



MINISTRY OF GENDER,CULTURE AND CHILDREN SERVICES

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR GENDER AFFAIRS AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

# KENYA NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

2025 - 2029

For the advancement of United Nations  
Security Council Resolution 1325 on  
Women, Peace and Security



From Commitment to Action:  
Women Shaping Peace and  
Security in Kenya

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# FOREWORD

The Government of Kenya reaffirms its commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, as anchored in United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions. Over the past two decades, Kenya has advanced gender equality and promoted women's leadership in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery.

The first and second Kenya National Action Plans (KNAP I and II) provided the framework for translating the WPS agenda into tangible results. They helped institutionalise women's participation in decision-making, strengthened protection mechanisms for women and girls, and built partnerships across government, civil society and development partners. Importantly, they laid the groundwork for localisation through County Action Plans, ensuring that women's voices are heard and their priorities addressed at community level.

An impact assessment of KNAP II, conducted in 2024, identified gaps, challenges and good practices across Kenya. These findings informed the development of the third-generation Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP III) 2025–2029, prepared through a consultative process. KNAP III builds on earlier gains while addressing emerging and evolving peace and security challenges, including violent extremism, climate-related conflict, political transitions and technology-facilitated GBV. It emphasises stronger accountability, enhanced coordination among stakeholders and ensuring that women and girls are not only protected but are also active agents of change in building sustainable peace.



Hon. Hanna Wendot Cheptumo  
Cabinet Secretary,  
Ministry of Gender, Culture  
and Children Services

KNAP III aligns with Kenya's constitutional, legal and policy frameworks, including the Constitution of Kenya, the National Policy on Gender and Development (2019), Kenya Vision 2030, Medium-Term Plan (2022–2026), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the National Peacebuilding Architecture, the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism and the Kenya Development Cooperation Framework, among others. This alignment ensures coherence, complementarity and sustainability in advancing the WPS agenda across sectors and levels of governance.

The Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children's Services and the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, as co-leads for KNAP III implementation, remain committed to working with all stakeholders including government agencies, county governments, civil society, UN Women, other development partners and communities to advance the WPS agenda.

Together, we pledge to ensure that no woman or girl is left behind in the pursuit of peace, security and development.

We further reaffirm our commitment to overseeing the implementation of this third-generation KNAP by providing the necessary leadership and building national consensus and ownership to achieve the goals of resolution 1325 at both national and county levels.



Hon. Onesimus Kichumba Murkomen  
Cabinet Secretary,  
Ministry of Interior, and National  
Administration

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The successful development of the **third Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP III) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)** for 2025–2029 reflects broad collaboration, consultation, and commitment from stakeholders across the Government of Kenya, civil society, development partners, and grassroots communities.

We extend our appreciation for the leadership of the **Cabinet Secretaries of the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services** and the **Ministry of Interior and National Administration** in driving this process. We also recognise the valuable contributions of line ministries, constitutional commissions, county governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), women peace actors and mediators, youth representatives, faith-based institutions, academia, the private sector, and, above all, the **National Steering Committee (NSC) on the KNAP**, whose insights strengthened the priorities and strategies in this Plan.

We are deeply grateful to **UN Women** for its financial and technical support, and to our partners — **Act Change Transform (Act!)**, **Conciliation Resources**, the **Deris Wanaag**

**Project**, the **Embassy of Peru in Kenya**, and **Tetra Tech** — for their steadfast collaboration. Their joint support ensured that KNAP III remained inclusive, participatory, and aligned with both national priorities and global WPS commitments. This collective effort underscores Kenya's commitment to advancing gender equality, peace, and security by ensuring that women, men, girls, and boys play active and equal roles in shaping peaceful, secure, and prosperous communities.

The finalisation of KNAP III would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the individuals and teams involved, including **Ms. Antonia N'Gabala-Sodonon** (UN Women Kenya Country Representative), **Ms. Hellen Muchunu** (UN Women Technical Lead), **Ms. Emily Opati** (1325 Focal Point), **Ms. Christabel Adhiambo** (Peacebuilding Directorate), **Mr. Kennedy Walusala**, and **Ms. Jaki Mbogo** (Chairperson, National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security), among others. We acknowledge and appreciate their dedication, leadership, and commitment in steering this process to fruition.



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Principal Secretary,  
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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AGPO</b>	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
<b>ACHPR</b>	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
<b>AHT-CPU</b>	Anti-Human Trafficking–Child Protection Unit
<b>ASALs</b>	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>BCOCC</b>	Border Control and Operations Coordination Committee
<b>BPFA</b>	Beijing Platform for Action
<b>CAPs</b>	County Action Plans
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>CVEs</b>	Countering Violent Extremism strategies
<b>DDR</b>	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GoK</b>	Government of Kenya
<b>ICGLR</b>	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>KDHS</b>	Kenya Demographic Health Survey
<b>KNAP</b>	Kenya National Action Plan
<b>KNBS</b>	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
<b>LAPs</b>	Local Action Plans
<b>MCA</b>	Member of County Assembly
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MTP</b>	Medium-Term Plan
<b>NDMA</b>	National Drought Management Authority
<b>NGEC</b>	National Gender and Equality Commission
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>PEV</b>	Post-Election Violence
<b>PSD</b>	Peace and Security Division
<b>PVE</b>	Preventing Violent Extremism
<b>SDfGAA</b>	State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group

<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDCF</b>	United Nations Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WEE</b>	Women's Economic Empowerment
<b>WPS</b>	Women, Peace and Security

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

**Conflict prevention** — Actions that stop minor or long-standing disputes from escalating into violence, limit the spread of violence if it occurs, or prevent its recurrence. Measures include early-warning systems, confidence-building, preventive deployment, sanctions and diplomacy.

**Domestic violence** — Also called domestic abuse or intimate partner violence; a pattern of behaviour within a relationship used to exercise or maintain power and control over a current or former intimate partner.

**Gender-based violence (GBV)** Any harmful act directed at an individual based on gender. It includes physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm; threats; coercion; or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life.

**Peacebuilding** — Activities that strengthen capacities at all levels to manage conflict, address its causes and consequences, and lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development, reducing the risk of a relapse into violence.

**Peacekeeping** — International (often United Nations-led) military and civilian efforts that create and maintain conditions for sustainable peace. Typical tasks include monitoring ceasefires, protecting civilians, supporting peace agreement implementation and facilitating transitions to peaceful governance.

**Post-conflict reconstruction** — A comprehensive process following conflict that restores political, economic and social systems; addresses root causes of violence; and supports sustainable, inclusive growth and long-term peace.

**Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH)** Any actual or attempted misuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes, including obtaining financial, social or political benefit from the sexual exploitation of another person.

**Transnational organised crime** — Criminal activity that operates across national borders, involving groups or markets active in multiple countries. Such networks often rely on systematic violence and corruption to achieve their aims.

**Trafficking in persons** — The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means such as threat, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or by giving/receiving payments or benefits to obtain control over a person, for the purpose of exploitation.

**Violence against women (VAW)** — Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

# 1.0

## UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) underscores women's equal participation in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and recovery. It calls on Member States, the United Nations, civil society and the international community to promote women's involvement in peace processes and decision-making within national and international mechanisms. The resolution addresses women's safety in conflict and recognises their leadership in peace efforts. Since 2000, additional resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015) and 2493 (2019) have reaffirmed and expanded these commitments. In parallel, resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security addresses the role and rights of young people in peace and security contexts. Together, these resolutions affirm the essential role of women in all aspects of conflict and peace processes.



Multi-agency stakeholders representing the government, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector during the validation workshop of KNAP III in Nairobi.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) links peace to gender equality and advocates women's participation in peace, security and governance. Including women in peace efforts enhances dialogue and promotes sustainable, inclusive peace. Gender equality is also essential for development and peace.

## Key UNSC Resolutions on Women, Peace & Security

<p><b>1820 (2008)</b></p> <p>Recognises sexual violence as a war tactic; promotes prevention, accountability, and ending impunity</p>	<p><b>1888 (2008)</b></p> <p>Establishes SRSG on Sexual Violence; deploys expert teams</p>
<p><b>1889 (2009)</b></p> <p>Women's participation in post-conflict recovery; calls for data/indicators</p>	<p><b>1960 (2010)</b></p> <p>Monitoring and reporting on conflict-related sexual violence</p>
<p><b>2106 (2013)</b></p> <p>Command responsibility; peacekeeper training on sexual violence</p>	<p><b>2122 (2013)</b></p> <p>Women's leadership and agency; links WPS to gender equality</p>
<p><b>2242 (2015)</b></p> <p>Mainstreams WPS across the UN system; addresses extremism, civil society, and reforms</p>	<p><b>2250 (2015)</b></p> <p>Youth, Peace &amp; Security agenda; emphasises roles of young women and men</p>
<p><b>2349 (2017)</b></p> <p>Lake Chad Basin crisis; sexual violence and trafficking by armed groups</p>	

Despite progress, setbacks persist. The 2024 United Nations report on women and peace and security notes that men predominantly hold power in peace and security institutions, and progress on ending impunity for crimes against women and girls remains limited and slow.<sup>1</sup> In 2023, the number of women killed in conflicts doubled compared with 2022; cases of conflict-related sexual violence increased by 50 per cent; and girls affected by grave violations rose by 35 per cent. Public awareness remains inadequate. Member States need to do more to raise awareness and increase women's representation in leadership roles.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Security Council. (2024). *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2024/671)*. Security Council Report. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S-2024-671.pdf>

## 1.1 Background

In 2016, the Government of Kenya established its first Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) on Security Council Resolution 1325, demonstrating a strong commitment to implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. KNAP I provided the national framework for implementing resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions.

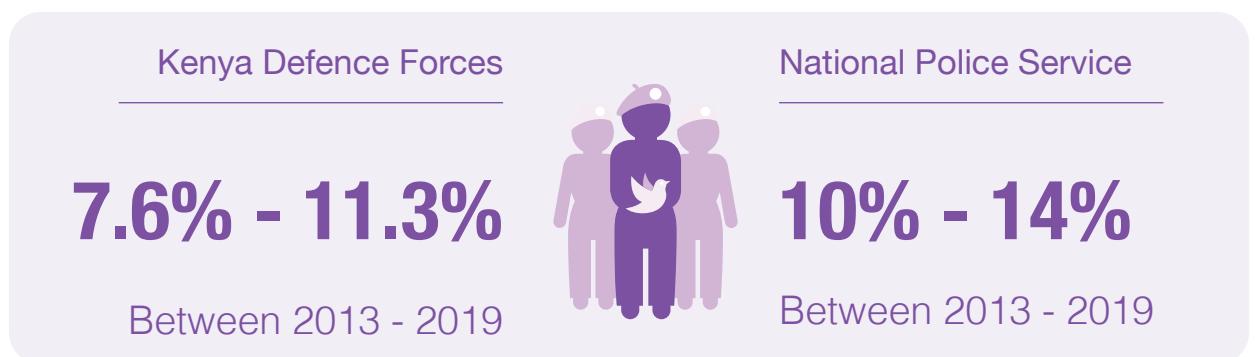
Notable results followed. The share of women in peace committees doubled, from 14 per cent in 2013 to 34 per cent in 2023.<sup>2</sup> A 2018 review recommended localisation through county governments to fully implement KNAP (2016–2018) and to build an inclusive society where women's rights are protected; this and other recommendations informed the development of KNAP II.

Kenya developed its second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (KNAP II) in 2019 and officially launched it in May 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan was implemented from 2020 to 2024, incorporating lessons from KNAP I and building on earlier achievements. Like its predecessor, KNAP II strengthened women's roles in peace and security, placing a strong emphasis on localization, resulting in the development of 19 County Action Plans by the end of 2024.<sup>3</sup>

A midterm review conducted in October 2022 identified several lessons that informed the development of KNAP III. These included the importance of strong partnerships; the value of robust monitoring and reporting systems to enhance data quality; and the need for adequate and predictable financing. A key takeaway was that ministries, county governments and national agencies must prioritise the Women, Peace and Security agenda in their planning and budgeting processes to ensure sufficient resource allocation for KNAP III implementation.

Evaluations conducted in 2023 and 2024 documented progress across the four strategic pillars. Under the Participation and Promotion pillars, Kenya achieved historic milestones, including the election of seven women governors in 2022. In the National Assembly, out of 290 constituency seats, women won 29, representing approximately 10 per cent of the elected Members of the National Assembly. Following the August 2022 elections, there were 727 women MCAs (115 elected; 612 nominated).<sup>4</sup> As of December 2024, there were five women Cabinet Secretaries out of 23.

In the security sector, women's representation has increased:



2 United Nations Security Council. (2024). *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2024/671)*. Security Council Report. <https://www.un.org/News/Press-Releases/2024/01/Security-Council-adopts-report-on-women-and-peace-and-security>

3 UN Women. (2020, May 27). Kenya's Women, Peace and Security Agenda enters next phase. UN Women Africa.

4 UN Women. A SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S PERFORMANCE IN Kenya's 2022 Election. <https://africa.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/Women%27s%20Performance%20in%20the%202022%20Election-%20Final%20F%2020%20pagers.pdf>

In 2024, Major General Fatima Ahmed became the first woman to lead the Air Force. In June 2025, Brigadier Joyce Sitienei was promoted to Major General and appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Strategic Studies at the National Defence University. The Ministry of Defence also adopted a Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) Policy in June 2025. Despite these advances, representation remains below 30 per cent minimum.

Under the Prevention Pillar, Kenya invested in women's involvement in preventing radicalisation and violent extremism. Women Peace and Security (WPS) networks are now active in 34 of 47 counties, convening local dialogues with communities and authorities. Through support from the AU, 63 women mediators were trained, with additional locally trained mediators yet to be captured in official data. Partnerships have built capacity for grassroots organisations, enabling trust-building, sharing of experiences and problem-solving spaces.<sup>5</sup> Kenya also convened Community Immersion Workshops under the PVE initiative in East Africa, bringing together youth, women, civil society organisations and local leaders to co-create resilience solutions.

Gender-sensitive early warning systems have been established in several counties, with women contributing to data collection to address specific needs, including climate-linked conflict risks.<sup>6</sup> Programmes addressing GBV, harmful practices and local conflicts show impact; however, limited resources constrain expansion especially in border areas of the Horn of Africa and South Sudan undermining the commitment to leaving no one behind.<sup>7</sup>

Under the Protection Pillar, Kenya has strengthened legal frameworks and set up survivor-centred mechanisms including gender desks, helplines and POLICARE. POLICARE aims to enhance the National Police Service's capacity to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by establishing fully equipped centres that provide integrated medico-legal, psychosocial, forensic and legal services. It also focuses on improving investigative skills and evidence handling, as well as building networks of pro bono lawyers and volunteer counselors. However, gaps remain in referral pathways, enforcement and resourcing across the country.

Under the Relief and Recovery Pillar, gender-responsive disaster risk management has been advanced by integrating WPS principles and establishing shelters for GBV survivors. Climate induced disasters continue to devastate communities, displace families and deepen gender inequalities, disproportionately affecting women and girls. Limited engagement with disaster agencies and inadequate responses in remote areas hinder progress.

KNAP II promoted collaboration through national and county working groups and coordination platforms on WPS, GBV and women's leadership. However, gaps in multisectoral cooperation and the absence of a unified coordination framework limited implementation. Funding relied heavily on donors, raising concerns about sustainability. Greater national investment and commitment are essential for KNAP III's long-term success.

The KNAP II evaluation identified persistent challenges: resource constraints, limited community awareness and systemic barriers to women's participation in peace and security. Emerging issues climate change, human trafficking and the COVID-19 pandemic further strained implementation. Key lessons emphasised grassroots engagement, robust monitoring and evaluation, culturally sensitive advocacy and sustained political will to enable adequate resource allocation at national and county levels.

5 Barbera, N. (2020, March 6). How Kenya's women are preventing extremism and violence. *United States Institute of Peace*. <https://www.usip.org/blog/2020/03/how-kenyas-women-are-preventing-extremism-and-violence>

6 Republic of Kenya (2020). Kenya's Report Progress on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action – Review and Appraisal <https://gender.go.ke/sites/default/files/publications/Final-17th-Final-BPFA25-Report-17-July.pdf>

7 Women In International Security Horn of Africa. (2024, May 30). Sisters without borders. <https://wiisha.org/sisters-without-borders/>

## Key recommendations shaping KNAP III

- Strengthen coordination mechanisms at national and county levels to enhance collaboration across the WPS agenda.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess progress and guide action.
- Invest in verifiable data, with technical support from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).
- Strengthen localisation by supporting County Action Plans (CAPs) in all counties and integrating the WPS agenda into local contexts.
- Reduce reliance on donor funding.
- Increase financial commitment by the national and county governments by integrating KNAP III into development blueprints and county plans.
- Deliberately engage youth and men to broaden societal support for gender equality and peace and security initiatives.
- Expand capacity building, particularly in marginalised regions, and address cultural barriers to women's full and effective participation.

Implementation of KNAP also recognises the need to include vulnerable groups. In this document, the term refers to women, youth and persons with disabilities, consistent with official usage. This does not exclude others, including intersex persons identified in the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census. While the WPS agenda centres on women, men are not excluded, as the agenda's objectives cannot be achieved without inclusive participation.

## 1.2 Kenyan context

The WPS agenda has been implemented amid rapid political and security changes. Women continue to face significant political, social and economic challenges, and KNAP III will operate in an even more dynamic context. Shifts across sectors of development strongly affect women's lives and opportunities.

Kenya's performance on global gender equality metrics shows mixed progress. According to the WPS Index 2023/24, Kenya ranked 149 of 177 countries, with a score of 0.511, reflecting gradual improvement<sup>8</sup> partly attributable to policy and institutional gains under KNAP I and II, including stronger gender mainstreaming in peace and security, increased participation in decision making and expanded protection for survivors.

However, the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report indicates a decline from 75th in 2023 (score 0.712) to 98th in 2025 (score 0.689). This signals insufficient progress in closing the gender gap, with significant disparities in economic participation, education and political representation.<sup>9</sup>

### 1.2.1 International context

At the United Nations General Assembly, WPS is a priority for Kenya. During its 2019 campaign for election to the Security Council, Kenya highlighted ten priorities, including WPS, underscoring its importance at the UN.<sup>10</sup> The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, through the Permanent

<sup>8</sup> Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security [GIWPS]. (2023). *WPS Index 2023/24: Tracking sustainable peace through inclusion, justice and security for women*. GIWPS.

<sup>9</sup> WEF (2025). Global Gender Gap Report 2025. Insight Report June 2025. [https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2025.pdf](https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2025.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Republic of Kenya (2022). Midterm Assessment of the 2nd Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP II) on Women Peace and Security.

Mission to the UN in New York, collaborates with the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children’s Services on KNAP implementation to advocate for greater action on WPS at the global level.

In October 2021, during Kenya’s Presidency of the United Nations Security Council, the country chaired an Open Debate on “*Investing in Women Peacekeepers*.” The debate highlighted the importance of increasing women’s participation and leadership in peace operations as a means to achieve more effective and inclusive peacekeeping. Kenya’s commitment to advancing gender responsive peacekeeping was further demonstrated with the involvement of Major Steplyne Nyaboga, a decorated Kenyan peacekeeper and recipient of the 2020 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award, who served as one of the invited briefers at the ministerial level session.

Her nomination for the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award was a significant milestone, reflecting recognition of Kenya’s efforts under the KNAP.<sup>11</sup> Kenya continues to promote gender representation in the military, partnering with the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) to enhance the capabilities of women officers and civilians for international peacekeeping operations. IPSTC’s work to build peace and security capacity in the region has enhanced KNAP’s implementation, especially women’s participation in security sector decision making with influence extending to the Horn of Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa.

### 1.2.2 Regional context

Kenya plays a vital role in promoting peace and resolving conflicts in neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its peace diplomacy across Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa has included mediation, negotiations, peacekeeping operations and complex peace support efforts in collaboration with regional and international partners.<sup>12</sup> Kenya’s contributions in a region affected by war, civil strife and instability have earned broad recognition.<sup>13</sup>

At the operational level, the Ministry of Defence works with the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) to integrate Women, Peace and Security (WPS) modules into pre-deployment training for peacekeepers.

### 1.2.3 Promoting sustainable peace

Promoting sustainable peace and security is central to the Constitution of Kenya and Vision 2030, both of which emphasise gender equality and inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities. Vision 2030 advances these goals through three pillars:<sup>14</sup>

- Economic pillar — targets 10 per cent annual growth by investing in key sectors while ensuring equal participation;
- Social pillar — promotes equitable access to education, health, housing, water, sanitation and environmental services to reduce gender disparities; and
- Political pillar — envisages a democratic, accountable system grounded in the rule of law, inclusive political processes, transparency, effective service delivery and peacebuilding.

11 Kenya Government. Annual report on the implementation of KNAP (2021).

12 Kimutai, G. (2024). Kenya’s Peace Diplomacy in Eastern Africa: Regional Hegemon? International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science Research (IJRIS). <https://rsisinternational.org/journals/ijriss/Digital-Library/volume-8-issue-4/978-988.pdf>

13 Ibid.

14 Government of Kenya. (2007). *Kenya Vision 2030: A globally competitive and prosperous Kenya*. Nairobi: Ministry of Planning and National Development and the National Economic and Social Council (NESC).

These pillars provide the framework for advancing gender equality across the development agenda. Incorporating WPS priorities demonstrates intentional alignment with national policy. However, Kenya's WPS Index ranking highlights persistent barriers, particularly in political participation, economic opportunities and security for women. This underscores the need for localisation of KNAP III, stronger institutional commitment and sustained funding.

The governance and public administration focus in Medium-Term Plan IV (MTP IV) relates to the WPS agenda across multiple pillars but requires explicit gender integration to maximise impact. Planned recruitment of additional police, prison and military officers offers an opportunity to increase women's participation in security, building on recent progress in appointing women to senior defence roles. Without specific gender targets, however, expansion risks reinforcing existing imbalances rather than meeting constitutional gender requirements. Digitising police stations and modernising security services will support the Protection pillar by improving responses to GBV and making reporting more accessible for women and girls. Investments in health and housing will also improve working conditions and retention for women in the security sector.

Strengthening training infrastructure and devolution aligns with the Prevention pillar and Sustainable Development Goal 16, supporting gender sensitive security sector capacity building and bringing services closer to communities where women's early-warning networks and grassroots peace initiatives operate. To realise this potential, these investments require gender-responsive planning and clear targets for women's participation.

MTP IV also seeks to transform judicial services by expanding infrastructure, automating court processes and recruiting personnel, and by accelerating development and implementation of legal frameworks. These changes can enhance access to justice for women, girls and other at-risk groups, many of whom currently face barriers to formal justice.

#### 1.2.4 Institutionalising peace and security

Kenya demonstrates its commitment to peace and security through legal frameworks, women's empowerment initiatives and peacebuilding efforts, including progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An independent review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2023 recommended: restructuring the National Cohesion and Integration Commission into a National Peacebuilding Commission; establishing national early warning systems; creating a mediation support unit;<sup>15</sup> and setting up a National Peacebuilding Fund, including a multi-partner trust fund. It also called for stronger coordination of NGOs and CSOs under national priorities while respecting their autonomy.

To fully realise WPS commitments, Kenya should strengthen coordination between KNAP III (managed by the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children's Services) and the national peacebuilding architecture (overseen by the Ministry of Interior and National Administration). Currently, these operate largely in parallel KNAP III advances gender-responsive peace efforts, while the peacebuilding architecture focuses on prevention, early warning, and response. Closer collaboration would reduce duplication and better integrate gender perspectives across peacebuilding priorities.<sup>1617</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Republic of Kenya (2024). The National Agenda for Peace. Report on the national review of Kenya's peacebuilding architecture.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations. (2000). *UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*. New York: UN.

<sup>17</sup> Government of Kenya. (2020). *Kenya National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (KNAP II) 2020–2024*. Nairobi: Ministry of Public Service and Gender.

### Recommended actions include:

- strengthening coordination between the KNAP III Secretariat and the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (Ministry of Interior), with clear terms of reference for joint planning and reporting;
- integrating WPS indicators from KNAP III into national peacebuilding monitoring and evaluation frameworks;<sup>18</sup> and
- organising joint capacity building and regional dialogues to bring together gender focal points and peace committees, translating national commitments into locally driven action.

These measures would reinforce gender-responsive peacebuilding and provide KNAP III with a stronger institutional foundation within the national security and governance architecture, enhancing Kenya's leadership nationally and regionally.

### 1.2.5 The humanitarian–development–peace nexus

The humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) nexus approach works with crisis affected populations to meet immediate needs while addressing root causes and reducing risks and vulnerabilities.<sup>19</sup> Kenya can strengthen links between peacekeeping, the WPS agenda and humanitarian action by embedding WPS priorities within security and humanitarian coordination frameworks. Integrating WPS into national and county humanitarian platforms would ensure gender perspectives shape preparedness, response and recovery.<sup>20</sup>

This approach should build on the work of the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and humanitarian cluster systems, with active engagement of civil–military coordination platforms, so that the needs and roles of women and girls are not overlooked during emergencies.<sup>21</sup>

Kenya can also leverage long standing peacekeeping experience such as contributions to AMISOM/ATMIS and UNMISS to advocate for stronger integration of WPS in peacekeeping mandates and humanitarian frameworks.<sup>22</sup> Documenting and sharing case studies from Kenyan missions would provide lessons on connecting WPS and humanitarian action, to be featured in KNAP III annual reports and at international forums such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).<sup>23</sup>

### 1.2.6 Security arrangements

Kenya faces diverse security threats, including organised crime, terrorism, banditry, vandalism, corruption and climate related disasters such as droughts and floods, which undermine livelihoods and development. A 2024 study indicates that livestock rustling particularly in the North Rift has become commercialised and more violent, involving advanced weaponry, political interference, illegal arms and organised crime networks.<sup>24</sup> Young men aged 18–34 are both primary victims and perpetrators, while women and children experience displacement, interrupted schooling, trauma and, at times, coercion to conceal stolen livestock. The destruction of livelihoods

<sup>18</sup> African Union. (2019). *Continental results framework for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa*. Addis Ababa: African Union Commission.

<sup>19</sup> UNDP Global Crisis. <https://www.undp.org/crisis/humanitarian-development-and-peace-nexus>

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations. (2000). *UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*. New York: UN.

<sup>22</sup> Government of Kenya. (2020). *Kenya National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (KNAP II) 2020–2024*. Nairobi: Ministry of Public Service and Gender.

<sup>23</sup> United Nations. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. New York: UN Women.

<sup>24</sup> National Crime Research Centre. (2024). *MANAGING THE DANGEROUS DRIFT IN LIVESTOCK RUSTLING AND BANDITRY IN KENYA: NCRC*. [https://www.crimeresearch.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/National-Crime-Report-Managing-the-Dangerous-Drift-in-Livestock-Rustling-and-Banditry-in-Kenya\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.crimeresearch.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/National-Crime-Report-Managing-the-Dangerous-Drift-in-Livestock-Rustling-and-Banditry-in-Kenya_compressed.pdf)

disproportionately affects women, increasing exposure to GBV, early marriage and unpaid care burdens.<sup>25</sup> The Government has responded through governance reforms, security operations, youth empowerment initiatives and climate-smart agriculture to address environmental insecurity.

### 1.2.7 Gender Based Violence

Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains a grave concern. Femicide has escalated sharply in recent years: while Kenya averaged about 85 femicide cases annually between 2016 and 2023, there were 170 killings in 2024,<sup>26</sup> the highest on record since 2018. Most murders are perpetrated by intimate partners, with over 60 per cent occurring in the home illustrating the risks women face in both private and public spaces.<sup>27</sup> Underreporting persists due to stigma and fear.

The Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022 indicates that 34 per cent of women aged 15–49 have experienced physical violence since age 15, and 16 per cent experienced physical violence in the previous 12 months.<sup>28</sup> This trend violates human rights and undermines Kenya's WPS commitments.<sup>29</sup> The persistence of femicide and other forms of GBV highlights gaps in protection mechanisms, law enforcement and social norms that normalise violence. Addressing GBV is therefore a core peace and security priority, requiring multi-sectoral action from stronger legal frameworks and enforcement to community-led prevention.

Furthermore, restrictions on education, limited livelihood choices, reduced access to basic services, and constrained participation in public life have adversely affected women in Kenya.<sup>30</sup> This makes it a critical area of concern for the country.

Trafficking and sexual exploitation are also serious concerns, particularly affecting women and girls. National Crime Research Centre data indicate that 53 per cent of human trafficking involves sexual exploitation and 44 per cent involves labour exploitation. Women account for about 41 per cent of trafficked persons and children for about 33 per cent. In one recent year, identified victims included 51 adult men, 176 adult women, 104 boys and 52 girls.<sup>31</sup>

Humanitarian crises amplify risk. In Marsabit County, a Plan International survey found that over 10 per cent of respondents knew a girl or woman who experienced sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the past six months, with reported incidents including early or forced marriage (39.3 per cent), rape (12.4 per cent), sexual harassment (16.9 per cent), female genital mutilation (16.9 per cent) and domestic violence (14.6 per cent).<sup>32</sup>

25 United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [UN Women]. (2020). *Gender and security in pastoralist communities: Addressing the impacts of cattle rustling and banditry on women and girls*. Nairobi: UN Women Kenya.

26 UN Women. (2024, February). *Femicide cases in Kenya fuel urgent calls for action to end violence against women*. UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2024/02/femicide-cases-in-kenya>

27 *Location of femicide cases in Kenya*. The Star. <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/infographics/2025-04-11-location-of-femicide-cases-in-kenya>

28 Republic of Kenya (2022). Kenya-Demographic-and-Health-Survey-KDHS-2022-Summary. <https://www.knbs.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Kenya-Demographic-and-Health-Survey-KDHS-2022-Summary-Report.pdf>

29 Government of Kenya. (2020). *Kenya National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (KNAP II) 2020–2024*. Nairobi: Ministry of Public Service and Gender.

30 GENDER AUDIT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF KENYA PEACE ARCHITECTURE (2019) Republic of Kenya and Government of Finland

31 Nation Media Group. (2023, March 10). *The harrowing journey through human trafficking*. Nation Africa. <https://nation.africa/kenya/news/gender/the-harrowing-journey-through-human-trafficking--4318274>

32 Plan International. (2023, April 26). *Girls in Kenya face violence as further drought expected*. <https://plan-international.org/news/2023/04/26/girls-in-kenya-face-violence-as-further-drought-expected/>

## 1.2.8 Socio-economic context

Kenya transitioned from low income to lower middle-income status in September 2014 following a World Bank reclassification based on improved performance and rebased GDP.<sup>33</sup> GDP per capita increased from US\$1,430 (2014) to US\$2,240 (2022), with average annual growth of 6.17 per cent. Nonetheless, persistent challenges remain low productivity, inequality and weak resilience with distinct gendered impacts.<sup>34</sup>

Women comprise approximately 80 per cent of the informal sector yet are disproportionately excluded from the benefits of growth.<sup>35</sup> Barriers to capital, formal financial services and productive assets constrain women's ability to scale enterprises or move into higher-value activities.<sup>36</sup> Only 29 per cent of women are included in formal credit markets, compared with 44 per cent of men.

Rising inflation, fiscal distress and high interest rates exacerbate inequality by making credit and essentials less affordable especially for female headed households, which face higher poverty rates.<sup>37</sup> Small scale women traders and rural women farmers remain vulnerable to shocks with limited safety nets or access to agricultural inputs. Recent youth protests linked to the Finance Bill 2024 reflect widespread economic strain; the infiltration of initially peaceful Gen Z demonstrations underscores security fragility with implications for economic stability, investor confidence and social cohesion.

MTP IV recognises these macroeconomic challenges and aims to position Kenya for upper-middle-income status through investments in human capital, domestic resource mobilisation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) to digitise the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). For growth to be inclusive, strategies must close gender gaps by expanding women's access to affordable credit, securing land and property rights, strengthening social protection and integrating women into formal labour markets and emerging digital economies.

KNAP III will prioritise women's economic empowerment by expanding access to affordable credit, strengthening financial literacy and supporting women-led enterprises particularly in informal, rural and conflict-affected areas where women are overrepresented. These efforts align with the Vision 2030 Economic Pillar, which recognises gender equality and women's economic empowerment as cross-cutting enablers. Without intentional investment in women's skills, assets and value-chain integration, however, women risk being left behind in industrialisation and competitiveness efforts.<sup>38</sup> Likewise, MTP IV's targets lower inflation, food security, and over one million jobs annually will advance gender equality only if women are deliberately included in policy design and benefit equitably from new opportunities.

In line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda, investments should prioritise the livelihoods and resilience of women, girls and persons with disabilities particularly in conflict-affected areas where poverty, insecurity and inequality intersect. KNAP III will advance this vision through gender-responsive budgeting, inclusive labour reforms and strengthened social protection systems, while promoting women's economic empowerment and leadership in peacebuilding processes. Building on KNAP II, which elevated women's participation in peacebuilding, KNAP III adopts an intersectional and comprehensive approach that deliberately includes women,

33 World Bank. (2014, July 1). *Kenya ascends to lower middle-income status*. The World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/07/01/kenya-ascends-to-lower-middle-income-status>

34 World Bank. (2023). *Kenya economic update: delivering inclusive growth for all*. Washington, DC: World Bank

35 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). (2022). *Women and men in Kenya: Facts and figures 2022*. Nairobi: KNBS.

36 World Bank. (2019). *Breaking barriers: Expanding access to finance for women-owned SMEs in Kenya*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

37 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) & UN Women. (2020). *Gender statistics in Kenya: Informing sustainable development*. Nairobi: KNBS.

38 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) & UN Women. (2020). *Gender statistics in Kenya: Informing sustainable development*. Nairobi: KNBS.

youth, and persons with disabilities not only as groups at risk but as active agents of prevention, resolution, and recovery. Key priorities include developing gender-disaggregated data, establishing community-based early-warning and response systems, and strengthening inclusive peace and security structures. Follow-up actions will focus on protection, representation, and leadership, particularly in emerging areas such as climate resilience, digital security, and local governance, to ensure that Kenya's peace and security interventions reflect the realities, agency, and contributions of all citizens.

### 1.2.9 Cross-border security threats

Kenya faces significant cross-border security challenges along its borders with Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan. Conflicts in these areas disproportionately affect women particularly informal cross-border traders and nearby communities with serious implications for the WPS agenda. Reported harms include sexual exploitation and early marriage. Limited law-enforcement presence enables trafficking networks to operate.<sup>39</sup>

In the East African Community (EAC) trade zones such as Busia and Namanga, women constitute up to 80 per cent of small-scale cross-border traders. They face daily risks of harassment and sexual exploitation by officials, bribery, extortion, confiscation of goods and GBV during travel or in unsafe accommodation. Lack of documentation, arbitrary taxation and long delays at crossing points compound their economic vulnerability.<sup>40</sup>

Kenya is strengthening border governance through the Kenya Border Control and Operations Coordination Committee (BCOCC). However, gender considerations remain limited. Needed measures include gender desks at border posts; training for border officials on GBV prevention and survivor-centred response; access to credit and legal trade facilitation for women traders; and bilateral agreements that include gender clauses safeguarding women along regional trade corridors.

Transnational insecurity and illegal-economy pressures overwhelmingly impact women, who face intersecting security risks, economic vulnerability and stigma. Addressing these issues requires gender-responsive cross-border policies: regional counter-trafficking cooperation, accessible and secure trade infrastructure, regularisation pathways for informal women traders and protection including compensation for GBV occurring along borders.

The Kenya–Somalia border presents distinct risks. The border's length and porosity complicate effective security. Reports indicate increased al-Shabaab activity in Somalia's border regions and a rise in attacks on the Kenyan side.<sup>42</sup> The group's use of social media expands its reach to young people beyond the border areas.<sup>43</sup> As with other militant groups, al-Shabaab perpetrates violence against women; however, research on group-specific GBV remains limited. In addition, some areas near the Ethiopia border have experienced incursions linked to the Oromo Liberation Army, heightening security concerns.<sup>44</sup> Violent extremism therefore requires stronger focus within the WPS agenda, with recognition of cross-border spillovers. Practical guidelines are needed to implement regional action plans under the EAC, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to address prevention across borders.

39 Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat, Kenya (2022) and interviews with women held between May 19 – 29<sup>th</sup> 2025.

40 UN Women (2019). *Opportunities and Challenges for Women Cross-Border Traders in East Africa*

41 African Development Bank (2021). *Empowering Women in Informal Cross-Border Trade in Africa*

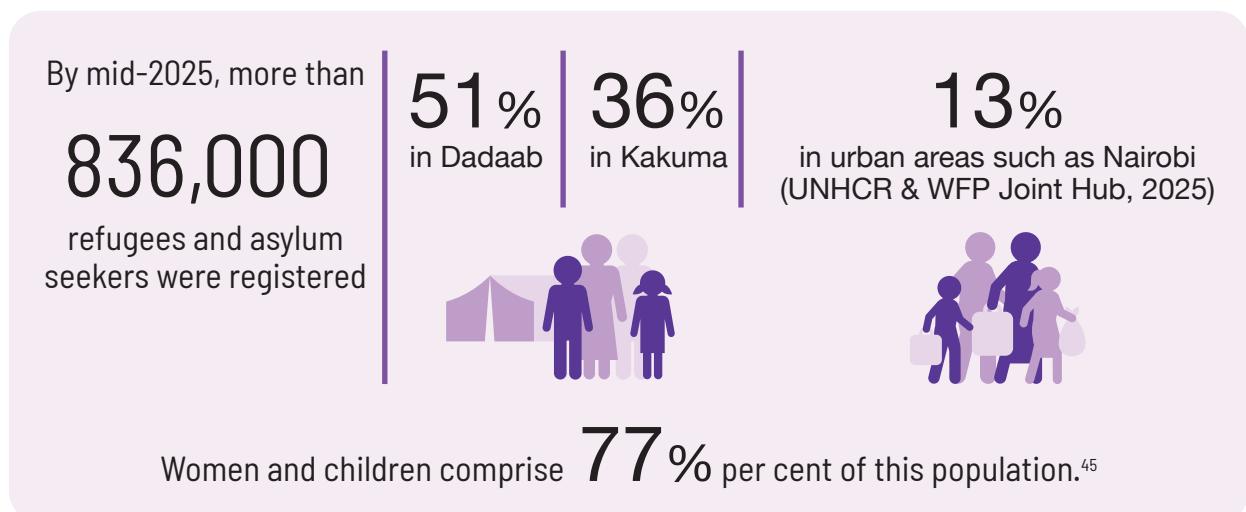
42 CHRIPS (2024) Trends of Violent Extremist Attacks and Arrests in Kenya. January – December 2024. [https://www.cve-kenya.org/media/documents/Trends\\_of\\_Violent\\_Extremist\\_Attacks\\_and\\_Arrests\\_in\\_Kenya\\_2024\\_S6whL78.pdf](https://www.cve-kenya.org/media/documents/Trends_of_Violent_Extremist_Attacks_and_Arrests_in_Kenya_2024_S6whL78.pdf)

43 Combating Terrorism Centre at West Point. The Online Frontline: Analysing al-Shabaab's Social Media Strategy. *January 2024, Volume 17, Issue 1*

44 Daily Nation May 18, 2025. Tower of Babel: Security Chiefs at Odds as Kenya Faces Mounting Security Threats.

### 1.2.10 Population displacement and its impact on women's peace and security

Kenya hosts a large refugee population from Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Burundi and Sudan.



This demographic profile raises specific gender-equality and protection concerns. Women and girls in camps face heightened risks of GBV, early or forced marriage and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services. Care responsibilities further restrict participation in education, leadership and employment. Many adolescent girls leave school due to caregiving, pregnancy or norms that prioritise boys' education.

The Refugees Act No. 10 of 2021 establishes a protective asylum framework, particularly for vulnerable groups including women, children, persons with disabilities and unaccompanied minors. It recognises that refugees in Kenya enjoy rights comparable to citizens and creates institutions to oversee refugee affairs. In March 2025, the Government launched the Shirika Plan to shift from a humanitarian to a development approach, advancing sustainable inclusion for refugees and host communities through policy reforms and full implementation of the Act expanding access to business, employment, education and property rights.<sup>46</sup>

The plan also proposes a Refugee Management Information System for real-time data and enhanced security measures to stabilise hosting areas. Ambiguities remain particularly regarding rights to work, run businesses and own land so rigorous monitoring is essential. As most refugees are women and children, implementation must be conflict-sensitive to avoid tensions with neighbouring communities.

### 1.2.11 Climate change

Kenya is highly vulnerable to climate change, with economic, environmental, social and political impacts that are distinctly gendered. Rural women who rely on climate-sensitive livelihoods and shoulder unpaid care bear disproportionate burdens. Girls and women in rural and low-income urban areas face unequal responsibilities in securing food, water and energy, and in caring for dependants. They are most at risk during heatwaves, droughts and storms, experiencing health impacts, longer travel for essential resources and delayed evacuation due to care roles. Given women's central roles in household food production, water collection and caregiving, climate

<sup>45</sup> UNHCR. (2021). *Kenya country profile: refugee demographics* (Kenya Operation). Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/africa/countries/kenya>

<sup>46</sup> Key Informant Interview, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

shocks often hit them hardest. Food insecurity increases exposure to exploitation, child marriage and GBV, and weakens social cohesion.<sup>47</sup>

Women and girls have been under-represented in climate decision-making. Government priorities include adaptation and mitigation, green jobs, emission reductions, resilience in arid lands and reduced human–wildlife conflict in vulnerable counties. Within KNAP III, the WPS agenda should explicitly integrate climate-change adaptation and food security. Strengthening women’s leadership in climate governance and food systems is essential to address vulnerabilities and build resilient, peaceful communities. Improving women’s access to land, finance and climate-smart agricultural technologies can raise production, reduce economic insecurity and mitigate climate-related conflict risks.<sup>4849</sup>

### 1.2.12 Digital connectivity and artificial intelligence

Rapid advances in digital technologies create significant opportunities but also increase risks, including technology-facilitated violence against women.<sup>50</sup> Almost 90 per cent of young adults in Nairobi’s higher-education institutions report witnessing technology-enabled GBV, and 39 per cent have experienced it personally.<sup>51</sup> Female students are disproportionately targeted 64.4 per cent report at least one incident compared with 35.5 per cent of male students<sup>52</sup> with harms including online defamation and non-consensual pornography. These abuses have lasting psychological, social and economic effects.

Kenya’s Beijing@30 (2025) report highlights relevant legal measures: the Data Protection Act (2019) and the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (2018) address technology-related offences; a Cyber Crime Unit has been established within the Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit; and a 2021 amendment to the Evidence Act recognises digital evidence (such as screenshots), strengthening legal redress for online abuse.

Nonetheless, the digital sphere presents gender-specific risks. Women, girls and persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) face significant harassment and threats.<sup>53</sup> Clear, rights-based laws and platforms for safe, gender-sensitive digital engagement are needed, as online harassment fuels self-censorship and exclusion from civic and peacebuilding spaces. Ensuring robust frameworks and platform accountability will support safe, constructive participation.

Digital connectivity and artificial intelligence (AI) are cross-cutting issues with opportunities and risks across all four WPS pillars participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery. KNAP III should embed digital resilience, strengthen prevention and response to technology-facilitated GBV, integrate WPS principles into cybersecurity and AI strategies, invest in women’s digital literacy and adopt proactive measures against disinformation and online backlash, particularly during elections.<sup>54</sup>

47 Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO]. (2021). *The state of food security and nutrition in the world*.

48 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC]. (2022). *Climate change 2022: Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability*.

49 CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security [CCAFS]. (2020). *Gender and climate change in agriculture and food security*.

50 UN Women & UN DESA (2024). *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2024>. Accessed: May 18, 2025

51 UNFPA (2024). Rapid Study on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) In Kenya’s Higher Learning Institutions. <https://kenya.unfpa.org/en/publications/rapid-study-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-tfgbv-kenyas-higher-learning>

52 Ibid.

53 UN Women. Promoting Women’s Peace and Security in the Digital World. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/promoting-womens-peace-and-security-in-the-digital-world#:~:text=However%20the%20digital%20world%20carries,significant%20online%20harassment%20and%20threats>.

54 Ibid.

# 2.0

## EMERGING PRIORITIES

Emerging priorities were identified in consultations with stakeholders, including the Technical Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), government departments, civil society and development partners. Focus groups with women, men, youth, religious leaders and officials also provided input. While some issues are not new, their scope and severity are increasing. For example, GBV is endemic in Kenya, with escalating attacks and femicide, underscoring the need for ongoing monitoring and response within the peace and security agenda. These priorities are grouped around the four pillars, each with an objective that will guide the implementation of KNAP III.

### 2.1 Political tension



Kenya continues to face recurring political violence, especially during election periods, driven by electoral disputes, political exclusion and the growth of hate speech. These factors weaken democratic participation and affect women, young people and persons with disabilities more profoundly. Hate speech and online abuse foster hostile environments that deter women from political engagement, while insufficient protection and weak accountability for violations including those by law-enforcement actors sustain impunity.

To address these challenges, policy action must prioritise the safety and inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities in political spaces by strengthening protection mechanisms, enforcing measures against hate speech and digital harassment, and ensuring accountability for violations. In parallel, systemic reforms are needed to integrate gender equality into governance and economic justice, creating a more inclusive and secure society where women's political participation is both protected and encouraged.

### 2.2 Sociocultural factors



A combination of sociocultural and economic factors continues to hinder women's participation in peace and security processes. Limited access to education remains a persistent obstacle, with many girls, young women and persons with disabilities excluded from leadership and civic spaces due to high school dropout rates caused by early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, poverty and harmful practices. These structural challenges impede the realisation of the WPS agenda and diminish the number of women able to influence decision-making in governance, peace and security.

Exclusion is worsened by the marginalisation of girls and persons with disabilities, whose access to schools remains limited, especially in rural and underserved areas. Poor enforcement of laws against child marriage and inadequate adolescent health services further reinforce these barriers. Meanwhile, the lack of adult education, civic education and media advocacy decreases women's awareness of their rights and reduces their presence in political and public life.

Without urgent policy intervention, these sociocultural dynamics will continue to limit women's opportunities outside the domestic sphere, sustain GBV, and hinder Kenya's capacity to realise inclusive peace and security under the WPS agenda.

## 2.3 Economic factors



Women, youth and persons with disabilities in Kenya continue to face significant economic challenges that restrict their participation in both the economy and public life. Persistent poverty, high unemployment, limited access to credit and restricted economic opportunities are worsened by structural barriers such as discrimination, inadequate infrastructure and weak enforcement of inclusive policies. For women with disabilities, these obstacles intersect, increasing vulnerability, limiting access to essential resources and services, and decreasing their role in decision-making processes.

The ongoing economic downturn has further intensified these pressures, especially for young women and persons with disabilities, making them more vulnerable to exclusion and exploitation. These economic barriers not only weaken women's empowerment but also hinder efforts to promote sustainable peace and security.

Tackling these emerging issues requires Kenya to focus on removing structural barriers to equality by expanding access to affordable credit, financial services and markets. It also involves ensuring that affirmative-action programmes such as quotas in public procurement are effectively implemented and monitored. Promoting women's economic empowerment is key to strengthening inclusive governance, social cohesion and peace.

## 2.4 Gender-based violence



Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a significant obstacle to women's safety, rights and participation in Kenya. From 2016 to 2024, over 930 femicides were documented, revealing systemic failures in prevention, protection and accountability. Decreasing funding for GBV programmes, limited support for survivors and the absence of shelters in rural and border regions further leave women and girls vulnerable. Weak enforcement of legal frameworks, insufficient police gender desks, and dependence on traditional justice systems sustain impunity and underreporting.

Tackling GBV requires urgent reforms to enhance survivor-centred services, increase shelters, develop rapid response mechanisms and strengthen the justice sector to guarantee accountability. Community involvement is vital to challenge harmful norms. In addition, it is essential to engage men and boys in prevention efforts and connect GBV prevention with women's economic empowerment and the WPS agenda.

## 2.5 Climate change and humanitarian disasters



Climate change and humanitarian crises disproportionately impact women, adolescent girls and persons with disabilities in Kenya, especially in rural and arid areas. They face increased risks of losing livelihoods, health issues, care responsibilities and exposure to violence during emergencies, yet remain under-represented in climate and disaster decision-making.

Limited access to land, water, health care and climate-smart infrastructure worsens exclusion, while humanitarian responses often view women as aid recipients rather than active agents of resilience. Persons with disabilities especially women and girls are further marginalised, with limited access to support services or safe shelters.

To address these risks, Kenya must implement gender-responsive policies that expand early-warning systems, secure land and water rights, and ensure meaningful participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in climate adaptation, relief and recovery. Without inclusive action, climate change will increase inequalities and undermine peace and security.

## 2.6 Digital connectivity and artificial intelligence



Online harassment, defamation and non-consensual pornography cause lasting harm and lead many women to self-censor, undermining their participation in political, economic and peacebuilding processes. The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) introduces new challenges, including the spread of disinformation during elections, online hate speech and backlash from groups opposing gender equality. These emerging threats emphasise the need to update protection mechanisms and incorporate digital resilience into peace and security policies. Kenya should strengthen gender-sensitive digital legislation and enforcement, expand prevention and response to technology-facilitated GBV, embed WPS principles into cybersecurity and AI strategies, invest in women's digital literacy and resilience, and adopt proactive measures to combat disinformation and online backlash particularly during elections. Enforcement should ensure technology platforms are held responsible for preventing access to defamatory technologies.

## 2.7 Human–wildlife conflict



Climate-change-induced resource scarcity (grazing, agriculture, water) is increasingly compelling wildlife to move into human settlements in Kenya, particularly those bordering national parks. Persistent droughts force animals out of the parks in search of water and food. Women who rely on subsistence agriculture and must collect water or fuelwood from areas overlapping wildlife corridors face greater risks of attack or injury, raising day-to-day survival risks. These conflicts destroy crops and property and deepen food and economic insecurity, lowering women's capacities to participate in peace and security.<sup>55</sup>

## 2.8 Funding of KNAP



Funding for the KNAP has been a challenge. The government has not allocated a dedicated budget for the KNAP, which limits the role of the State Department in oversight. Donor funding through the government and non-state actors is often restricted to funders' priorities, constraining strategic, holistic implementation. The absence of government funding reduces national control over implementation, dissemination, monitoring and reporting. Urgent financial support from the government is essential to enhance the implementation of KNAP III.

## 2.9 Conclusion on emerging issues

The issues raised by respondents and desk studies highlight the country's key priorities within the WPS framework. These will be integrated into the implementation matrix to guide the execution of KNAP III. The diversity of these issues suggests a need for a whole-of-government approach, ensuring that all ministries and agencies collaborate effectively to achieve meaningful change during KNAP III's tenure. Additionally, there is a need for a resource-mobilisation strategy to secure funds for implementation.



Participants follow proceedings of a training and sensitization workshop on AGPO for women entrepreneurs in Marsabit County.

# 3.0

## ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL PROTOCOLS, POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

### 3.1 Regional frameworks

The African Union (AU) prioritises gender equality across its normative frameworks and emphasises women's roles in peace and security. The 2002 Constitutive Act affirms gender equality as a core value and calls for integrating gender perspectives. The AU parity principle promotes 50/50 representation in decision-making.<sup>56</sup>

Through the 1998 ACHPR and the 2003 Maputo Protocol, the AU underscores the protection of women's rights by raising awareness, supporting progressive legislation, promoting inclusive development and encouraging women's participation in peace processes (see Article 10). Agenda 2063 further highlights good governance, democracy, human rights, justice and the rule of law.<sup>57</sup> It urges Member States to ensure access to impartial courts and fair justice systems and to eliminate corruption and impunity critical given the limited access to justice faced by many women and girls.

Agenda 2063 also calls for ending armed conflict, terrorism, extremism, intolerance, GBV, drug trafficking, organised crime, illicit arms trade and piracy, all of which undermine security and stability. To strengthen tracking and implementation of the WPS agenda, the AU established the African Continental Results Framework to monitor implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 through National Action Plans.

### 3.2 Sub-regional frameworks

Kenya is a member of three sub-regional organisations with mandates relevant to peace and security.

- **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD):** IGAD addresses political and economic development through its Peace and Security Division. It launched its first **Regional Action Plan (RAP)** in 2011 to accelerate WPS commitments. To respond to evolving dynamics affecting women, girls and other vulnerable groups, IGAD adopted a second-generation RAP on resolution 1325 for **2023–2030**.<sup>58</sup>
- **East African Community (EAC):** The EAC integrates gender perspectives into its peace and security agenda, protects the human rights of women and girls, and promotes their participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution. Its first Action Plan on resolution 1325 covered **2015–2019**.<sup>59</sup>

56 African Union (2018). AU Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment 2018–2028. [https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/34873-file-constitutiveact\\_en.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/34873-file-constitutiveact_en.pdf)

57 AU (2015). Agenda 2063. The Africa We Want. [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063\\_popular\\_version\\_en.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf)

58 IGAD. Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (2023–2025). <https://igad.int/download/regional-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-for-the-igad-region-from-commitment-to-actions-2023-2030/>

59 FAWE (2014). EAC Regional Framework on UNSCR 1325. <https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/EAC-Regional-Framework-on-UNSCR-1325.pdf>

- **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR):** The ICGLR developed a **Regional Action Plan on WPS for 2018–2023**, aimed at integrating gender perspectives into its peace and security work, protecting the rights of women and girls and promoting their participation in peace processes.

### 3.3 National frameworks

#### 3.3.1 Kenya legislation and policy frameworks

As with previous KNAPs, analysing the Government of Kenya's strategic vision through its constitutional and policy frameworks is essential. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides for equality and freedom from discrimination and states that women and men have the right to equal treatment, including equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social life (Article 27). These provisions guide implementation of KNAP III. KNAP III is also aligned with Kenya Vision 2030.

Vision 2030 underscores national security, protection of persons and property, and the importance of peacebuilding and conflict resolution as foundations for sustainable development. KNAP III will be implemented during the Medium-Term Plan IV (MTP IV) period. While WPS is not explicitly named in MTP IV, government measures to increase women's participation in the security and justice sectors are expected to apply gender considerations to ensure effective participation.

In addition, the government's proposed peacebuilding architecture includes capacity-building in conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation; development and application of a national conflict-mediation strategy; and a post-conflict reconstruction and recovery plan. These initiatives align with KNAP III priorities. Other legislative and policy frameworks linked to KNAP are listed in Annex I.



Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services CS Hanna Cheptumo (left) with Chief Justice Martha Koome during the Third Edition of the Employment and Labour Relations Annual Symposium and Exhibition organized by the Kenya Judiciary.

# 4.0

## DEVELOPMENT OF KENYA NATIONAL ACTION PLAN III ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The development of Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) III builds on the two previous action plans. The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action conducted a desk review of relevant documents, prepared an inception report, reviewed available data and formulated a development workplan at national and selected county levels.

The process was highly consultative. It involved the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and key line ministries, departments and agencies. County government representatives were also interviewed. The TWG includes non-state actors who contributed in their technical capacity as steering group members.

In addition, non-state actors that implement KNAP but are not members of the TWG such as civil society organisations (CSOs), women's rights organisations and peace advocates were interviewed, as were United Nations agencies and development partners. A second set of interviews was carried out with partners at county level.

A national validation workshop was held in September 2025 to gather feedback on the draft KNAP III. Participants included stakeholders from national and county levels, among them County Gender Directors and officers. The draft was revised to incorporate this feedback and then submitted to the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action.



Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services CS Hanna Cheptumo (left) and PS Anne Wango'ombe arrive for the national celebrations of International Widows Day in Nyeri.

# 5.0

## IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 identifies key areas for Member States to address under four pillars.

**Participation** — Ensure women's equal participation alongside men in peace and security decision-making at local, national, regional and international levels. This pillar affirms the inclusion of women and gender perspectives in peace negotiations, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. Member States and regional bodies are expected to adopt and implement institutional reforms that advance women's empowerment and active participation in processes that pursue sustainable peace.

**Prevention** — Integrate a gender perspective into all conflict-prevention measures, at all levels, with a particular focus on preventing all forms of violence against women and girls in peacetime, in conflict and post-conflict situations.

**Protection** — Ensure that women's and girls' rights to security physical, social and economic are protected and promoted in conflict-affected situations and other humanitarian crises, including protection from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). This pillar also underscores the need for leadership and coordination of SGBV responses, and for governments, regional organisations, continental bodies, peace support operations and humanitarian missions to establish infrastructures that prevent SGBV and provide holistic, survivor-centred care (including physical security and psychosocial, legal and institutional support).

**Relief and recovery** — Ensure that women's and girls' specific relief needs are addressed in conflict and post-conflict contexts, and that their capacities are strengthened so they can act as agents in relief and recovery. Special attention should be given in humanitarian assistance; disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR); repatriation and resettlement; and post-conflict economic development processes.

Considering the above, and national context priorities, KNAP III aims to advance the WPS agenda by realising these pillars through the objectives below.

### 5.1 KNAP III objectives

#### 5.1.1 Overall goal

The primary goal of KNAP III is to promote the meaningful participation of women in peace and security efforts. KNAP III provides a framework, grounded in the WPS agenda, for incorporating Security Council resolution 1325 into national development and peace plans, and for empowering women to take effective roles in creating sustainable and inclusive peace in Kenya.



**Participation and Promotion:** Increase and strengthen women's meaningful leadership and representation at all decision-making levels in peace and security, climate adaptation and disaster risk management.



**Prevention:** Prevent conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls, and other at-risk groups, through gender-responsive institutional, structural and social change.



**Protection:** Safeguard women and girls, and other at-risk groups including migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons from all forms of conflict and violence, including sexual and GBV, through survivor-centred and accessible protection systems.



**Relief and Recovery:** Ensure that women and girls have access to and can meaningfully participate in gender-responsive relief and recovery in humanitarian settings, including during disasters and crises and in post-conflict contexts.

### 5.1.2 Theory of change

If women meaningfully participate in, and influence, decision-making in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, elections, security, climate adaptation and governance processes; and if gender-responsive prevention systems including early warning, prevention of violent extremism, mitigation of election-related tensions, climate-conflict risks, and technology-facilitated GBV are strengthened with the active engagement of men, boys, youth and community leaders; and if survivors of femicide, GBV, displacement and conflict gain timely access to survivor-centred protection, justice and security services; and if women's priorities and leadership shape humanitarian relief, recovery and resilience strategies in displacement settings, climate-related disasters and post-crisis/post-conflict reconstruction; and if national and county governments provide sustainable financing, coordination and accountability mechanisms that institutionalise the WPS agenda across sectors; then Kenya will achieve inclusive, gender-responsive and sustainable peace and security where women, girls and other at-risk groups are safe from violence and exclusion, protected by gender-responsive institutions, and equally engaged in shaping a cohesive, resilient and democratic society.

## KNAP III Theory of Change

### Kenya National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

**GOAL:** Promote meaningful participation of women in peace and security efforts

#### RESULTS - The Four Pillars

##### PARTICIPATION AND PROMOTION

Increase and strengthen women's meaningful leadership and representation across all decision-making levels in peace, security, climate adaptation, and disaster management

##### PREVENTION

Prevent conflict and all types of violence against women, girls, and vulnerable groups through gender-sensitive institutional, structural, and social change

##### PROTECTION

Safeguard women, girls, and other vulnerable groups from all forms of conflict and violence, including migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons

##### RELIEF & RECOVERY

Ensure women and girls have access to, and can actively participate in, relief and recovery services in humanitarian settings and post-conflict recovery

#### OUTCOMES

Women actively shaping governance processes in peacebuilding, security, climate adaptation and disaster response

Women, girls, including those with disabilities, experience safety, dignity, and freedom from conflict and violence

Women's rights to peace and security, including access to justice and redress, effectively provided

Women's and girls' human security needs met through relief and recovery efforts

#### STRATEGIES

##### PARTICIPATION

- Inclusive governance frameworks strengthened
- Women's participation institutionalized
- Systems transformed for equitable influence

##### PREVENTION

- Gender-responsive early warning mechanisms
- Risk and vulnerability reduced
- Communities have increased capacity

##### PROTECTION

- Laws and policies strengthened
- Accountability and access to justice enhanced
- Legal framework for TFGBV established

##### RELIEF & RECOVERY

- Women and girls included in humanitarian programmes
- Early warning and relief systems strengthened
- Climate adaptation mechanisms enhanced

#### STRATEGIES

##### CATALYZING STRATEGY

Kenya continues to demonstrate its commitment to peace and security through its legal frameworks, women's empowerment initiatives, and peacebuilding efforts. To fully harness its WPS commitments, Kenya needs to establish coordination between KNAP III and must operate in an increasingly dynamic context requiring stronger institutional frameworks, enhanced coordination mechanisms, and increased resource allocation.

#### STRATEGIES

##### PROBLEM

Despite implementing two National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, Kenya faces a paradox of limited progress amid a rapidly changing political and security environment. Women continue to face significant political, social, and economic challenges across all development sectors.

**Table 1: KNAP III Implementation Matrix (2025-2030)**

Pillar 1: Participation and Promotion		Objective: To increase women's leadership and meaningful representation at all decision-making levels in peace, security, climate adaptation and disaster management processes		
Outcome: Women actively shaping and influencing governance processes in peacebuilding, security, climate adaptation and disaster response				
Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
Output 1.1: Inclusive governance frameworks in legislation, policymaking, and practices were strengthened to eliminate structural barriers to women's participation and leadership in peace, security, climate adaptation and disaster response	1.1.1 National peace and security legislation and policies are enhanced for women's participation in peace, security, climate adaptation and disaster response	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Other: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Parliament of the Republic of Kenya, county assemblies, IEBC, traditional authorities, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice, Judiciary, National Land Commission, PBOs, National Drought Management Authority, National Disaster Operation Centre, regional organisations	Existence of up-to-date legislation promoting participation of women, including those with disabilities, and the young. Percentage increase in the representation of women in leadership roles Proportion of digital safety and digital advocacy forums conducted for women	Implementation and enforcement of existing legal frameworks and policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policies and strategies have action plans that are funded.</li><li>• Funds are used for intended beneficiaries.</li></ul>
	1.1.2 Gender Responsive Budgetary allocations to facilitate women's effective participation in peace, security, climate adaptation and disaster management at all levels of governance.	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Co-Lead: National Treasury, Council of Governors Other: Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Ministry of Defence, County Governments, PBOs, political parties, private sector	Proportion of national and county ministries, departments, and agencies integrating KNAP/WPS into sectoral workplans and budgets. Status reports tracking women's access to resources in peace, security, climate adaptation and disaster management at all governance levels, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and region.	Data available and disaggregated into the source ministries responsible for different aspects of WPS Monitoring report from the KNAP Secretariat

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
	1.1.3 Establish a national women, peace, and security agenda knowledge base to address critical evidence gaps and guide strategic investment	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Other: Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, academic and research institutions, NGECC, NCIC, -PBOs.	Documented impact of interventions and trends of WPS research findings uptake integrated into policy reviews, developments and programming.  Monitoring reports from the KNAP Secretariat	Research recommendations from academic and research institutions documenting trends of WPS achievements  Monitoring reports from the KNAP Secretariat
	1.1.4 Strengthen and implement institutional reforms to ensure women have equal opportunity to attain leadership roles in international and domestic peacebuilding, climate adaptation and disaster management processes through mandated institutional reforms.	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Other: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Parliament of the Republic of Kenya, county assemblies, KLRC, IEBC, traditional authorities, NGECC, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice, Judiciary, National Land Commission, PBOs, National Drought Management Authority, National Disaster Operation	Institutional commitments that support women's deployment have been implemented and strengthened.  Increased representation of women in peacekeeping missions and other peace building processes	Policies and strategies have action plans. are funded.

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
	1.1.5 Integrate Women Economic Empowerment strategies at national and county levels to promote women's access to procurement opportunities, enhance entrepreneurial skills, and increase women's economic empowerment and participation in decision-making	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, National Treasury, Ministry of Trade, Council of Governors, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics	Percentage of women accessing formal credit and financial services. Number of women-led enterprises in the informal sector benefiting from economic empowerment programs. Gender-disaggregated data on income levels and business ownership	KNBS economic surveys and Gender statistics reports, Monitoring reports from the KNAP Secretariat, county-level economic empowerment program reports. Financial inclusion data from the Central Bank and Treasury
Output 1.2: Women's meaningful participation is institutionalised at all levels of the systems for conflict prevention, management, and resolution.	1.2.1 Implement a mandatory gender quota for women's representation in all publicly recognised dispute resolution bodies, resource management, including traditional councils.	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Other: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Office of the Attorney General, Judiciary, media, PBOs, and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission	Proportion of women in peacebuilding actively engaged in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration, and traditional dispute settlement, at the National and County levels.	Monitoring reports by the secretariat, reports from implementing institutions. Administrative data.
	1.2.2 Localise and implement the KNAP at the county level.	Lead: Ministry of Gender Other: Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Council of Governors, county governments, National Gender and Equality Commission, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, PBOs, media, private sector	Number of counties with budgeted local action plans. Proportion of women meaningfully participating in climate adaptation and disaster management processes at county, sub-county, and community levels.	Monitoring reports from the secretariat and implementing partners. Annual reports from county governments. PBOs reports.

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
	1.2.3 Establish gender quotas for cyber governance bodies, digital peace innovation hubs and train digital peace ambassadors.	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Communications Authority of Kenya, National Gender Equality Commission, National Crime Research Centre.	Percentage of women meaningfully engaged in peace and security decision-making through institutionalised women-led steering committees, policy dialogues, and technology-driven advocacy platforms.	Hub utilisation reports. Administrative data, Research reports
Output 1.3: Transformed systems and structures for the inclusion and empowerment of women to ensure equitable influence to shape peace and security outcomes	1.3.1 Expand alternative livelihood programs and interventions, including climate-smart agriculture, digital entrepreneurship, and vocational training, targeting economic empowerment of women, including those with disabilities, intersex refugees and from marginalised groups	Lead: Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, Co-Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Others: National Treasury, Ministry of Trade, Council of Governors, county governments, National Gender and Equality Commission, PBOs	Percentage increase of women and girls engaged in alternative livelihood programs Implementation of alternative livelihood programs, including climate-smart agriculture Number of women trained in entrepreneurship and procurement compliance, number benefiting from AGPO procurement opportunities and percentage represented in economic decision-making bodies.	Survey Reports Needs Assessment Reports disaggregated by gender, age, and the marginalisation category AGPO Reports, procurement, audit reports, implementation Monitoring reports, County Government procurement records

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
1.3.2 Strengthen adult education systems, build digital literacy to raise women's and girls' literacy levels, awareness and provide secure platforms for women and girls' engagement in civic and policy dialogue.	Lead: Ministry of Education Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Education, Council of Governors, county governments, National Gender and Equality Commission, PBOs.	Percentage increase in women attending and completing adult education classes in high-risk counties. Number of women peacebuilders and CSO leaders trained in digital advocacy, data analysis, and online mobilisation.	KNBS census data; Demographic and Health Survey reports. Community education reports.	

Pillar 2: Prevention			
Objective: To prevent conflict and all forms of violence against women, girls, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and other vulnerable groups, through gender-sensitive institutional, structural, and social transformation			
Outcome: Women, girls, including those with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, experience safety, dignity, and freedom from the fear and threat of conflict and violence, supported by inclusive systems of protection and accountability			
Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators
Output 2.1: Strengthened and gender-responsive early warning systems, climate adaptation, disaster management, and conflict prevention mechanisms and strategies	2.1.1 Integrate gender responsiveness and conflict-sensitivity into early warning and early response systems as part of conflict prevention mechanisms, including peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism.	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration, National Police Service Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, county governments, NGEC, KNCHR, KNBS, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, National Counter Terrorism Centre, PBOs.	Presence of Early warning and response mechanisms that integrate a gender perspective. The number of gender-responsive strategies developed and implemented to mitigate violent extremism. Number of women-led initiatives on peacebuilding, climate change and disaster management. Number of gender-responsive provisions in agreements and declarations from dispute resolution mechanisms.
	2.1.2 Conduct research on the use of existing indigenous and traditional knowledge on women's roles in early warning and early response.	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Others: Traditional authorities (and elders councils), Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, research institutions, academic institutions, PBOs, NGEC, National Cohesion and Integration Commission,-	Increased roles for women in early warning systems using indigenous and traditional knowledge-based mechanisms are recognised, effectively integrated into national and local climate adaptation and disaster preparedness strategies, informing policy and studies published

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
Output 2.2: Risk and vulnerability to conflict and violence against women, girls, including those from vulnerable groups, reduced	2.2.1 Undertake public awareness to address socialisation and normalisation of sexual and GBV.	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Youth, Creative Economy and Sports, PBOs, National Gender and Equality Commission, National Police Service, Independent Policing Oversight Authority, National Treasury and Economic Planning, KNBS	Sustained shifts in attitudes and behaviours amongst communities. Institutional commitments in national and local policies/ initiatives to shift social norms	Monitoring reports from the secretariat and implementing partners. KNBS survey data
	2.2.2 Develop male engagement programs to promote positive masculinities and non-violent behaviours.	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Others: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Creative Economy and Sports PBOs, National Gender and Equality Commission, National Police Service, Independent Policing Oversight Authority, constitutional commissions	Number of male champions and peer mentors trained and engaged on WPS initiatives	Monitoring reports from the secretariat and implementing partners,

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
Output 2.3: Increased capacities of communities and security sector institutions to respond to threats of violence against women and girls, including the disabled, refugees and those from vulnerable groups	2.3.1 Institutionalise gender mainstreaming and conflict sensitivity in the security sector with quota representation of vulnerable groups and young women and men in P/CVE, County Engagement Forums (CEF) and other community security forums.	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Others: National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Defence, county governments, National Police Service, Judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of the Attorney General, Kenya National Human Rights Commission, National Gender and Equality Commission, International Peace Support Training Centre, PBOs, private security firms	The degree to which security sector institutions have institutionalised gender-responsive policies into operations. Increase in women's participation across security roles, in proactive prevention of GBV and other security threats. Percentage of county-level security and P/CVE committees that include youth representatives.	Monitoring reports from the secretariat and implementing partners, including the National Police Service, Kenya Defence Forces, and civilian partners
	2.3.2 Enhance a coordinated reporting mechanism to build awareness and promote the participation of the community in the prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls.	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, National Police Service, Judiciary, Ministry of Health, NGEC, county governments, PBOs,	Improved awareness of and participation in coordinated community-based reporting mechanisms for conflict prevention and GBV response. Increased media visibility of the reporting mechanism, tracking gender-responsive peace and security-related activities	Implementing partners' reports and KNAP monitoring reports

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
	2.3.3 Establish conflict-sensitive digital literacy campaigns and platform regulation partnerships to prevent and counter negative narratives	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration. Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy, Judiciary, county governments, PBOs, and the Ministry of Education.	Number of women-led initiatives in technology-driven early warning systems contributing to conflict prevention, through conflict and gender-sensitive approaches to countering violent extremism and addressing root causes of insecurity (national/county online counter-extremism platforms) per cent of conflict early warning systems that integrate AI analysis of gendered online threats.	Hub utilisation reports
	2.3.4 Enhance economic empowerment programmes for women and girls' survivors of SGBV	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Others: Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	Number of women and girls enrolled in empowerment programs for SGBV survivors financial literacy, vocational skills, and entrepreneurship programs	Responsible ministries report on economic empowerment initiatives targeting SGBV survivors. Monitoring and evaluation reports on women's economic empowerment.

Pillar 3: Protection			
Objective: To protect all women and girls, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and other vulnerable groups, from all forms of conflict and violence.			
Outcome: Women's rights to peace and security, including access to justice and redress, effectively provided			
Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Proposed KNAP III Indicators
Output 3.1: Laws and policies that protect all women's and girls' rights (including the women with disabilities, intersex, migrants and refugees) are strengthened and implemented	3.1.1 Enact, review and implement laws that protect the rights of women and girls including those with disabilities, intersex, migrants and refugees, at national and county levels	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Others: Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Judiciary, Parliament, county governments, (NGEC, NCAJ, KLRC)	Existence of legal/policy frameworks protecting women's and girls' rights and addressing SGBV and femicide, with implementation and monitoring mechanisms
	3.1.2 Enhance awareness among all duty bearers (government) and rights holders, and communities on the Constitution and existing laws that protect women and girls.	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Others: Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, PBOs, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Judiciary, Parliament, county governments, NGEC, Communities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour	Measures to build the capacity of security forces, and all duty bearers (government) and rights holders, including communities, to prevent/respond to SGBV and femicide.
			Monitoring reports from the secretariat and implementing partners

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Proposed KNAP III Indicators	Means of Verification
	3.1.3 Provide gender and disability-transformative/ responsive infrastructure (ramps, gender desks, Policare, CPU, and services in shelters, police stations, health facilities, courts, and community-based interventions, including rural and vulnerable communities	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Others: Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Judiciary, Ministry of Health, Parliament, county governments, NGEC,-Development Partners and PBOs	Percentage of key public security and justice institutions (shelters, police stations, health facilities, courts) that are certified as fully compliant with national gender and disability accessibility standards.	Monitoring reports from the secretariat and implementing partners
	Output 3.2: Enhanced accountability and timely and effective access to justice for survivors of sexual and GBV, including femicide	Lead: Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Judiciary Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and National Administration.	Quality of SGBV response (access, budget, staffing) for coordinated reporting, legal aid accessibility, and prosecution mechanisms, ensuring survivor-centred justice and accountability.	Monitoring reports from the secretariat and Implementing partners. Administrative data from Government offices, including the National Police Service and DCI

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Proposed KNAP III Indicators	Means of Verification
Output 3.3: A robust and accessible legal and judicial framework for addressing TFGBV and cybercrimes is established and operational	<p>3.3.1 Strengthen and implement gender responsive cybercrime mitigation laws and policies, specialised cyber courts and digital rights protection frameworks and safeguards against online / TFGBV targeting women leaders, activists, and girls in digital spaces</p> <p>3.3.2 Establish and strengthen safe spaces for dialogue, integrating mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in interventions that address community resistance to gender equality, including online and offline threats</p>	<p>Lead: Ministry of ICT, Co-Lead: Office of Attorney General Co-lead: Judiciary Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Interior and National Administration (National Police Service, DCI), PBOs, Data Protection Agency,</p> <p>Lead: Ministry of Public Service, Co-Lead: Ministry of Health Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, PBOs.</p>	<p>Protection mechanisms and measures established to capacitate security forces to prevent/respond to TFGBV and cybercrimes</p> <p>Strengthened MHPSS interventions, including the establishment of safe spaces for dialogue.</p>	<p>Hub utilisation reports, Administrative Data.</p>

Pillar 4: Relief and Recovery			
Objective: To ensure women and girls have access to and effectively engage with relief and recovery services in humanitarian settings, including periods of disaster/crisis and post-conflict: recovery			
Outcome: Women's and girls' human security needs met through relief and recovery efforts			
Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators
Output 4.1: Promote Gender Perspectives, ensuring the inclusion and participation of women and girls, including those with disabilities, refugees, and internally displaced, in humanitarian, early warning, relief and recovery, climate adaptation, and peacebuilding programmes	4.1.1 Evaluate the design and monitor the implementation of gender responsive policies to ensure they incorporate women's and girls' rights, needs, and perspectives in relief and recovery	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Others: Ministry of Interior and National Administration, County Governments, Ministry of Defence, NGEC, NCIC, National Disaster Operation Centre, National Drought Management Authority, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence, PBOs, Humanitarian Agencies Kenya Red Cross,	Gender provisions in peace agreements (DDR, climate change reparations, economic recovery) with implementation and monitoring mechanisms capturing the number of girls and women benefiting from recovery programs, including enrolment, retention and transition in education during and after conflict
	4.1.2 Implement gender-sensitive relief and recovery programmes	Lead: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Others: Ministry of Interior and National Administration, county governments, National Disaster Operation Centre, National Drought Management Authority, PBOs Humanitarian Agencies, Kenya Red Cross,	Number of national and county gender responsive disaster risk responsive (DRR) strategies developed per cent of post-conflict recovery budget allocated to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
	4.1.3 Incorporate a gender-sensitive design into all disarmament, demobilisation, and rehabilitation, electoral reforms efforts and peace support initiatives	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, National Counter Terrorism Centre, county governments, PBOs, NDMA, Ministry of ASAL, Ministry of Health	Gender responsive provisions in DDR, SSR, economic /legal/electoral reform. per cent of women in leadership in DDR, SSR, economic/legal/ electoral reform	Monitoring reports from the secretariat and implementing partners
	4.1.4 Strengthen women's engagement and capacity to lead at all levels in relief and recovery, community dialogues on climate adaptation and disaster management	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the county Governments, National Disaster Operation Centre, National Drought Management Authority, PBOs, Kenya Red Cross.	Per cent of women in decision-making roles in humanitarian relief and recovery, disaster management leadership and climate adaptation. Per cent of post-conflict recovery budget allocated to gender equality and women's empowerment	Monitoring reports from the secretariat and implementing partners
	4.1.5 Develop and implement gender sensitive community digital platforms to monitor applications and track access to training on e-commerce services for survivors' post-conflict/ rescue.	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Co-lead: ICT Ministry Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the county governments, NgECC, National Disaster Operation Centre, National Drought Management Authority, PBOs, Kenya Red Cross,	Number of survivors/victims accessing digital livelihoods programs, psychosocial support and community-based digital early warning systems for conflict prevention	Hub utilisation reports

Output	Interventions	Responsibility	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
	4.1.6 Strengthen systems for the collection and analysis of gender disaggregated data to inform advocacy for budget allocation and the strategies for addressing the specific needs of women and girls in emergencies, climate change and disasters	Lead: Ministry of Interior and National Administration Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the county governments, Kenya Red Cross, National Disaster Operation Centre, National Drought Management Authority, PBOs	Accessible information on the gendered impacts of climate change, disasters, incorporated in reports and publicly available.	Gender Sensitive Reports on Climate Change Impact and Specific Disasters
	4.1.7 Establish and operationalise a dedicated fund for a coordinated network of integrated support services for women and girls that provide a survivor-centric, multisectoral continuum of care, from immediate safe shelter and healthcare to longer-term legal, economic empowerment, psychosocial and digital safety services. (POLICARE, GBVRCs)	Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, PBOs, Development Partners	Establishment of a relief and recovery fund to address GBV Number of referral mechanisms in place providing comprehensive services to GBV survivors. Number of integrated support centres established and operationalised with signed, formalised referral protocol between multisectoral actors (health, police, judiciary, social services, economic development agencies, PBOs).	Women's sensitive responses, monitoring reports of GBV cases reported, Monitoring reports on calls to the GBV toll-free line and service rendered Administrative data.
	4.1.8 Establish and operationalise a well-being support program for frontline relief workers with confidential counselling and peer support groups to prevent burnout	Lead: Ministry of Public Service, Others: Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of Defence, PBOs, Humanitarian Agencies,	Established support programs Number of staff attending counselling and support sessions	Consolidated survey reports

# 6.0

## ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

### 6.1 Coordination of KNAP

Successful implementation of KNAP III depends on effective coordination among implementing agencies and stakeholders, as well as adequate resources. Intergovernmental coordination challenges between county and national governments can create barriers to women's participation in peace processes. Working relationships between county governors and county commissioners vary across the country, leading to uneven opportunities for women's involvement in peace initiatives. Some counties have established specialised peace directorates that demonstrate innovative, inclusive approaches; in others, peace functions remain confined within security departments under national control.

There is a need to strengthen inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including by leveraging membership in humanitarian country teams and inter-agency sectoral working groups. This systematic approach should elevate women's roles within peace and security institutions and apply the humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) nexus, recognising that protection requires addressing immediate security threats while building long-term resilience. Although the intergovernmental consultative framework establishes structures down to sub-county level across thematic areas, coordination requires further improvement.

At national level, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should remain on the KNAP steering committee as Kenya's link to regional and international peace and security institutions. The Council of Governors and the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) should also sit on the steering committee to strengthen collaboration between county and national governments.

Monitoring and evaluation were identified as weak. The KNAP Secretariat should produce annual reports and share them with partners to facilitate learning and strengthen implementation. Resourcing and strengthening the Secretariat is a priority.

### 6.2 Operationalising KNAP III

Implementation relies on a multi-layered operational framework that enhances coordination, accountability and evidence-based decision-making.

- **National leadership and coordination.** The **KNAP Secretariat**, hosted by the **State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action (SDGAA)**, oversees and organises implementation. The **Gender Development Partners Group** supports with technical expertise, financial resources and coordination among government, civil society and international actors.

- **Co-chairing and stakeholder roles.** The **Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services** co-chairs the Secretariat with the **Ministry of Interior and National Administration**. The **Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs** and the **Council of Governors** play active roles in the **WPS Technical Working Group (TWG)**. Foreign and Diaspora Affairs advances international cooperation and alignment with global WPS frameworks, while the Council of Governors facilitates county-level implementation and integration of local priorities. This leadership structure ensures national security, foreign policy and devolution perspectives are reflected in the WPS agenda.
- **Oversight and participation.** The **WPS TWG** provides policy guidance and tracks progress. Membership includes government officials, civil society organisations (CSOs), the private sector and academia, among others. CSOs and non-governmental organisations also contribute to implementation, data collection, advocacy and reporting.
- **Data and evidence.** A core element is the collection and use of **gender-disaggregated data** to inform programming. The **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** should support tool design, data collection and analysis.
- **Reporting flow.** At county level, Gender and WPS Technical Working Groups compile progress reports and submit them to the National Secretariat. The Secretariat consolidates a unified national report for stakeholders across government, civil society and development partners. This tiered approach promotes cross-learning, systematic documentation and alignment with regional and international WPS reporting frameworks.

### 6.2.1 Localising KNAP

Localising KNAP is essential for ownership and impact. While the WPS agenda reflects global commitments, success depends on integration into local governance, community priorities and the lived realities of women and girls in conflict-affected and fragile settings. Devolution provides a pathway to embed WPS priorities in County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), enabling counties to contextualise commitments, mobilise local resources and address specific peace and security challenges. This bottom-up approach strengthens accountability, legitimacy and relevance.

Sustainable localisation also requires empowering communities particularly women, youth and grassroots networks to champion KNAP III. Actions include translating plans into accessible formats, using participatory platforms (e.g., *barazas*) and elevating local champions. Women-led CSOs provide a critical bridge between communities and policy processes and can monitor implementation. Embedding KNAP within devolved governance and social structures promotes inclusion, resilience and shared responsibility for peace and security.

### 6.2.2 Monitoring and reporting

#### National reporting

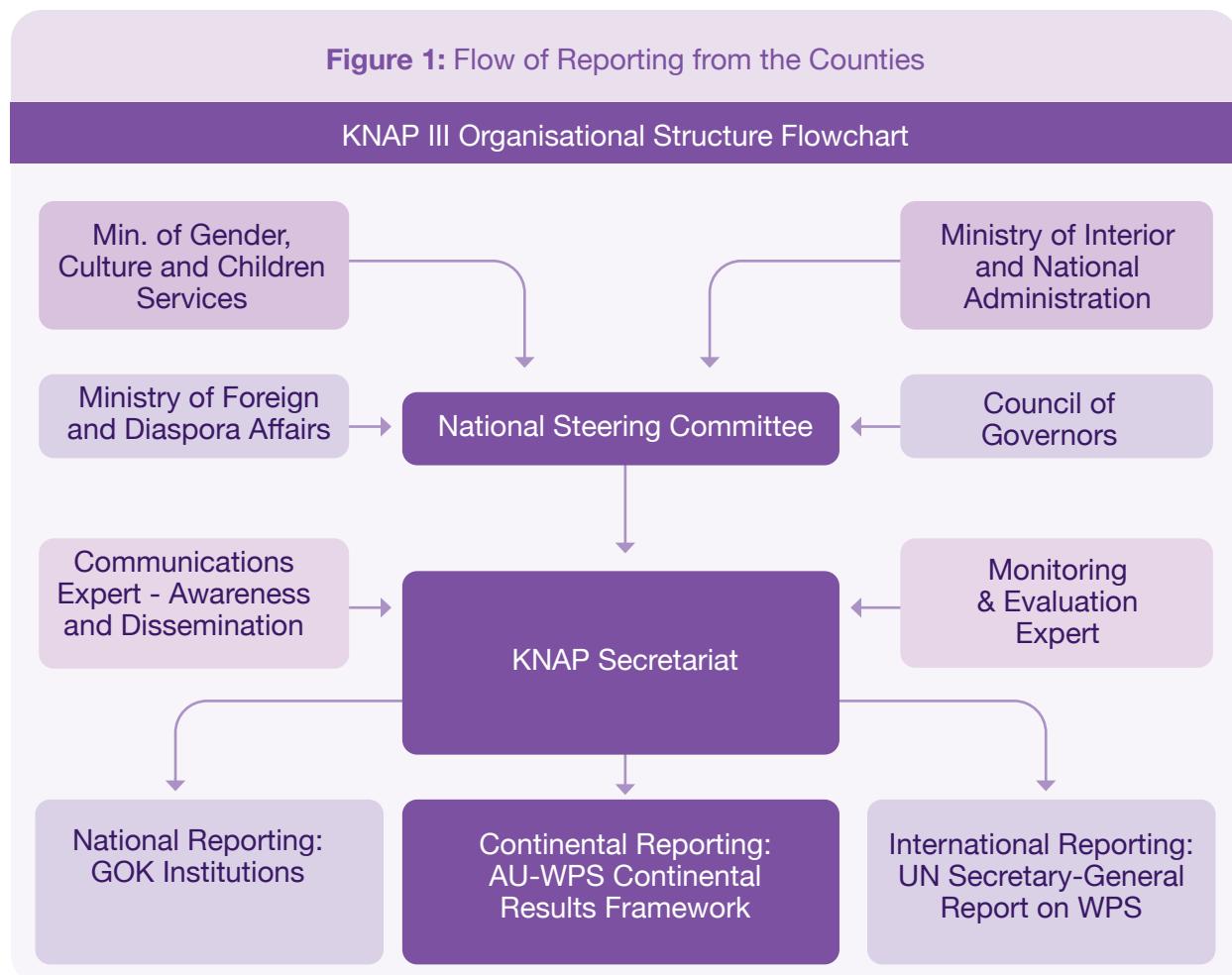
The Government of Kenya reports on WPS at international, continental and national levels. Internationally, Kenya contributes to the United Nations Secretary-General's reports on WPS and to reporting under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)<sup>60</sup> and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).<sup>61</sup> Under the BPfA, the fifth critical area Women in armed conflict is reviewed annually at the Commission on the Status of Women

60 United Nations. (n.d.). *CEDAW – Reporting*. UN Women. <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/reporting.htm>

61 United Nations. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm>

(CSW) as part of the 12 critical areas of concern.<sup>62</sup> At continental level, reporting aligns with the AU WPS Continental Results Framework, which provides a standard template for Member States.<sup>63</sup> The Secretariat should ensure KNAP reporting is shared systematically with these institutions.

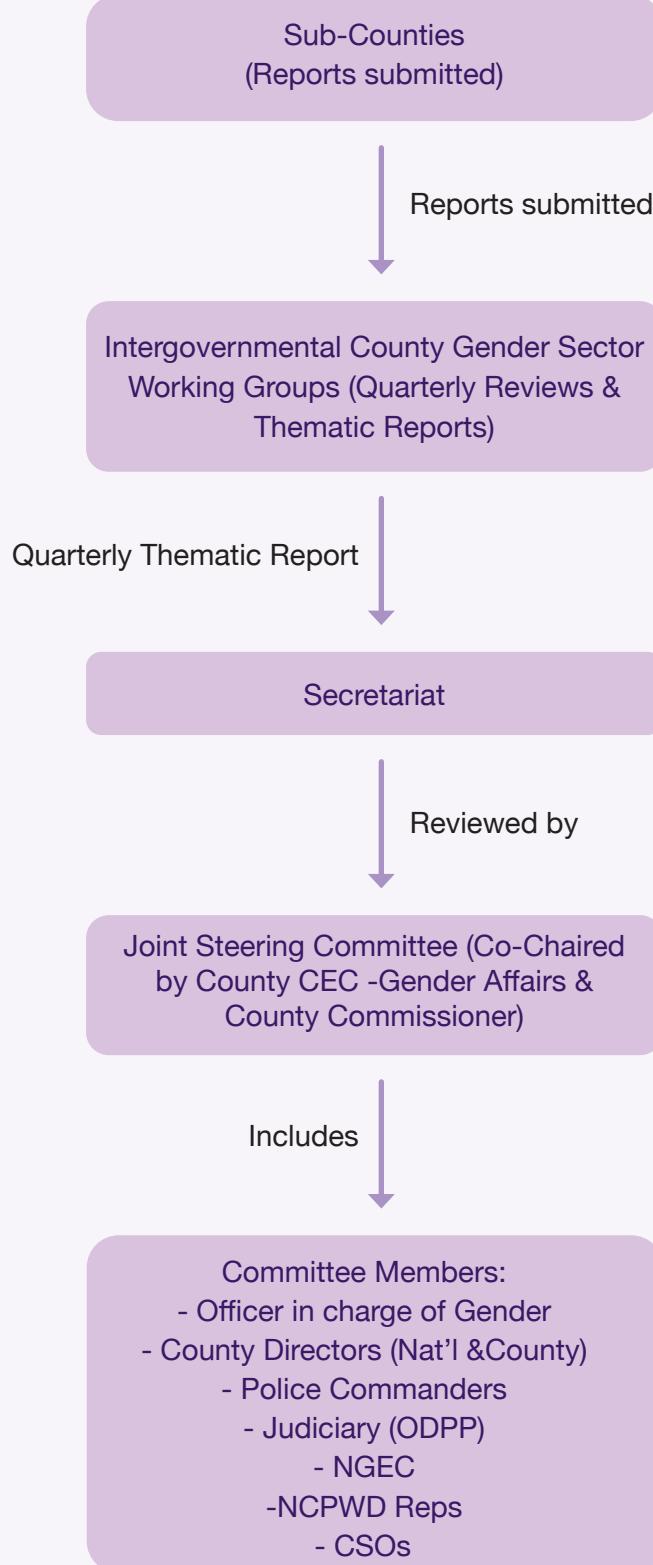
Recommendation. To improve reporting quality, the KNAP Secretariat should seek secondments from KNBS to secure an analyst to support data collection and report development and engage a communications officer to disseminate KNAP III and raise awareness of the WPS agenda at national, county and community levels. The reporting is illustrated below.



Reports should be submitted to Intergovernmental County Gender Sector Working Groups, which hold quarterly reviews and submit a thematic report each quarter to the Secretariat for the Joint Steering Committee. This committee co-chaired by the County Executive Committee (CEC) Member responsible for gender affairs and the County Commissioner receives reports from sub-counties. Membership includes the officer in charge of gender; county directors for gender (national and county); county police commanders; representatives of the Judiciary and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP); the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC); representatives of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities; and CSOs, among others. The National KNAP Secretariat then reviews and compiles reports into a consolidated national submission.

62 United Nations. (1996–2009). *Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action, 1996–2009*. United Nations. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2021762691/>

63 African Union. (2019). *Continental results framework for reporting and monitoring on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa (2018–2028)*. African Union Commission. <https://au.int/en/documents/20190204/continental-results-framework-reporting-and-monitoring-implementation-women-peace>

**Figure 2: Report from Various Counties**

# 7.0

## COSTING KNAP III

The costing of KNAP III will include development of a resource-mobilisation plan and preparation of a Cabinet paper seeking dedicated Government funding to support oversight, coordination and implementation. The plan will outline financing needs by pillar and result area, identify domestic and external sources and propose pooled or blended mechanisms to improve predictability and accountability.



# 8.0

## COMMUNICATING KNAP III

The communication strategy will use a layered approach to reach national, county and community actors effectively.

National level. Policy briefs, press releases, official launches and high-level dialogues will target the Government, Parliament and development partners. Messaging will link KNAP III to Kenya's development priorities peace, security, devolution, gender equality, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2030 while underscoring the value of women's participation in peacebuilding, security and economic growth. Kenya's leadership on the WPS agenda will be highlighted.

County level. Engagement will emphasise local translations, community radio, *barazas* and local champions. Counties will integrate WPS messages within County Integrated Development Plans and routine sector forums.

Community/grassroots level. Simplified formats infographics, brochures and short films will make information accessible and actionable for diverse audiences, including persons with disabilities and low-literacy groups.

Channels and formats. A mix of communication tools will broaden reach. Digital platforms (social media, storytelling and dashboards) will complement traditional media (television, radio and opinion pieces). Visual summaries and periodic progress reports will simplify technical content and showcase results.

Stakeholder engagement.

- The Government and its agencies, with development partners, will support dialogues and issue joint communiqués.
- The **Council of Governors** will champion integration of WPS within county planning and budgeting processes.
- Civil society and grassroots women's groups will be strengthened through advocacy partnerships and capacity-building.
- Youth networks will be mobilised through arts, sports and social media initiatives.

Monitoring, feedback and learning. Mechanisms such as WhatsApp groups, hotlines, short surveys, progress scorecards and public dashboards will support two-way communication, accountability and continuous learning amplifying success stories and capturing lessons to refine the strategy over time.

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# ANNEX 1: Women, Peace and Security commitments and instruments

## Global commitments and instruments

UNSCR 1325 (2000): First recognition of women's roles and agency in conflict and peace and security.

UNSCR 1820 (2008): Recognition of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

UNSCR 1888 (2009): Reiterates the threat of sexual violence; calls for deployment of experts to affected areas.

UNSCR 1889 (2009): Emphasises women as peacebuilders at all stages of peace processes.

UNSCR 1960 (2010): Stresses ending sexual violence in conflict.

UNSCR 2106 (2013): Operational guidance for combating sexual violence.

UNSCR 2122 (2013): Stronger measures and monitoring to enable women's participation in resolution and recovery.

UNSCR 2242 (2015): Re-centres UNSCR 1325; reaffirms commitment to full implementation.

CEDAW General recommendation No. 30 (2013): Links WPS to CEDAW; guidance on protection during and after conflict and on reporting.

UNSCR 2272 (2016): Measures to address sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations.

UNSCR 2349 (2017): Focus on peace and security in Africa.

UNSCR 2467 (2019): Strengthens justice and accountability; calls for survivor-centred approaches to conflict-related sexual violence.

Kenya National Action Plan 2020–2024.

20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 (2020): Global review and renewed commitments.

UN Secretary-General's annual reports on WPS (2020–2023): Climate–security linkages, COVID-19 impacts, digital threats.

Generation Equality Forum (2021): Launch of the Compact on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA).

UN Security Council thematic debates (2021–2023): Women's participation in peacekeeping; digital peace and security; protection in humanitarian crises.

## Continental commitments and instruments (African Union)

Gender parity principle (2002).

Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action (2000).

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) (2003).

Common African Defence and Security Policy (2004).

Framework for post-conflict reconstruction and development (2006).

African Union Gender Policy (2009).

African Women's Decade 2010–2020 (launched 2009).

African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) (2009).

Policy framework for security sector reform (2011).

AU Aide-Mémoire on the protection of civilians (2013).

Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2015).

AU Declaration on the 2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063 (2015).

AU Gender, Peace and Security Programme Framework (2015–2020).

AU policies on prevention/response to sexual exploitation and abuse and on conduct and discipline for peace support operations (2018).

AU Continental Results Framework for monitoring and reporting on the WPS agenda (2019).

AU Women, Peace and Security Continental Strategy (2020–2030).

AU Transitional Justice Policy (2019; operationalised 2020+).

Silencing the Guns roadmap (extended to 2030).

AU 2021 Year of Arts, Culture and Heritage: Elevates women's role in peacebuilding through cultural diplomacy.

## Sub-regional instruments

IGAD Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan 2016–2020 (2015).

IGAD Strategy for Higher Representation of Women in Decision-Making Positions (2013).

IGAD Regional Action Plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (2012).

IGAD Gender Policy Framework (2012).

Declaration on the enhancement of women's participation and representation in decision-making positions (year not specified in source).

ICGLR Protocol for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and all Forms of Discrimination (2006).

ICGLR Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (2006).

EAC Protocol on Peace and Security (2013).

EAC Gender Policy (2018; updated 2021).

IGAD Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (2022–2027).

EAC Women, Peace and Security Action Plan (drafted 2022).

ICGLR implementation reports (2020–2023).

## Kenya's Legislative and Policy Frameworks relating to WPS

Political Parties Act (2011) — Requires political parties to uphold gender equity in leadership and nominations, supporting women's participation in politics.

Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) Regulations — Reserves 30 per cent of public procurement for youth, women and persons with disabilities, expanding economic participation and leadership pathways.

National Policy on Gender and Development (2000; revised 2019) — Provides the framework for gender mainstreaming across sectors and institutions, addressing inequality and promoting equity.

Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015) — Provides protection for victims/survivors of domestic violence and establishes legal procedures and support mechanisms.

Guidelines on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) — Guidance for prevention, reporting and response to SGBV in humanitarian and development settings.

Sexual Offences Act (2006) Defines and criminalises a broad range of sexual offences; sets protections and penalties for sexual violence.

Public Finance Management Act (2012) Governs public financial management and enables gender-responsive budgeting, with provisions for transparency and accountability.

National Gender and Equality Commission Act (2011) — Establishes the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) to monitor, promote and facilitate gender equality and freedom from discrimination.

Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011) — Criminalises FGM and provides protections and penalties for violations.

National Police Service Gender Policy — Framework to mainstream gender within policing, enhancing accountability, sensitivity and survivor-centred response.

Kenya National Policy on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (2020) — Mainstreams gender in peacebuilding; supports inclusive conflict prevention, management and resolution.

Ratification of ILO Convention No. 190 (2019; ratified by Kenya 2021) — Strengthens protections

against GBV and harassment in the world of work.

Draft National Care Policy (2022) Recognises, reduces and redistributes unpaid care and domestic work critical for resilience, recovery and women's participation in peace and security.

Climate Change (Amendment) Act (2023) Integrates gender and climate security considerations, aligning resilience-building, peace and WPS commitments amid climate-related risks.

Centre (IPSTC) to integrate Women, Peace and Security (WPS) modules into pre-deployment training for peacekeepers.

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