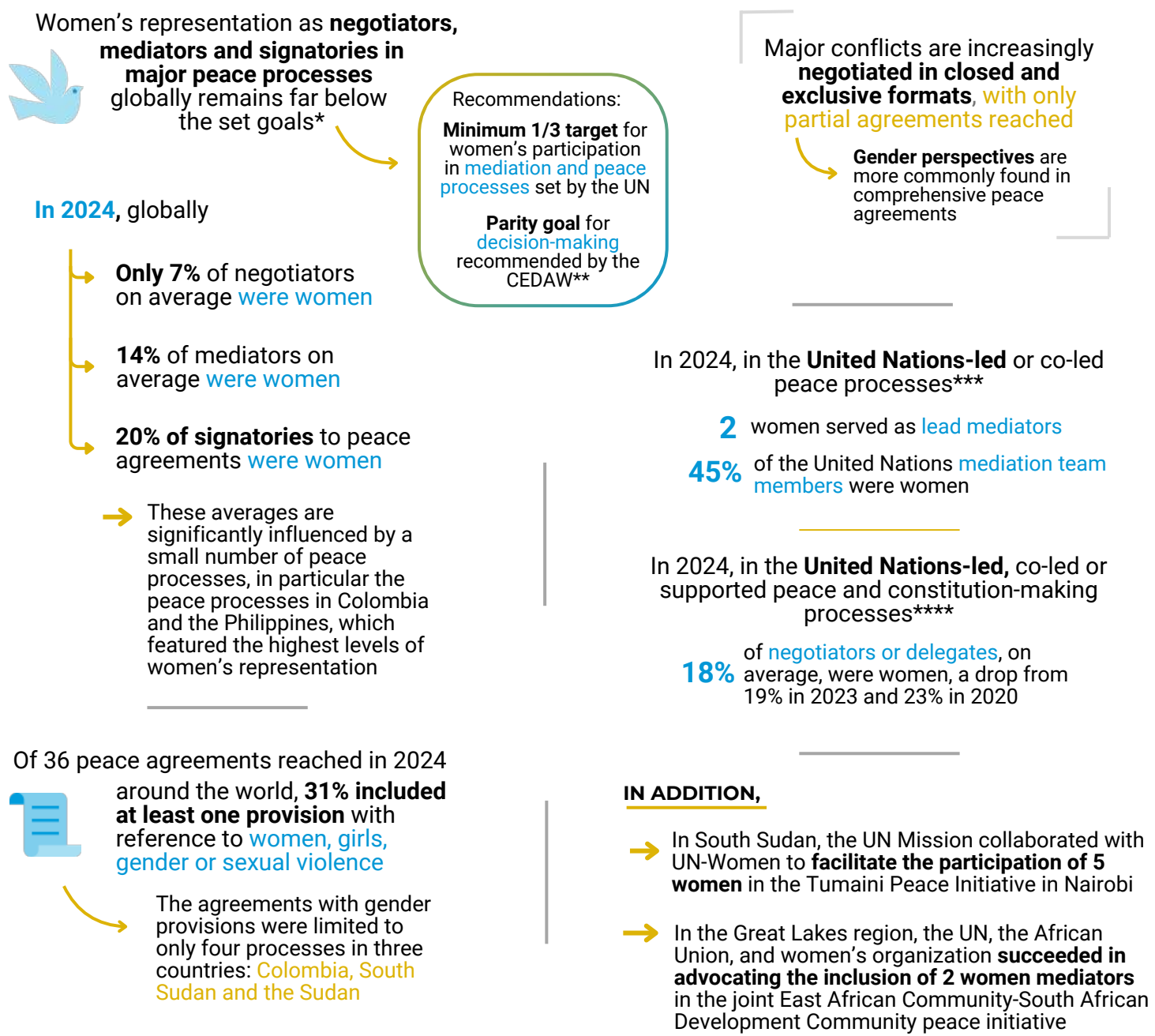


*Given the frequency of reported incidents of bombed maternity wards, blocked reproductive healthcare, rising sexual violence and steep funding cuts that have forced the closure of the services most needed by women

COMMITMENTS TO WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES HAVE CONTINUED TO INCREASE



BUT MANY CHALLENGES REMAIN IN TRANSLATING COMMITMENTS INTO GENDER-RESPONSIVE PEACE PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES



*Based on the initial data collected for the period from 2020-2024
** The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
*** These included four active peace processes: the Geneva International Discussions, two processes relating to Libya and one process in the Sudan
**** These included the four UN-led or co-led active peace processes, two UN-supported peace processes in Colombia and two UN-supported constitution-making processes in Somalia and South Sudan

PEACEKEEPING: NAVIGATING THE PATH FROM CONFLICT TO PEACE



The percentage of **women** has **more than doubled** across most categories of the United Nations uniformed gender parity strategy since 2018

- **Just above 10%** of all uniformed personnel across UN missions are women
- **4 out of 8** senior leadership positions in the police components of UN missions are held by women
- **Only 1 woman** is currently heading a military component
- **44%** of peacekeeping facilities are fully compliant with gender-responsive camp design

The **shrinking presence of UN peacekeeping** has led to **a security vacuum and the escalation of violence**



- Women and girls are more **vulnerable to the predations** of armed groups
- The ability to **monitor violations** of women's rights has weakened
- Sustaining support to women-led networks** – that have proven effective in reducing community violence – has become more challenging

FINANCING FOR PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IS DROPPING, EVEN AS NEEDS ARE RISING

Preliminary data from OECD* indicate that



in 2024, **for the first time in six years**, international aid from official donors **fell by 7.1% in real terms**, compared with 2023

Of the local women-led groups surveyed by UN-Women in crisis settings in March 2025,

- **90%** said that their operations were **financially affected** by the recent funding reductions
- 47%** **expected to shut down** within six months if current conditions persist

The **sharp reduction in donor funding** across development and humanitarian aid will have **a real cost on the lives of women and girls**



Thousands of health clinics are **expected to close**



Already, women in crisis zones are being forced to **give birth without medicines**, midwives, or equipment



Shipments of life-saving medical **supplies to refugee camps** are being disrupted



Many women and girls are dying and **more will die**



Some women will be left with no choice but to **adopt dangerous coping mechanisms**

In 2024,

- The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund approved **USD 116 million for projects**, compared with USD 202 million in 2023
 - Of this, 43% was focused on supporting gender-equality in 2024
- The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund **raised USD 65.9 million** for local women's organizations and activists on the front lines

The latest available data show that **in 2022-2023**, bilateral aid to contexts with high and extreme fragility stood at **USD 50 billion** on average per year

- **Only 5.2% - or USD 2.5 billion** - was dedicated to gender equality as a principal objective
- **Mere 0.4% - or USD 186 million** - was dedicated to women's rights organizations and movements

Recommendation:

Meet the minimum targets for funding recommended by the United Nations: **1% of official development assistance** channelled to **women's organizations** in conflict-affected countries and **15% to gender equality** as a principal objective

*The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

ALTHOUGH 2024 WAS A SIGNIFICANT ELECTORAL YEAR, PROGRESS IN TERMS OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WAS MINIMAL

As of September 2025, **only 29 countries** globally had a woman head of state or government



102 countries have **never had a woman at the helm**

In conflict-affected countries,



Only 21% of Cabinet ministers are **women** – lower than the 23% global average

20% of parliamentarians are **women** – below the 27% global average

Only 18% of seats in local deliberative bodies are held by **women** – nearly half the 35.5% global average

As of 2024,



women made up **only 21% of Permanent Representatives to the UN**, with just 7% of all ambassadors since 1947 being women

73 countries have never appointed a woman as Permanent Representative

Recommendation:

Require **targets and quotas** for women's full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation **in peace and political processes**

HOWEVER,

→ Notable historic firsts were achieved in 2024, including **the first directly elected women Presidents** in Mexico, Namibia and North Macedonia

WHILE IMPUNITY REMAINS WIDESPREAD, CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE NO LONGER BURIED IN SILENCE BUT ARE DOCUMENTED

One of the clearest examples of progress in WPS – over the past 25 years – has been the **investigation and prosecution** of international **crimes against women and girls**



Result of **decades of legal action**, advocacy and **activism led by survivors** and women's organizations and **important jurisprudence** built by national and international courts

Over the past 15 years, every **commission of inquiry or fact-finding mission** mandated by the UN has included **expertise on the investigation of gender-based crimes** provided by UN-Women



The UN has expanded its support to national accountability mechanisms, **and every year, gender justice milestones are achieved**

During recent years, **thousands of women** have **received reparations and interim reparative measures**, for example, in the Central African Republic, Iraq, Ukraine, and Kosovo



Women's access to justice is still nearly non-existent in many conflict-affected settings

Recommendation:

Hold accountable those responsible for all acts of gender-based persecution, reproductive violence, and conflict-related sexual violence

INVESTMENTS IN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY DURING TRANSITIONS FROM CONFLICT TO PEACE REMAIN UNDER-PRIORITIZED

Women in fragile environments are **7.7 times more likely to live in extreme poverty** compared with those in stable regions

UN-Women's study from 2024 shows that **Only 18%** of the nearly 1,000 **social protection measures** adopted by governments **across 171 countries** in the months that followed the rise of global inflation **targeted women's economic security**

In Afghanistan and Yemen, women's representation in the workforce is **less than 10%, the lowest in the world**

In the Sudan, women earn **82% less than men, one of the world's widest gaps**

The United Nations Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security was prepared pursuant to the presidential statement dated 26 October 2010 (S/PRST/2010/22), resolution 2122 (2013), and resolution 2493 (2019), and issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2025/556. This infographic was produced by UN Women.

WOMEN LEAD.
PEACE FOLLOWS.

UN WOMEN

FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS