

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ESA_D_1.1

Regional actors in ESA have strengthened policies, programmes and practices on gender equality which challenge gender stereotypes and promote positive social norms

UN Women East and Southern Africa made progress toward the outcome in 2022. Regional actors such as the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and Regional Parliamentary Forums, such as the Pan-African Parliament and SADC Parliamentary Forum, and national institutions furthered policy frameworks in support of gender equality and promoting positive social norms. For example, the African Union furthered its draft of a Regional Action Plan on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) and reaffirmed its commitment to adopt a Convention to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls, the Pan-African Parliament developed a high-level outcome document following a regional women's conference providing guidance and recommendations for Member States to encourage accountability to their commitments on women's political participation and the ICGLR worked with Member States to implement its Regional Action Plan on UN Security Council 1325. At the national level, the Ministry of Justice in Ethiopia collaborated with EVAWG actors to further develop its national strategy to end violence against women and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups in Tanzania initiated a process to evaluate its second National Plan of Action to end Violence Against Women and Children. The South African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) also took steps to improve gender equality programming by convening a regional dialogue on challenges faced by women in politics and produced draft Guidelines on the role of parliament in human rights as well as principles and guidelines in curbing corruption in SADC. UN Women contributed to these developments by contributing technical and financial resources toward implementation of the Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, and providing technical review of the policies and guidelines, initiating and co-facilitating trainings and supporting regional actors to convene dialogues and consultations related to the issues. Specifically, UN Women provided technical inputs on the draft AU Plan on EVAWG, which was financed by UNDP under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme, supported the SADC PF in planning and development of the regional dialogue, including delivery of technical presentations and contribution as part of the SADC Technical Working Group on Democratic Governance. UN Women convened a pilot virtual training for 40 policy-makers, civil society practitioners and UN personnel on evidence-based prevention using the joint UN RESPECT Framework, working in collaboration with the Prevention Collaboration, UNFPA and WHO. In addition, UN Women collaborated with sister UN agencies in the design and delivery of training on the multi-sectoral responses to violence, and supported strengthened capacity of Member States to promote women's political participation through technical support to regional dialogues, a peer learning series for election management bodies, political parties and parliamentary gender committees on leadership and politics, which culminated in the development of outcome documents for follow up by member states. The lessons from 2022 reaffirm the approach taken of strengthening regional actor capacities and access to evidence, coordination of efforts and supporting diverse partners to better advocate for gender equality from their respective platforms.

OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ESA_D_2.3

The UN system in ESA region is coordinated, and coherently and systematically contributes to progress on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

The RO's support to the UN system (UNCTs, RCOs and GTGs) was aimed at orienting them on the application of UN tools and guidance (SWAP-Scorecard, the Gender Equality Marker and the Gender Theme Group Standards and Procedures) to improve integration of gender considerations in the implementation of UNSDCFs and other joint UN plans. In this first year of reporting, the UN system can be characterized as having knowledge and user level competencies to apply these tools and guidance to make their work better coordinated, coherent and systematic. The skilling of UN Women M/CO staff on corporate gender equality tools is also expected to provide in country expertise that the UN system can draw on. A survey of all the UNCTs engaged in 2023 will provide more details on the extent to which the skills imparted are being utilized to improve coordination and bring coherence to their gender equality work.