

REGIONAL EVIDENCE-BASED MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT ON THE STATUS OF DOMESTICATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS AND POLICIES, AND NATIONAL ACTION PLANS IN LINE WITH GLOBAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.



March 2023

Foreword



Despite commitment by African Union Member States party to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa to uphold the rights enshrined in international and regional human rights instruments and ensure that all women and girls are free from violence, discrimination, and inequality, women in Africa continue to be exposed to various forms of violence including gender-based violence, and harmful practices. To date, the Protocol to the African Charter on Gender Equality and the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) has not secured universal ratification with 43 countries out of 55 Member States having ratified. In addition, there is a gap between the regional and international commitments and national-level policies, operational development plans, and level of investment by Member States on EAWG. Evidence of slow implementation can be seen among others in the absence of enabling legislation and policy environment to give effect to enforce human rights instruments related to EAWG including the Maputo Protocol, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), and the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) among others.

This Regional Evidence-Based Mapping and Assessment Report on the Status of Domestication and Enforcement of Laws and Policies, and National Action Plans in line with Global and Regional Human Rights Commitments on EAWG provides comprehensive information on the Status of domestication and enforcement of human rights instruments.

The report will serve as an advocacy tool to influence policy decisions at the regional (AUC/RECs) and national levels to address the various bottlenecks and challenges affecting the ratification, domestication, and enforcement of human rights instruments related to EAWG. The various findings and recommendations of the report are also expected to facilitate and inform the effective implementation of the other interventions under the framework of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme, as well as other AU initiatives such as the Gender and Development Initiative for Africa (GADIA), Positive Masculinity Initiative and the development of the AU EAWG Convention, among others. This will greatly contribute to collective efforts that are being undertaken to address the multiple obstacles faced with regard to ratification, domestication, and enforcement of laws and policies on EAWG.

I acknowledge that the mapping and assessment report will be used as a foundation for all interventions that focus on gender equality and the rights of women in relation to EAWG by providing baseline and comprehensive information to foster a coordinated response to ending violence against women and girls in Africa. I also recognize that regional partners including African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, regional parliamentarians, Member States, Civil Society Organizations and UN Agencies would greatly benefit from this report to inform and strengthen their regional and national commitments and efforts on EAWG.

Prudence Ngwenya,
Director of Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate
African Union Commission (AUC)

Acknowledgements

This report, 'Regional Evidence-Based Mapping and Assessment on the Status of Domestication and Enforcement of Laws and Policies, and National Action Plans in line with Global and Regional Human Rights Commitments on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls', is a publication of the African Union Commission with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the framework of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme.

The report was prepared under the strategic leadership and guidance of the African Union Commission's Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate (WGYD) with the technical support of the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa in partnership with Equality Now.

Many individuals, groups, and organizations relentlessly and invaluable contributed in one way or the other to the outcome of this report. Special thanks goes to the AUC-WGYD under the leadership of Prudence Ngwenya, the Director; Leah Victoria Maloka, Head of the Coordination and Outreach Division, and Lindiwe Ngwenya, Programme Specialist. We are also grateful to UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa which provided technical leadership under Stan Nkwain, Director a.i, Odette Kabaya, Regional Advisor and Team Leader GEWE, Tabu Jimmy, Gender Specialist and Betelhem Mengistu, Programme Management Specialist. Appreciation is also extended to Equality Now under the leadership of Faiza Mohamed, Director of the Africa Office, Esther Waweru, Senior Legal Advisor, Naomi Mwangi, Program Officer, and Gicuku Karug, Associate Program Officer.

We are also grateful to Mylid consultancy firm, Amy Oyekunle, Iheoma Obibi, and Osai Ojigbo who worked tirelessly towards undertaking the assessment and compiling this comprehensive report.

Deepest gratitude to the European Union, for their support of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme, without whose financial and technical

support, this assessment would not have been achieved.

Deepest gratitude to the European Union, for their support of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme, without whose financial and technical support, this assessment would not have been achieved. We are also indebted to all the representatives of the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, AU Member States, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and regional and national CSOs who provided the Consultants with valuable information through key informant interviews and regional consultations.

Regional Evidence-based Mapping and Assessment on the Status of Domestication and Enforcement of Laws and Policies, and National Action Plans in line with Global and Regional Human Rights Commitments on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls



An initiative of the United Nations funded by the European Union



Abbreviations

ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	HR	Human Rights
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	HRC	Human Rights Council
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights	ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights	IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
AfCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights	KII	Key Informant Interview
AMU/UMA	Arab Maghreb Union	MARWOPNET	Mano River Women's Peace Network
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism	MERF	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework
AU	African Union	MS	Member States
AUC	African Union Commission	NAP	National Action Plan
AYC	African Youth Charter	NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
CDF	Consultative Dialogue Framework	NHRI	National Human Rights Institutions
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	NOPWESCO	Network of Women's Organisations on Peace and Security in the ECOWAS Region
CENSAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States	PAPS	Political Affairs, Peace and Security
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	PAWO	Pan African Women's Organisation
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	RA	Research Assistant
EAC	East African Community	REC	Regional Economic Community
EACJ	East African Court of Justice	RUNOs	Recipient UN Organizations
EASSI	Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women	SADC	Southern African Development Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union	SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	SOAWR	Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	SRH&RR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights
FEMNET	African Women's Development and Communication Network	UN	United Nations
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GED	EAC Gender Equality and Development Barometer	UNICEF	United Nation Children's Fund
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
GIMAC	Gender is My Agenda Campaign	UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
HHS	Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development	VAPP	Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act
HP	Harmful Practices	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
		WHO	World Health Organization
		WGYD	Women, Gender and Youth Directorate
		WPS	Women, Peace and Security

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	8
1. Introduction	11
1.1 Background of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme	12
1.2 Context of Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa	13
1.2.1 COVID-19 Pandemic and VAWG	15
1.2.2 International and Regional Commitments on EVAWG	16
1.2.2.1 International Commitments	16
1.2.2.2 Regional and National Commitments	16
1.2.2.3 Mechanisms and Institutions for Human Rights	17
2. Study Objectives and Scope	18
2.1 Purpose	19
2.2 Objectives	19
2.3 Scope	20
3. Research Methodology	22
3.1 Overview of Methodology	23
3.1.1 Sampling, Data Collection and Analysis	23
3.2 Limitations	23
4. Findings	25
4.1 Status of Ratification of the Relevant International and Regional Laws and Treaties by African Union Member States	26
4.1.2 Status of domestication and enforcement of treaties, laws and policies	29
4.2 Status of Development and Implementation of Action Plans at Continental and Regional level	31
4.2.1 The African Union	31
4.2.2 The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	33
4.2.3 East African Community	37
4.2.4 Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD)	39
4.2.5 The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	41
4.2.6 Southern African Development Community (SADC)	43
4.3 Status of Development and Implementation of National Action Plans including Financing and Investments on EVAWG by Member States	45
4.3.1 Southern Africa Region	49
4.3.1.1 Case Study – South Africa	50
4.3.1.2 Case Study – Angola	55
4.3.2 North Africa Region	58
4.3.2.1 Case Study – Egypt	61
4.3.3 West Africa Region	65
4.3.3.1 Case Study – Nigeria	66
4.3.4 East Africa Region	74
4.3.4.1 Case Study – Kenya	76
4.3.5 Central Africa Region	79
4.3.5.1 Case Study – Burundi	81

5. Challenges	84
5.1 Challenges with Domestication and Enforcement of treaties on EAWG	85
5.2 Availability of Resources and Capacities at Regional and National levels	86
6. Conclusion and Recommendations	89
6.1 Conclusion	90
6.2 Recommendations	91
i. To African Union Member States	91
ii. To the African Union Commission (AUC) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)	93
iii. To International donors and partners	94
iv. To Regional and National Civil Society Organizations	94
Appendix	95
a. List of International and Regional Treaties	95
b. Bibliography	95
a. List of Participants at Virtual Regional Validation Workshop	101

List of Tables/Figures

Figure 1: African countries with the highest child marriage rates	14
Figure 2: Prevalence of FGM in Africa	15
Table 1: Objectives, Level of Response and Limitation	19
Figure 3: Status of Ratification of Relevant International & Regional Treaties	26
Table 2: Status of ratification, accession and reporting to the ACHPR and CEDAW Committee	29
Table 3: Status of ratification and domestication of treaties	30
Box 1: African Union policies supporting gender equality, EAWG and WPS	33
Box 2: ECOWAS policies supporting gender equality, EAWG and WPS	34
Box 3: ECOWAS Court Judgment	36
Box 4: EAC policies that support gender equality and EAWG	37
Box 5: IGAD policies that support gender equality, EAWG and WPS	40
Box 6: COMESA policies that support gender equality, EAWG and WPS	41
Box 7: SADC policies that support gender equality, EAWG and WPS	43
Table 4: Summary on development, implementation and financing of NAPs	46
Table 5: Status of Ratification and Implementation in Southern Africa Region	49
Table 6: South Africa's Laws and Policies on EAWG, HP and WPS	51
Table 7: Angola's Laws and Policies on EAWG, HP, and WPS	57
Table 8: Status of Ratification and Implementation in the North Africa Region	59
Table 9: Egypt's Laws and Policies on EAWG & HP	62
Table 10: Status of Ratification and Implementation in West Africa Region	65
Table 11: Nigeria's Laws and Policies on EAWG, HP and WPS	67
Table 12: Status of Ratification and Implementation in East Africa Region	75
Table 13: Kenya's Laws and Policies on EAWG and HP	77
Table 14: Status of Ratification and Implementation in the Central Africa Region	80
Table 15: Burundi's Laws and Policies on EAWG and HP	81

Executive Summary

The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations, which aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls on the continent by 2030. Implemented jointly with the African Union Commission (AUC), Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme (SIARP) addresses regional bottlenecks and supports international and regional commitments towards ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG).

Violence against women (VAWG) is defined as acts or threats of violence that occur in public or private spheres, in peacetime, and during war and armed conflict. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, an overwhelming number of reports on intimate partner violence were recorded across Africa. The pandemic highlighted pre-existing gender inequalities, which is a cause and effect of VAWG.

It therefore became imperative to conduct a Regional Evidence-Based Mapping and Assessment of the Status of Domestication and Enforcement of Laws and Policies, to help understand and address the many obstacles that impede the ratification, domestication and enforcement of regional laws and policies on EVAWG. The study provides a broad overview of the status of domestication of global and regional human rights commitments on EVAWG in all 55 African Union (AU) the Member States and a deep-dive analysis for 18 Member States. It also includes case studies for six countries – Angola, Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa – which provide an overview of the context of EVAWG. The study assesses the existing legal and policy frameworks within RECs recognized by the AU.

Methodology and limitations: The regional study maintained a gender-sensitive and human rights approach and considered

the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic. A desk review was undertaken of available secondary data sources including relevant human rights treaties, policy documents, and reports from member countries on the implementation of gender-related international and regional treaties and policies.

In addition, 33 respondents (26 female and 7 male) were interviewed during this study. Respondents were identified based on purposive sampling, based on their role within relevant institutions, knowledge and understanding of human rights commitments, mechanisms for implementation and involvement in advocating for EVAWG.

Limitations to the methodology included low response rates to interview requests from the Member States and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A further limitation was the inaccessibility of key documents like National Action Plans (NAPs) and national budgets on public platforms, and the paucity of up-to-date accessible data on EVAWG such as reports from line ministries. Based on these limitations, the researchers could not conduct a rigorous case study methodology where country frameworks and implementation strategies were analyzed to identify good practices and gaps in the implementation of instruments.

A virtual validation workshop, attended by representatives from the African Union Commission, (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU Member States, Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), was held on 26 May 2022, to look at the initial findings of the study. The feedback received during the workshop enriched this report.



Key Findings:

Status of Ratification of the Relevant International and Regional Laws and Treaties by African Union Member States

There has been some progress in the signing and ratification of international laws and human rights treaties. Some Member States have ratified, but with reservations.

Despite the significance of the ratification of relevant human rights treaties among the Member States, progress on domestication, implementation and reporting remains low and uneven.

- All **55 countries** of the AU have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), excluding the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic,
- **52 countries** have ratified the CEDAW,
- **43 countries** have ratified the Maputo Protocol,
- **33 countries** have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR),
- **39 countries** have ratified the African Youth Charter,
- **49 countries** have ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and
- **54 countries** have ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

Status of Development and Implementation of Action Plans at Continental and Regional level

The AU's commitment to ending violence against women and girls is evident in the plethora of policies and programs it has developed to advance women's and girls' rights and gender equality. To mention a few, the AU has adopted the AU Agenda 2063, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa 2004, the AU Gender policy, the African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation Programme, and the Plan of Action 2019-2023. Additionally, the five regional economic communities studied in this assessment, namely EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, IGAD, and SADC, have put in place institutional frameworks and programs supporting gender equality and EAWG. Additionally, some of the regional economic communities provide technical and financial support to their Member States to develop National Action Plans on implementing the women's peace and security agenda.

Status of Development and Implementation of National Action Plans including Financing and Investments on EAWG by the Member States

Member States have made progress toward the development and implementation of National Action Plans including financing and investments on EAWG. Based on data collected through desk reviews, 30 Countries have NAPs on Implementing UNSCR1325; however, only 15 of these have costed budgets for their activities. 11 Member States have UNSCR1325 NAPs that are outdated and require revision while 20 countries have a National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage, however, only Guinea and Zambia have costed budgets. 20 countries have a NAP on FGM.

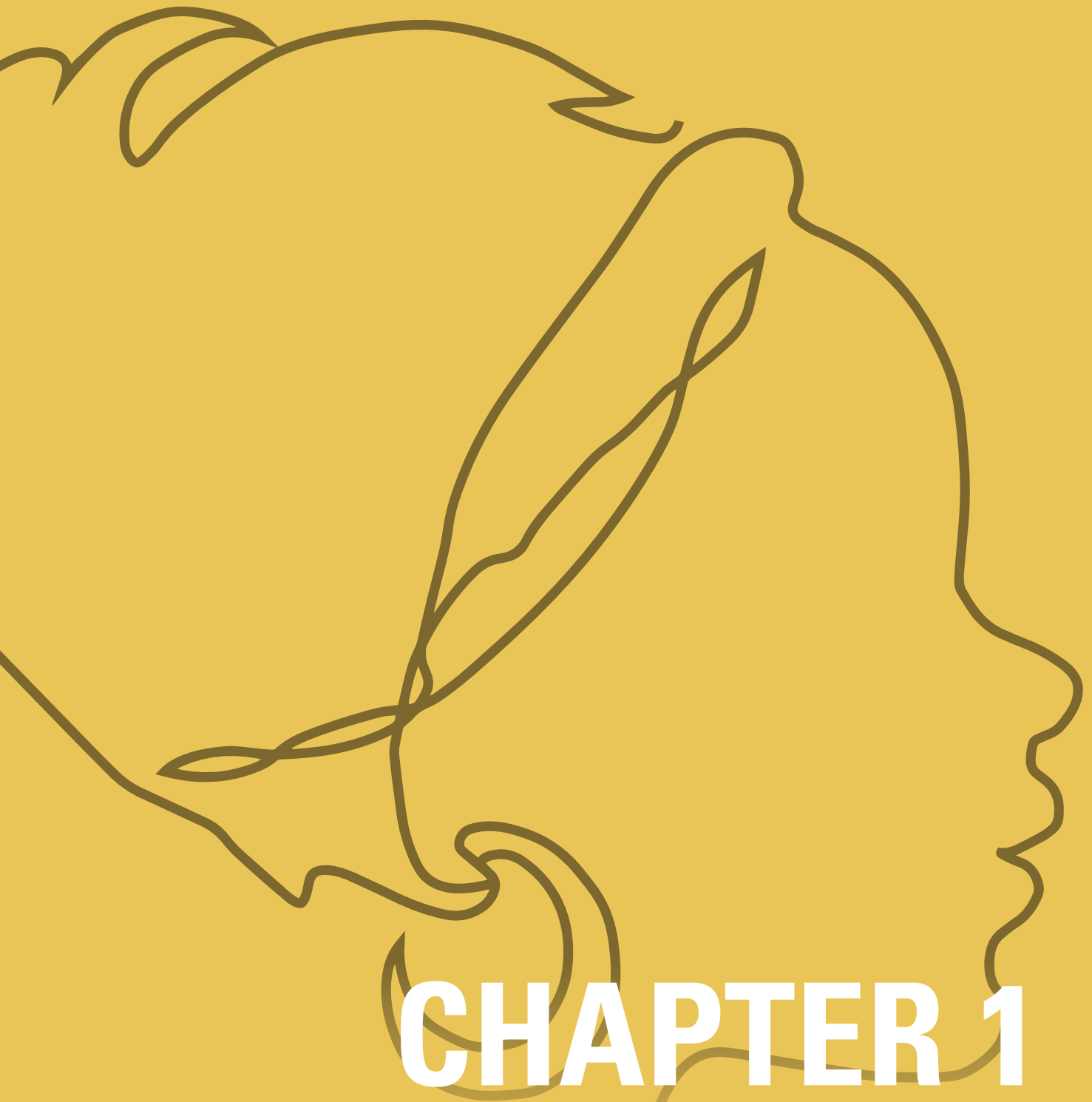
The study was however unable to ascertain if NAPs or a strategy for VAW/SGBV and FGM included costed budgets because of limitations in accessing the documents.

Summary of recommendations

To address the obstacles that impede the ratification, domestication, and implementation of global and regional commitments on EAWG by AU Member States, several measures must be undertaken. Principally, Member States must commit to greater investment and funding for EAWG. A multi-sectoral approach needs to be encouraged to ensure that adequate funds are allocated and to capture EAWG in the national budgeting processes. National laws, policies and other measures that safeguard women and girls from violence must be adopted, and domestic standards should meet the minimum requirement expected in international law.

At a regional level, RECs need to play a role in coordinating mechanisms for reporting on EAWG. This will help to fill the gap in staffing, resourcing and financing for regional activities. Diverse stakeholders, including traditional and religious leaders, should be engaged to participate in and have ownership of EAWG campaigns. RECs should also establish One-Stop Centers to support and document the experiences of survivors of SGBV.

At a national level, research and innovation must be used to develop a continental set of indicators for the Member States to report on, based on empirical data and the African context. The AUC and RECs must create policy frameworks and tools for the adaptation of global and regional standards.



CHAPTER 1

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the context of ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG), harmful practices (HP), violations of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (SHRH&RR), including female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage in Africa. The findings are derived from a regional evidence-based mapping and assessment on the status of domestication and enforcement of laws and policies, and national action plans in line with global and regional human rights commitments on EVAWG conducted between June 2021 and May 2022.

The specific objectives of the mapping and assessment were to:

1. Assess the status of domestication and enforcement of global and regional human rights commitments in relation to EVAWG.
2. Undertake assessment on the status of development and implementation of National Action Plans including the financing and investment on EVAWG and capacity to implement these action plans by regional bodies and Member States.
3. Inform the development of relevant capacity building and assessment tools and approaches based on an appreciation of identified gaps and capacities of the regional partners and Member States.
4. Suggest key recommendations based on findings to inform policy decisions at a regional and national level on what policy and program interventions, and support to be provided.

The report provides findings on the status of women's rights and EVAWG in the 55 Member States of the African Union. It also provides findings on the status of the implementation and enforcement of laws and policies, in line with global and regional human rights commitments, and the development and implementation of NAPs, financing, and capacity to deliver on EVAWG by Regional Partners and 18 Member

States. The regional-based mapping and assessment is anchored on Pillar I of SIARP, which recognizes the significant role played by data in informing policies and legislation.

1.1 Background of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme



SIARP is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. It prioritizes strengthening existing strategies and initiatives, such as the African Union (AU) Gender Strategy 2017-2027, Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), The African Union Agenda 2063, the Maputo Plan of Action on the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2016-2030), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the "Maputo Protocol"), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend, the African Youth Charter (2006), and the Common Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa (2015). The program also adopts a strategy of harnessing the respective strengths of multi-sectoral, multi-level partnerships, which will support the acceleration of transformative change.

SIARP aims to address regional bottlenecks and support international and regional commitments towards EVAWG. It is closely implemented with the Africa Union Commission (AUC). To address the multiple obstacles faced with regard to ratification, domestication and enforcement of regional laws and policies, the regional evidence-based mapping and assessment has been undertaken on the status of laws and policies on EVAWG. It will inform capacity building, advocacy and best practice initiatives, to support AUC and other regional partners to engage and influence Member States to ratify, domesticate, enforce and report on regional HR commitments on EVAWG.

1.2 Context of Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa



Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is defined as acts or threats of violence that occur in public or private spheres, during peacetime, and war and armed conflict.¹ Today, VAWG is the most pervasive form of human rights violation. VAWG is rooted in unequal gender relations and social norms deeply embedded in society and institutions that sustain power imbalances and gender inequality. VAWG takes various forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic.²

In Africa, the most notable type of VAWG is domestic violence, which includes intimate partner violence, physical assault and battery, marital rape, neglect, emotional, and verbal abuse.³ According to WHO⁴, a quarter of women aged 15 to 49 globally who have been in a relationship, have been subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner at least once in their

lifetime. The estimated rate of intimate partner violence in the WHO African region is 33percent.⁵ VAWG in Africa also takes the form of harmful practices such as FGM, child marriage, honour killing and maiming, and forced abortion. Armed conflicts in at least 15 sub-Saharan African countries⁶ have also led to increased sexual violence, forced sexual servitude and prostitution, sexual exploitation, and trafficking of women and girls. Harmful practices like early and forced child marriage are still rampant in Africa, with reports revealing that every four in 10 girls are married before the age of 18 in sub-Saharan Africa.⁷ In East and Southern Africa, 10 percent of girls are married before the age of 15⁸, while in sub-Saharan Africa, 40 percent of women are married as children.⁹ Africa is home to 15 of the 20 countries with the highest rates of child marriage in the world¹⁰, six of which are in West and Central Africa.¹¹ There has been a slow and steady decline in the prevalence of child marriage in the region. However, there are immense variations in the decreasing rates across and within countries.¹²

¹ Chapter 5: Gender-based violence against women, The State of African Women, 2018

² <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/faqs/types-of-violence>

³ <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20211125/african-union-legal-frameworks-aim-break-cycle-violence-against-women-and>

⁴ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

⁵ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

⁶ Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2020/07>

⁷ <https://borgenproject.org/7-facts-about-child-marriage-in-africa/>

⁸ UNICEF & UNFPA, Child Marriage: A Mapping of Programmes and Partners in Twelve Countries in East and Southern Africa, September 2018 downloaded from <https://esaro.unfpa.org/en/publications/child-marriage-mapping-programmes-and-partners-twelve-countries-east-and-southern>

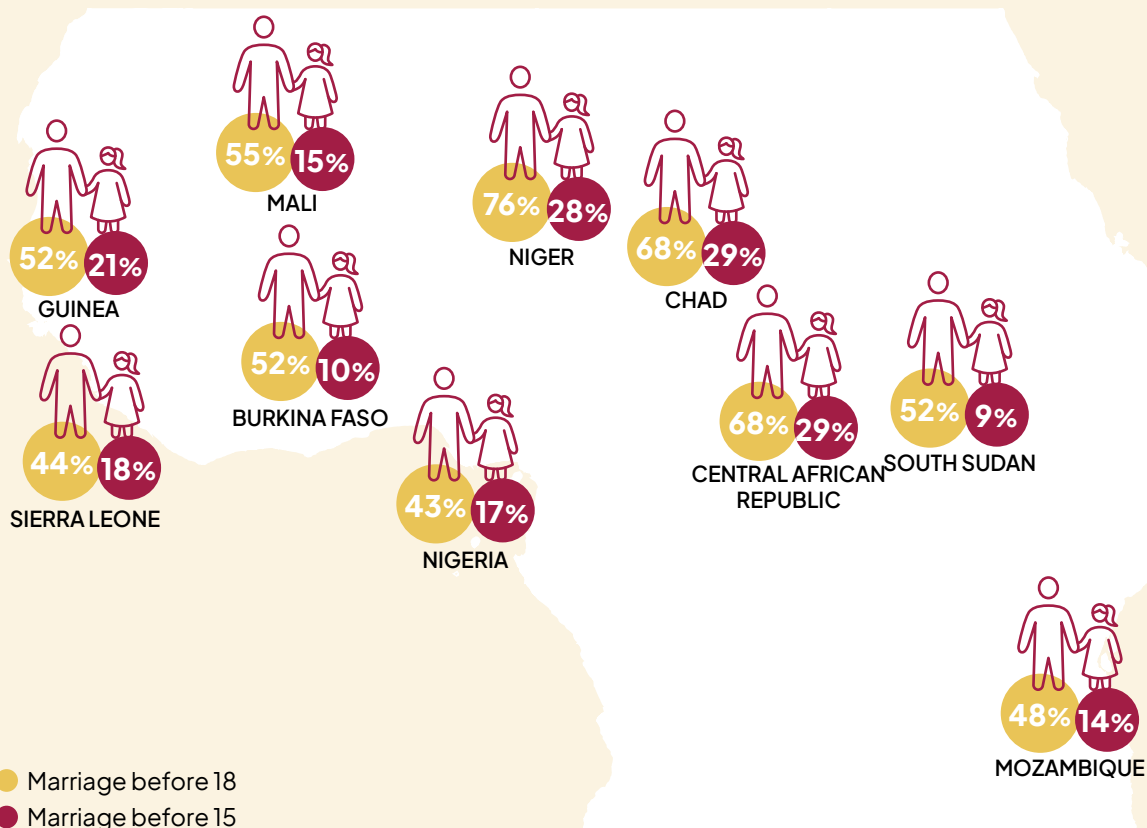
⁹ Ending Child Marriage in Africa: A brief by Girls Not Brides downloaded from <https://fecongd.org/pdf/crianca/Child-marriage-in-Africa.pdf>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ UNICEF, 2014, State of the World's Children 2015: Reimagine the future.

¹² UNICEF, 2018, Child Marriage in West and Central Africa: At a glance

Figure 1: African countries with the highest child marriage rates



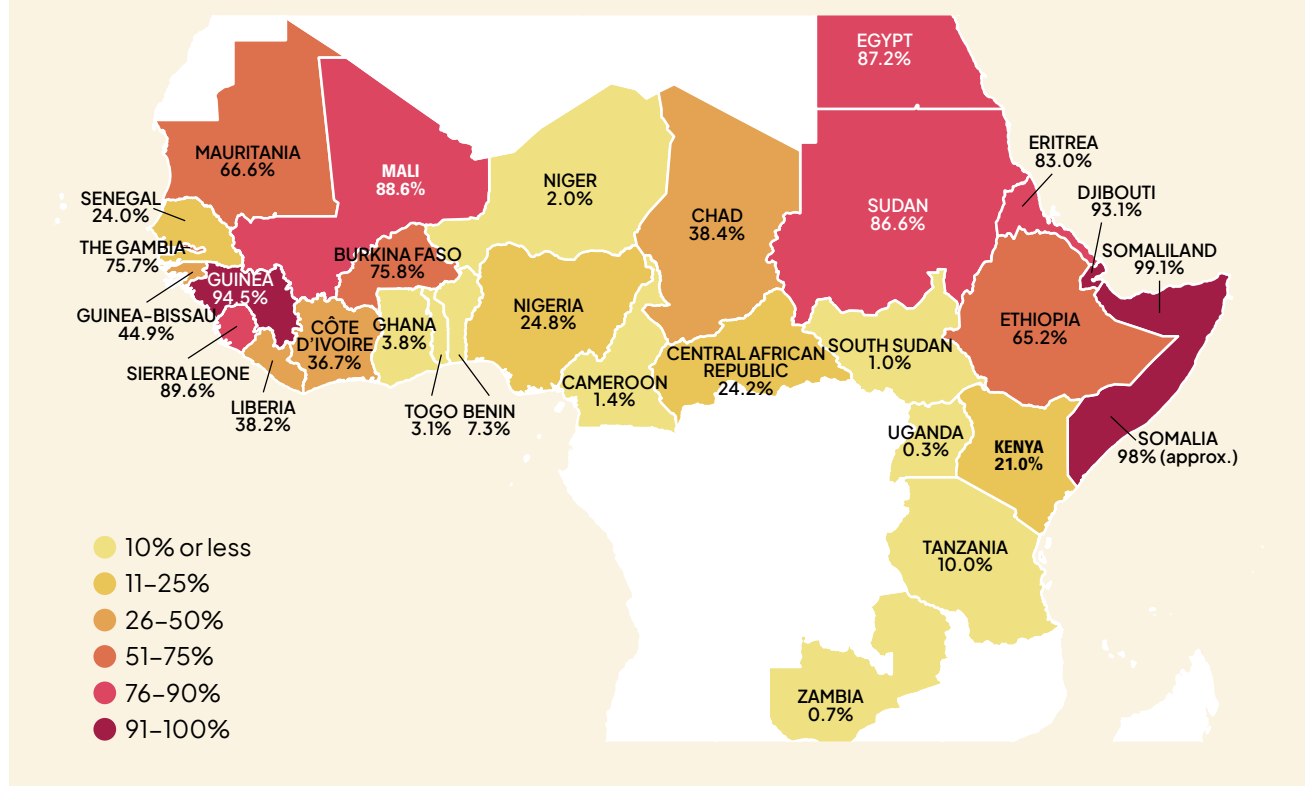
Source: UNICEF, 2014. State of the World's Children 2015: Reimagine the future. Statistical table: 9 Child Protection. For a full list of African countries and their rates of child marriage, see appendix.

FGM is a cultural practice particular to some ethnic groups and remains prevalent in parts of West, East, Central and North Africa. It is estimated that 55 million girls under

the age of 15 in 28 African countries have experienced or are at risk of undergoing FGM.¹³ Figure 2 below shows the prevalence of FGM across Africa.

¹³ https://www.equalitynow.org/fgm_in_africa/

Figure 2: Prevalence of FGM in Africa¹⁴



Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is pervasive across Africa and the negative impact it has on women and girls, society and the economy is clear. VAWG is considered one of the critical impediments to women’s realization of their fundamental rights, including the right to life, human dignity, peace, and justice, as well as the realization of essential socio-economic and political development. There is also evidence that VAWG has increased unemployment, poverty, increased vulnerabilities, and exploitation of women and girls, among others. Survivors of violence and their families are often exposed to trauma with physical, psychological, and behavioral consequences. Violence limits women and girls’ access to sexual and health-related information and services and increases the

likelihood of maternal and child mortality. VAWG has been estimated to cost some countries up to 3.7 percent of their GDP.¹⁵

1.2.1 COVID-19 Pandemic and VAWG

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities that have been a cause and effect of VAWG. At the height of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, an overwhelming number of reports documented the heightened number of intimate partner violence cases recorded across the continent. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, VAWG has increased across the continent, with emerging data and reports indicating a heightened number of GBV cases. For instance, it is recorded that

¹⁴ <https://www.28toomany.org/continent/africa/> downloaded on 8 March 2022

¹⁵ Gender-Based Violence (Violence Against Women and Girls) brief cited from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialsustainability/brief/violence-against-women-and-girls>

there was a 48percent increase in reported GBV cases in East African countries¹⁶, with Kenya also reporting a significant spike in cases of rape and sexual violence. In Lagos, Nigeria, domestic violence cases rose by more than 100percent during the first lockdown in March 2020.¹⁷ Similarly, Tunisia and Algeria reported a nine-fold increase in VAWG and femicide.¹⁸ In South Africa, the police recorded a 37percent increase in GBV cases in the first week of the lockdown in April 2020.¹⁹

The pandemic had particularly severe consequences for already excluded, marginalized, and vulnerable women and girls. Women with disabilities were exposed to an increased risk of GBV during the lockdown²⁰. Additionally, domestic violence within displaced and refugee communities is reported to have risen by 70 percent.²¹ Extended school closures during the lockdown period and the ensuing transition to online learning, further alienated girls from low-income households and rural areas.²²

1.2.2 International and Regional Commitments on EVAWG

1.2.2.1 International Commitments

Globally, several international commitments inform EVAWG. The most notable being the Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR),1948, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),1979, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights(ICCPR), 1966, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights(ICESCR), 1976, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child(CRC), 1989. Other commitments include the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, and 2122, which give provisions for addressing gender inequality, and conflict-related sexual violence within the women, peace and security agenda. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030, specifically Goal 5, are critical in advancing gender-sensitive approaches.

1.2.2.2 Regional and National Commitments

The main regional human rights commitments that relate to gender and EVAWG in Africa are the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)²³, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) 2003, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) 1990, the African Youth Charter 2006, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa 2004 and The African Human Rights Decade,2017-2027, the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (ICGLR) 2006.

Other relevant policies and plans include the African Union strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) (2018-2028), AU Agenda 2063, the Maputo Plan of Action on the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

¹⁶ The Invisible Pandemic: COVID-19's toll on African Women and girls <https://www.one.org/africa/blog/invisible-pandemic-gender-based-violence/>

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20211125/african-union-legal-frameworks-aim-break-cycle-violence-against-women-and>

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Oyekunle A, Ralph-Opara U, Agada P and Hawkins K (2021) Impact of COVID-19 response on women with disabilities in Lagos State, Nigeria. Evidence Download, Gender and COVID-19 Project assessed from [PAC00497_Gender-Covid-19-Gender-Response-Lagos-Brief-1.pdf \(genderandcovid-19.org\)](https://www.one.org/africa/blog/invisible-pandemic-gender-based-violence/) on 24.07.2022 ²¹ <https://www.one.org/africa/blog/invisible-pandemic-gender-based-violence/>

²² <https://www.globalpartnership.org/blog/effects-covid-pandemic-girls-education>

²³ See a list of AU Treaties: <https://au.int/en/treaties>. See also: <https://www.universal-rights.org/human-rights-rough-guides/a-rough-guide-to-the-regional-human-rights-systems/>

(2016-2030), the Common Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa (2015), the African Union Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend 2017, and the Revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018-2030). The African Union Commission (AUC) – through the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security – developed the African Continental Results Framework (CRF): Monitoring and Reporting Tool on the Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Africa, 2018-2028.²⁴

Relevant policies and plans at the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) level include the ECOWAS Roadmap on the Prevention and Response to Child Marriage, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Gender Policy, and the Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region. In addition, there exists Regional Action Plans (RAPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs) on UNSCR1325. Six RECs have developed Regional Action Plans (RAPs). These are the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS): Guidelines on Women, Peace and Security, 2020, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security, 2018-2022, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Eastern Africa Regional Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, 2011-2015, the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, 2018-2023, the East African Community (EAC) Regional Framework on United Nations Security Council Resolution, 2015-2019, and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Regional Action Plan for

the implementation of Resolution 1325 and related Security Council resolutions (2020-2024).²⁵ To date, 30 AU member states have developed and adopted UNSCR1325 NAPs.²⁶

1.2.2.3 Mechanisms and Institutions for Human Rights

Mechanisms and structures responsible for promoting and protecting human rights in Africa include judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies. These key mechanisms and institutions include the AUC and its key directorates and departments, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR), the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR),

Mechanisms and institutions for promoting and protecting human rights within the RECs include but are not limited to regional courts such as the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice. Others include the Gender Affairs Programme of IGAD, SADC Gender Unit, and COMESA's Gender and Social Affairs Division.

At the level of Member States, the relevant ministries are the Ministry of Gender, Women, and Social Welfare. Others include the ministries of justice, health, education, security, and finance. There are also specialized agencies and departments such as the National Gender and Equality Commission in Kenya, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in Nigeria, and various national human rights institutions.

²⁴ https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/35958-doc-continental_results_framework_wps_.pdf

²⁵ <https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/regional-action-plans/>

²⁶ <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/nap-overview/>; <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20201109/scaling-actions-women-peace-and-security-agenda-africa>



CHAPTER 2

Study Objectives and Scope

2.1 Purpose



The purpose of the study is to map and assess the status of domestication and enforcement of global and regional laws and policies in relation to EAWG and the status of development and implementation of and national action plans including financing/ investments on EAWG and capacity to

implement these action plans by regional bodies and the Member States

2.2 Objectives



Table 1 below provides the study objectives and gives an interpretation of the level of response and limitations.

Table 1: Objectives, Level of Response and Limitation

S/N	Terms of Reference	Level of Response	Limitation
1.	<p>Assess the status of domestication and enforcement of international and regional human rights commitments on EAWG.</p> <p>Key questions considered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the status of global and regional human rights treaties relating to EAWG in regional partners and the AU Member States? b. What is the status of ratification, domestication, and implementation of international and regional human rights commitments by Member States? c. What internal and external factors affect the capacity of regional partners and Member States to ratify, domesticate and implement the provisions of global and regional human rights treaties related to EAWG? 	<p>1a & b have been addressed.</p> <p>1c – not addressed entirely.</p>	<p>We received a limited response to our request for interviews from identified key respondents from Member States. Information was sourced from the United Nations, AU, and RECs that participated in the study to mitigate this gap.</p> <p>Information was also collated from semi-structured interviews with the SOAWR secretariat and CSOs. However, our inability to speak with most respondents meant that we could not have the full depth of the questions.</p>
2.	<p>Assess the status of the development and implementation of NAPs, including financing and investments for EAWG by regional bodies and Member States.</p> <p>Key questions considered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What National Action Plans on EAWG currently exist in Member States? b. Which countries have a costed action plan on EAWG, with an M&E framework, in place? c. To what extent is the action plan robust (based on evidence, analysis of needs, rights-focus, women and girls involved in the development, appropriate financial commitment, and adequate M&E framework)? 	<p>2a & b have been addressed.</p> <p>2c could not be addressed.</p>	<p>The study could only get information for five RECs instead of eight as stated in the inception report.</p> <p>We could not obtain copies of the action plans despite a thorough online search. There was limited information from the Member States regarding existing National Plans on EAWG.</p> <p>There was information on NAPs for UNSCR1325. More than 90% did not have a costed budget, and this was mentioned in the report.</p>

S/N	Terms of Reference	Level of Response	Limitation
3.	<p>Member States</p> <p>Key questions considered were:</p> <p>a. What type of support or training did the officials involved in developing and costing the EVAWG action plan receive? What were the challenges they faced in developing and costing the action plan? What are the challenges they face in implementing the action plan?</p> <p>b. How participatory was the process for developing NAPs? Which stakeholders were consulted? How did the process for consultation involve CSOs and women's groups?</p>	The third part of 3a was addressed.	We could not speak with the Member States identified for the case study. Consequently, the information provided lacks the depth required to respond to this question critically.
4.	<p>Suggest critical recommendations based on findings to inform policy decisions at the regional and Member States' level on policy and program interventions and support.</p> <p>Key questions considered were:</p> <p>a. What are the existing policies, programs, and interventions regarding EVAWG at the regional and Member States levels?</p> <p>b. What gaps exist among policymakers at the regional and Member States levels regarding technical capacity to develop, fund, implement, monitor, and report on NAP?</p>	4a and b have been addressed.	

2.3 Scope



Given the specific nature of the study, it began with a broad overview of all 55 Member States to assess the status of domestication of global and regional human rights commitments on EVAWG.

Considering the combination of resources, time constraints, and other criteria, eight Regional Economic Councils recognized by the African Union and 18 Member States were targeted for deep-dive analysis. The

RECs were the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU/UMA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). However, information could only be ascertained for ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC.

Eighteen countries²⁷ were selected for a deep-dive analysis based on several factors. These were:

1. Non-SIARP countries²⁸ (except for Nigeria because of its status as a hub country for ECOWAS).
2. Countries with AU bodies and RECs located.
3. Geographical representation and diversity - covering anglophone, francophone, lusophone, and Arabic-speaking countries in Africa.
4. Countries that have ratified the Maputo Protocol.
5. Ease of accessing information for the deep-dive approach.
6. Fund availability to carry out deep dives.
7. Countries who have experienced conflict or are post-conflict, as there is a chance they would have addressed violence, including VAWG, in transitional norms development.

In deciding which countries to select, the consultants also considered existing SIARP countries, prioritizing those without active SIARP interventions with the understanding that information obtained from the assessment would provide critical information to the program.

The 18 countries selected were:

North Africa: Tunisia, *Egypt*, and Morocco

East Africa: *Kenya*, Rwanda, Tanzania, and South Sudan

West Africa: *Nigeria*, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Cape Verde

Central Africa: Cameroon, *Burundi*, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Southern Africa: *Angola*, Botswana, Lesotho, and *South Africa*

²⁷ Selection was based on African Union classification of Member States https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2

²⁸ Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe



CHAPTER 3

Research Methodology

3.1 Overview of Methodology



The regional study maintained a gender-sensitive and human rights approach, despite the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic. We did this in several ways. First, by ensuring the inclusion of male and female research assistants trained on principles of gender-sensitive research. Second, by framing the questions within a human rights framework to avoid bias.

The study relied primarily on secondary sources of data, including the Maputo Protocol, CEDAW and other relevant human rights treaties, policy documents, and reports from member countries on the implementation of gender-related international and regional treaties. Additionally, policies such as the African Union Gender Strategy, Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030), African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend, the African Youth Charter (2006), and the Common Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa (2015) were considered. Reports from the AU, United Nations, and other credible institutions were also reviewed. A complete list of documents used is provided in the reference section.

A desk review of relevant and credible institutional reports, grey literature, and news articles from 2011 to 2021 was conducted to draw information on:

- The landscape for EAWG in Africa.
- Country-specific contexts and drivers shaping EAWG.
- Existing laws and policies and the level of implementation on EAWG.

Key informant interviews were conducted to triangulate the data and validate the written sources.

3.1.1 Sampling, Data Collection and Analysis

Purposive sampling was used to identify respondents who could provide detailed critical information, based on their role within institutions, knowledge, and an understanding of human rights commitments, mechanisms for implementation, and involvement in advocating for EAWG. A total of 33 respondents (26 female and seven male) were interviewed during the study. A complete list of respondents is provided in Annexe A. The study was mainly qualitative and used semi-structured key informant interviews and group discussions to collect data. Specifically, semi-structured interviews and group discussions were conducted virtually with identified respondents from the RECs, regional partners, Member States, regional, United Nations agencies, and national CSOs.

Data collected from the KIs were transcribed, coded, and analyzed in themes. Data from the literature review was triangulated with the information provided by the KIs to develop the report.

3.2 Limitations



This section on limitations expands on the limitations provided in Table 1.

The methodology for the study was premised on some assumptions, one of which was having the opportunity to virtually conduct interviews with respondents from Member States' key line ministries. However, the consultants received limited responses from the Member States to the request for interviews. The consultation was also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with various variants affecting the region and movement restrictions. The challenge led to an extension from three to five months for the research. Even with that, the consultants did not get any additional input beyond the information gleaned from desk reviews. However, verification can be done during the validation of the report. Any additions

or amendments from Member States will be incorporated into the final report before publication.

Another assumption was that in-country United Nations staff support would be available to secure interviews and provide up-to-date country reports, research, and documents that give insight into the country's progress on EAWG. However, this also did not happen.

A further limitation was the inaccessibility of key documents like NAPs on public platforms, the lack of up-to-date, accessible data such as national budgets, reports from key ministries, departments and agencies, NAPs, and policies from the Member States on EAWG. Where data was available online, it was at least two years old. The team relied on periodic reports from

the AU, United Nations, and Equality Now to ensure a level of accuracy. RECs could only refer researchers to the Member States even in such situations.

Challenges with languages were another limitation, particularly for those written in Arabic and Portuguese because documents (where available) needed to be translated and often proved quite tedious for researchers who had to work within a limited time for the desk review.

Based on the limitations highlighted above, the researchers did not have enough information to conduct a rigorous case study methodology where country frameworks and implementation strategies were analyzed to identify good practices and gaps in the implementation of commitments.



CHAPTER 4

Findings

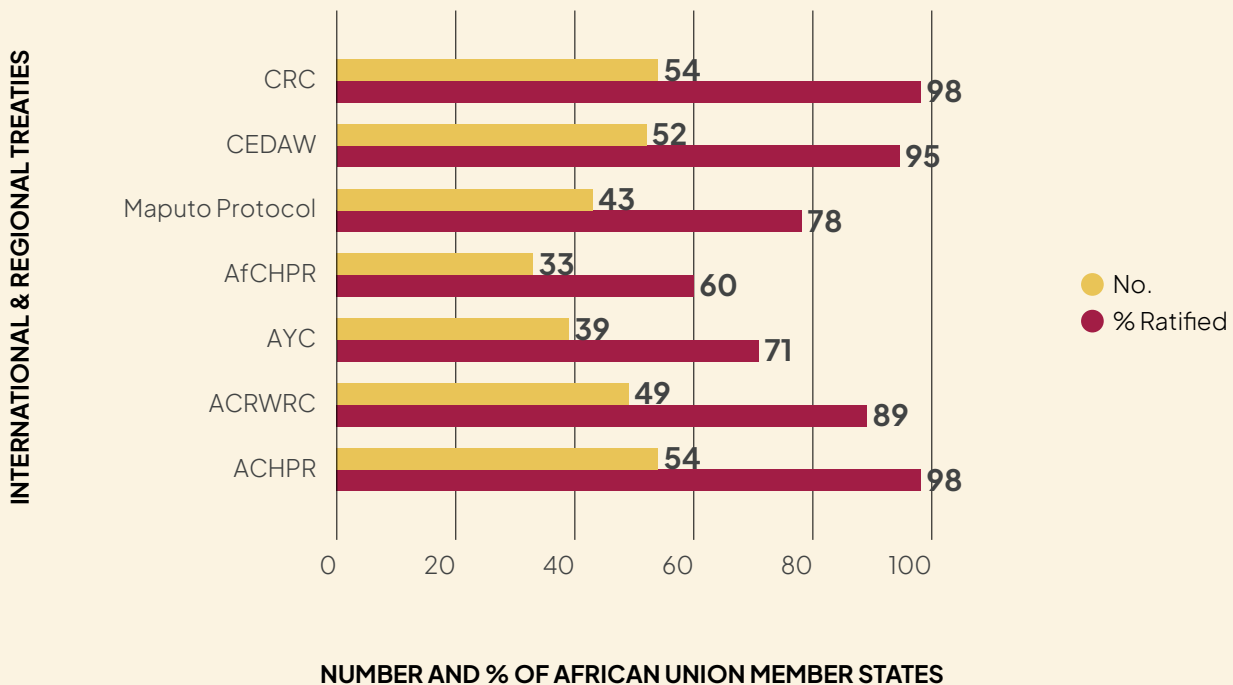
4.1 Status of Ratification of the Relevant International and Regional Laws and Treaties by African Union Member States



This section presents the key findings on the status of ratification of relevant human rights

treaties by AU Member States. There has been some progress in signing and ratifying international laws and human rights treaties. Some Member States have ratified, but with reservations. Figure 3 provides an overview of the status of ratification of relevant international and regional treaties among the 55 Member States.

Figure 3: Status of Ratification of Relevant International & Regional Treaties



The figure above shows that 54 countries have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 52 countries have ratified the CEDAW, 43 have ratified the Maputo Protocol, 33 countries have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), 39 countries have ratified the African Youth Charter, 49 countries, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and 54 countries have ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

- **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) 1981:** ACHPR, also known as the African Charter – or the Banjul Charter, is Africa's foremost human rights treaty. It has been ratified by all the Member States of the AU, except Morocco, which re-joined the AU in 2017. Article 18 (3) of the charter obliges Member States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to protect the rights of women and children, as provided for in international declarations and conventions.

- **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) 1990:** The ACRWC was adopted in 1990 and came into force in 1999. The ACRWC sets out rights and defines principles for the status of children. It emphasizes the State’s responsibility to protect girls from harmful cultural practices like child marriage and FGM. The charter has been signed and ratified by 49 out of 55 countries. However, four countries (Botswana, Egypt, Mauritania and Sudan) made reservations. Egypt gazetted the withdrawal of reservations to Articles 24, 30(e), and 44 of the ACRWC in February 2015.²⁹
- **African Youth Charter (AYC) 2006:** The AYC addresses the rights of youth and specific issues to combat GBV. Articles 23 and 25 emphasize a States’ responsibility to “enact and enforce legislation that protects girls and young women from all forms of violence” and to “eliminate harmful social and cultural practices that affect the dignity and welfare of youth”. The charter has been signed by 42 Member States, but only 39 have ratified it. Three Member States (Botswana, Eritrea and Somalia) are yet to sign or ratify the charter.³⁰
- **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (AfCHPR) 1998:** The African Court Protocol was adopted at the 34th ordinary session of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Assembly on 9 June 1998 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and came into force on 25 January 2004. It provides for a continental court to decide cases based on any human rights instrument ratified by Member States (Article 3). As of 1 April 2022, 33 states have ratified while eight states (Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Malawi, Niger and Tunisia) have made the Article 34(6) declaration, permitting individuals and NGOs to bring cases directly to the African Court.³¹ In a span of four years (2016–2020), four member states (Rwanda, Tanzania, Benin and Cote d’Ivoire) withdrew from the Article 34(6) declaration.
- **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) 2003:** The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, popularly called the Maputo Protocol, was adopted by the AU on 11 July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique. The Protocol focuses on gender equality and non-discrimination, articulates women’s rights to dignity and requires states to take measures to ensure the protection of women from all forms of violence, particularly sexual and verbal violence (Article 3). It also addresses issues of particular importance to women, including FGM, child marriage and other harmful practices, trafficking (Article 4), the right to equality in marriage (Article 6) and the right to decide whether to have children (Article 14). The Protocol has a special status within Africa as it derives from an AU initiative and is legally binding for states that have ratified it. However, some challenges have been connected to the ratification, implementation, and follow-up of the Maputo Protocol.³² Forty-three out of 55 countries have ratified the Maputo Protocol, while three countries (Botswana, Egypt and Morocco), are yet to sign or ratify it. Six countries (Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Uganda)

²⁹<https://egyptindependent.com/egypt-cancels-reservations-african-child-rights-charter/>

³⁰http://www.africanchildforum.org/cfr/Status%20Table/African_Regional_Instruments.html

³¹<https://www.african-court.org/wpafc/the-republic-of-guinea-bissau-becomes-the-eighth-country-to-deposit-a-declaration-under-article-346-of-the-protocol-establishing-the-court/>; <https://www.african-court.org/wpafc/democratic-republic-of-congo-ratifies-the-protocol-on-the-establishment-of-the-african-court-on-human-and-peoples-rights/>; Note that there four countries (Rwanda, Tanzania, Benin and Côte d’Ivoire) that previously made a declaration withdrew them.

³² <https://www.fcg.fi/en/projects/mapping-synergies-maputo-protocol>

ratified with reservations.³³ Nine out of the countries who have signed (Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Madagascar, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan) are yet to ratify.

- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):** the convention, often referred to as the “international bill of rights for women”, was adopted in December 1979 and focuses on women’s human rights and equality. Fifty-two out of 55 AU Member States have ratified CEDAW, which gives credence to its overall acceptability by the Member States. However, some countries (Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco and Niger) ratified with reservations.³⁴ Tunisia withdrew its reservations in 2014. Sudan’s Council of Ministries approved the ratification of CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol in April 2021, with reservations to Articles 2, 16 and 29 (1) of CEDAW.³⁵ However, Sudan is yet to formally deposit its instruments of ratification as required under international law. Somalia and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic are yet to sign or ratify CEDAW.
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):** The CRC is the most widely ratified human rights treaty. As of 2021, all 55 African Member States have ratified the treaty with Somalia and South Sudan ratifying in 2015. Egypt withdrew its reservations to articles 20 and 21 of the convention in 2003.³⁶ However, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania,

Morocco, Somalia and Tunisia have reservations that continue to impede its full implementation. Although Tunisia withdrew its reservations to Articles 2 and 7, it maintains a reservation to the preamble and Article 6 to prevent an interpretation in such a way as to impede the application of Tunisian legislation concerning voluntary termination of pregnancy.

- **United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 on Women Peace and Security:** The UNSCR1325 outlines UN, state and partner obligations for ensuring that the needs and priorities of women and girls impacted by conflict are addressed and that peace is brokered inclusively and sustainably. Thirty African Countries have developed NAPs on UNSCR1325³⁷, namely, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Côte D’Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda).

Despite the significance of the ratification of relevant human rights treaties among the Member States, progress on domestication, implementation, and reporting remains low and uneven. The following section looks critically at the status of the development and implementation of action plans on EVAWG, including financing and investments by regional bodies and 18 Member States.

³³ <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20180129/high-level-consultation-ratification-maputo-protocol>; https://www.equalitynow.org/news_and_insights/maputo_protocol_turns_18/

³⁴ CEDAW Status of Treaties: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&clang=_en as at 13 March 2022.

³⁵ <https://www.mewc.org/index.php/gender-issues/human-rights-of-women/11592-sudan-cabinet-approves-cedaw-maputo-protocol-ratification>

³⁶ Paragraph 12, consideration of third and fourth reports of Egypt to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRC/C/SR.1622:

<http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPRiCAqhKb7yhsialUb%2BZGf tp 59yZHGEX789zBEgMcH5uVNhbPJOJEhk585B7SQxxco3ACwMVjwQa3k%2FxsRk2Tpa% 2FY5dogPVIAupWnVjc r4TJWz4eTeJ3h0%2Bk>

³⁷ <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/nap-overview/>

4.1.2 Status of domestication and enforcement of treaties, laws and policies

State parties are expected to submit state reports to show steps they have been taking toward the implementation of treaty provisions. State reports are valuable sources of information for reviewing the states' domestication and enforcement of treaties, laws, and policies.

All 18 Member States selected for this study have ratified CEDAW and have submitted their state reports to the CEDAW Committee. Article 26 (1) of the Maputo

Protocol states that: "States Parties shall ensure the implementation of this Protocol at national level, and in their periodic reports submitted in accordance with article 62 of the African Charter, indicate the legislative and other measures undertaken for the full realization of the rights herein recognized." To date, out of 43 state parties, only 19 have complied. These are Senegal, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Namibia, Angola, DRC, Mauritania, Rwanda, South Africa, The Gambia, Lesotho, Nigeria, Togo, Zimbabwe, Benin, Kenya, Seychelles, Eswatini and Cameroon. The tables below give an overview of the status of reporting, ratification and domestication in the study's 18 countries.

Table 2: Status of ratification, accession and reporting to the ACHPR and CEDAW Committee

No	Country	ACHPR	Maputo	Reported on Maputo	CEDAW	Last report to CEDAW
1	Angola	1991	2007	2018	1986	2017
2	Botswana	1986		N/A	1996	2017
3	Burundi	1989		N/A	1992	2015
4	Cameroun	1989	2012	2020	1994	2011
5	Cape Verde	1987	2005	Not yet	1980	2018
6	DRC	1987	2008	2017	1986	2018
7	Egypt	1984		N/A	1981	2020
8	Kenya	1992	2010	2021	1984	2016
9	Lesotho	1992	2004	2018	1995	2010
10	Morocco			N/A	1993	2020

No	Country	ACHPR	Maputo	Reported on Maputo	CEDAW	Last report to CEDAW
11	Nigeria	1983	2004	2018	1985	2015
12	Rwanda	1983	2004	2017	1981	2021
13	Senegal	1982	2004	2015	1985	2019
14	Sierra Leone	1983	2015	Not yet	1988	2011
15	South Africa	1996	2004	2015	1995	2019
16	South Sudan	2013		N/A	2015	2020
17	Tanzania	1984	2007	Not yet	1985	2014
18	Tunisia	1983	2018	Not yet	1985	2009

Table 3: Status of ratification and domestication of treaties

No	Country	Maputo	CRC	ACRWC	AYC	AfCourt	ACHPR	CEDAW	Gender	EVAG	FGM	CEFM	WPS
1	Angola	2007	1990	1992	2009		1991	1986	2013	2011		2012	2017
2	Botswana		1995	2001			1986	1996	2015	2008			
3	Burundi		1990	2004			1989	1992	2012			2005	2017
4	Cameroun	2012	1993	1999	2011	2015	1989	1994	2014	2022	2021	2016	2017
5	Cape Verde	2005	1992	1993	2011		1987	1980	2015	2015			
6	DRC	2008	1990			2020	1987	1986	2009	2009			2018

No	Country	Maputo	CRC	ACRWC	AYC	AfCourt	ACHPR	CEDAW	Gender	EVAG	FGM	CEFM	WPS
7	Egypt		1990	2001	2015		1984	1981	2016	2016	2016	2014	
8	Kenya	2010	1990	2000	2014	2004	1992	1984	2019		2019		2020
9	Lesotho	2004	1992	1999	2010	2003	1992	1995	2018	2008			
10	Morocco		1993					1993	2022	2022			
11	Nigeria	2004	1991	2001	2009	2004	1983	1985	2021	2015	2013		2017
12	Rwanda	2004	1991	2001	2007	2003	1983	1981	2021	2011			2018
13	Senegal	2004	1990	1998	2009	1998	1982	1985	2016	2016	2013		2011
14	Sierra Leone	2015	1990	2002			1983	1988	2010	2012		2016	2019
15	South Africa	2004	1995	2000		2002	1996	1995	2002	2020			2020
16	South Sudan		2018				2013	2015	2011			2017	2020
17	Tanzania	2007	1991	2003	2012	2006	1984	1985	2008	2017	2017		
18	Tunisia	2018	1992		2011	2007	1983	1985	2016	2008			2018

4.2 Status of Development and Implementation of Action Plans at Continental and Regional level



This section provides an in-depth analysis on the status of development and implementation of Action Plans, including financing and investments on EVAWG by regional bodies and 18 AU Member States. The AU recognises eight Regional Economic Communities based on regional groupings of African Member States. However, only

EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and COMESA have normative frameworks on gender equality and women and girls' rights. More importantly, information could only be assessed from the five listed RECs and is shared below.

4.2.1 The African Union

The African Union (AU) is the successor of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and became operational in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, when the first ordinary

session of the AU was held.³⁸ According to Article 3 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, 2000, one of the objectives of the AU is to promote and protect human and people's rights in accordance with the African Charter and other relevant human rights commitments. All 55 countries on the African continent are members of the AU.

The African Union Commission (AUC) is the secretariat of the AU, established by Article 5 of the Constitutive Act and is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In relation to tackling EAWG, the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD), located in the office of the AUC Chairperson, is the coordinating body. Other relevant departments are Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) and Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS). In addition, the Special Envoy of the African Union Commission Chairperson on Women, Peace and Security and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (who is one of the ACHPR commissioners) facilitate the promotion and implementation of relevant treaties and policies at continental and national levels.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) was established by Article 30 of the African Charter to promote and protect human and peoples' rights and interpret the African Charter. It is based in Banjul, The Gambia and became operative in 1986. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) became functional in 2001. Since December 2020, it has been based in Maseru, Lesotho. The ACERWC is mandated to promote, protect and interpret rights

related to children (Articles 32 to 46 ACRWC). The ACERWC has a Special Rapporteur on Ending Child Marriage and other harmful practices and a Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Children.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) became operational in 2006 when the first judges were sworn in. The court was established by Article 1 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Court Protocol). Its mandate is to complement and reinforce the functions of the ACHPR by strengthening the human rights protection system in Africa and ensuring respect for and compliance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other international human rights commitments, through judicial decisions.³⁹ In the case of Association Pour Le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes Maliennes (APDF) and the Institute For Human Rights And Development In Africa (IHRDA) v. Republic Of Mali,⁴⁰ the applicants argued that the Mali Family Code of 2011 violated international human rights law on the minimum age of marriage for girls, the consent to marriage, and the right to inheritance. The African Court held that Mali had violated the Maputo Protocol (Arts. 6(a), 6(b), 21) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

The AU has launched campaigns against harmful practices such as the Saleema Initiative, a continental campaign to end FGM.

³⁸ See the AU Handbook: <https://au.int/en/handbook>

³⁹ <https://www.african-court.org/wpafc/basic-information/>

⁴⁰ Application 046/2016 <https://ihrda.uwazi.io/en/entity/zvp9hhehgwtq5523ayvi>

Box 1: African Union policies supporting gender equality, EVAWG and WPS

AU policies that support gender equality, women and girls' rights, EVAWG and WPS include the following

- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), 2003
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, 2004
- The Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, 2006
- The Maputo Plan of Action for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, 2006
- African Union Gender Policy, 2009
- African Women's Decade, 2010-2020 (2009)
- Joint General Comment of ACHPR & ACERWC on Ending Child Marriage, 2017
- ACHPR General Comments on Maputo Protocol
 - No.1 on Art. 14 (l) (d) and (e), Maputo Protocol, 2012
 - No.2 on Art. 14.1 (a), (b), (c) and (f) and Art. 14. 2 (a) and (c), Maputo Protocol, 2014
- ACHPR Guidelines for Combating Sexual Violence and its Consequences in Africa, 2017
- AU Agenda 2063, Aspiration 6
- Saleema Initiative – African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation Programme and Plan of Action 2019-2023
- Continental Results Framework on Women Peace and Security (CRF), 2018-2028
- African Union Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, 2018-2028

4.2.2 The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Legislative and Policy Framework: Implementation, Progress and Challenges

ECOWAS, created by the Treaty of Lagos on 28 May 1975, is formally responsible for promoting economic and political cooperation for growth and development, including social and cultural aspects⁴¹ for fifteen Member States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo). ECOWAS has developed institutional frameworks for promoting gender equality and urges Member States to develop, harmonize, coordinate, and establish appropriate policies and mechanisms to enhance the economic, social and cultural conditions of women.

Under the auspices of the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC), the specialized ECOWAS agency on gender and development, ECOWAS facilitated the development and adoption of the ECOWAS **Gender Policy and the Supplementary Act Relating to Equality of Rights Between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region (2015)**, which integrates international and continental frameworks including the Maputo Protocol and the Solemn Declaration. The Supplementary Act, adopted by Heads of States in May 2015, is binding on Member States on issues relating to the rights of women and girls.

ECOWAS has also developed several policies that support the promotion of women and girls' rights, women, peace and security, and ending child marriage.

⁴¹ Chapter 4: The Regional Economic Communities and women and girls' rights in the State of Women in Africa. 2018

Box 2: ECOWAS policies supporting gender equality, EVAWG and WPS

ECOWAS policies that support gender equality, women and girls' rights, WPS and EVAWG include:

- ECOWAS Parliament Gender Strategy, 2010-2020 (2011)
- Supplementary Act Relating to Equality of Rights Between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region, 2015
- Roadmap for ECOWAS Supplementary Act Relating to Equality of Rights Between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region, 2017
- ECOWAS Child Policy, 2019
- ECOWAS Roadmap on Prevention of Child Marriage, 2019
- ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, 2017-2020, Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security Component, 2017
- Regional Action Plan on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, 2020

The ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC) is a specialized institution established in January 2003, and its mandate is to mainstream gender in ECOWAS institutions and Member States.⁴² The EGDC has a strategic plan for the implementation of key priorities of ECOWAS, which are education and health, economy and trade, governance, representation, decision-making, agriculture and environment, and peace and security.⁴³ ECOWAS, through the EGDC and the Gender Policy and Agenda, provides technical and financial support to all Member States for the development of National Action Plans (NAP), particularly on women, peace and security, high-level advocacy, and policy engagement with first ladies, donors, and development partners. ECOWAS supports regional women's networks like NOSWEPCO with technical and financial resources to roll out implementation activities on SGBV and women's peace and security.

The center coordinates its activities from the EGDC in Dakar, Senegal, as well as through focal points in Member States' ministries of women's affairs and gender. The focal points are responsible for monitoring and reporting on the country's progress

on gender equality, women, peace and security. ECOWAS facilitates meetings with ministers of gender and experts throughout the year and during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). However, because of COVID-19, there has been no meeting since 2019. The Council of Ministers, which is another organ for coordination in ECOWAS, meets twice a year to deliberate on issues, including the approval of budgets for the implementation of activities. The council is usually made up of ministers from foreign affairs, finance, budget, and planning.

The EGDC is also being supported by development partners across various programs, one of which is to assess the roll-out of NAPs on UNSCR1325. There are also conversations with partners to map out existing responses, the adequacy of these responses on SGBV, and the challenges faced by Member States. Development partners providing support to ECOWAS include GIZ through its ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) program, the government of Spain, Folk Bernadette Academy (FBA) and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).

⁴² <https://ccdg.ecowas.int/>

⁴³ Right by Her: Chapter 4, The Regional Economic Communities and women and girls' rights in the State of Women in Africa. 2018

Program and initiatives

ECOWAS is currently engaged in several programs and initiatives supporting Member States to develop and implement policies targeting the 'prevention and response' to SGBV. These include the education and training of women – through the Scholarship of Excellence – capacity building and sensitization of Member States, development of training manuals, promoting health interventions– the fistula program, among others. Participants of the training are regional partners and non-state actors including CSOs.

ECOWAS also facilitated the creation and coordination of regional advocacy networks to promote women and girls' rights in the region. The groups are the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOPSWECO), the West African Network of Young Women Leaders Network (Réseau Ouest Africain des Jeunes Femmes Leaders, ROAJELF), the Association of ECOWAS Female Parliamentarians (ECOFEPA) and the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET).

Following the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the President of the ECOWAS Commission issued a directive towards curbing GBV in the region. The commission convened and established a working group of regional actors working on GBV and violence against children in October 2020. The working group comprised regional

partners, INGOs, CSOs, media, the private sector, and non-state actors working on SGBV within the ECOWAS region. The working group's mandate was to galvanize actions on prevention and response to SGBV by supporting research advocacy, providing financial and non-financial resources and technical support to the Member States in combating SGBV and funding in-country direct interventions. The working group is also expected to support ECOWAS and its Member States to mainstream the prevention and management of GBV and VAC in National Development Plans and provide an avenue for ECOWAS to promote closer cooperation between Member States and partners. It will also mobilize resources from partners to support Member States.⁴⁴

The ECOWAS Court of Justice, headquartered in Abuja, Nigeria, is a supra-national justice mechanism for protecting human rights that supports the region's intention of ensuring that women and girls' rights are promoted and upheld. As an international court, the ECOWAS Court is unique because individuals from Member States can file complaints of human rights violations without going through their national courts. This dispenses with the international principle of exhaustion of local remedies.⁴⁵ A notable example is the case of Dorothy Njemanze and three others vs Nigeria at the ECOWAS Court suit ECW/CJ/APP/17/14, where the judgment was delivered in favor of the plaintiffs on 12 October 2017.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ <http://apanews.net/en/news/ecowas-establishes-regional-partners-working-group-against-gender-based-violence>

⁴⁵ Federation of African Journalists & 4 Ors v The Republic of The Gambia (2018) ECW/CCJ/JUD/04/18 http://prod.courtecowas.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/ECW_CCJ_JUD_04_18.pdf

⁴⁶ <https://rightspost.wordpress.com/2017/10/18/finally-justice-for-women/>; a copy of the judgment is available at: <https://ihrda.uwazi.io/en/document/0h6sf6nakud8ntpr39gdabrzfr>

Box 3: ECOWAS Court Judgment

Dorothy Njemanze and three others v. Nigeria at the ECOWAS Court suit ECW/CJ/APP/17/14; Judgment no: ECW/CCJ/JUD/08/17

In a case of GBV against Dorothy Chioma Njemanze, Edu Ene Okoro, Justina Etim and Amarachi Jessyforth by agents of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), the Nigerian Police and the Nigerian Military. The young women were abducted and assaulted verbally, physical and sexually, threatened and unlawfully detained at different intervals between January 2011 and March 2013 by the AEPB and police, simply because they were seen outside at night on the streets of Abuja. The AEPB termed the women prostitutes.

On 12 October 2017, the court ruled in favour of the plaintiffs and awarded the sum of N6 million each as compensation for the arbitrary arrest and violations of their rights to liberty contrary to international human rights law and the Nigerian Constitution. The court saw the act as a systematic attack against women because of gender, which amounted to gender-based discrimination. This was the first judgment from a regional court to pronounce the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). However, as of March 2022, Nigeria is yet to honour the ECOWAS court decision.

Gaps and Challenges

Despite the programs and comprehensive policy frameworks, respondents were quick to point out the challenges affecting ratification, domestication and implementation of global and regional commitments by Member States.

- i. **Weak enforcement and accountability mechanisms:** The region has weak accountability mechanisms for monitoring and reporting EAWG and WPS. Apart from the periodic reports of the REC, there are no specific mechanisms for reporting on the progress of the implementation on international and regional commitments. Current mechanisms for enforcement and implementation include reporting, fact-finding missions, advice and recommendations on implementation mechanisms by the Commission to Member States. Also, the EGDC relies on Member States to submit reports to the center. However, this is rarely done consistently or in a timely manner.
- ii. **Limited capacity to monitor actions on EAWG, WPS, and HP:** The EGDC unit usually works with external consultants to conduct research, develop action plans and other key documents. The unit is undersized with a limited number of staff. It has challenges with an adequate technical human resource to mainstream gender within the commission, implements activities and monitor those of the Member states simultaneously.
- iii. **Lack of dedicated funding for EAWG and WPS:** The ECOWAS 2021 consolidated budget was \$559,298,965⁴⁷. In the 2017 to 2020 regional action plan for women, peace and security, \$1,684,000 was budgeted to implement WPS and gender-related activities. However, how much of this amount was raised and disbursed for those activities is unclear. Respondents from EGDC said that programs and activities of the commission were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic⁴⁸ and the inability to raise funds to implement

⁴⁷ <https://parl.ecowas.int/an-increased-2021-budget-despite-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

⁴⁸ This was pointed out for another piece of research on women peace and security conducted from August 2021 to March 2022.

proposed activities in a timely manner.

- iv. **Lack of enforcement of Court Judgements:** Even with the ECOWAS Court of Justice, a significant limitation is the inability of the court to enforce the judgments it has made. A notable example is the case of Dorothy Njemanze and three others vs Nigeria at the ECOWAS Court suit ECW/CJ/APP/17/14, where the judgment was delivered in favour of the plaintiffs on 12 October 2017.⁴⁹ The Nigerian government is yet to honor the judgment.

4.2.3 East African Community

Legislative and Policy Framework: Implementation, Progress and Challenges

The East African Community (EAC) was initially established in 1967 and re-established under the EAC treaty in 1999 with a mandate of economic and social integration in the region. EAC has made some progress in promoting gender equality, equity and women's empowerment as enshrined in Articles 5, 3 (e), 6 (d), 121 and 122 of the treaty. It highlights gender mainstreaming and respect for women's rights as one of the fundamental principles that will govern the EAC integration

process. There are currently seven Member States of the EAC: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The Council of Ministers of the EAC approved DRC's admission in February 2022 and was formally admitted on the signing of treaty of accession in April 2022.⁵⁰

The **EAC Gender Policy** and **EAC Gender Equality and Development Act 2016** guide the institutionalizing of gender strategies in the EAC integration process and ensure that the rights of women and men, boys and girls are promoted, protected and realised. Both policies strengthen gender mainstreaming concerns in all sectors' planning and budgetary processes in the EAC organs, institutions and partner states. Other policies that have been developed include the EAC child policy, 2016, EAC youth policy, 2013, and the EAC Regional Implementation Framework on UNSCR1325, 2015-2019. The EAC secretariat's gender department leads on gender mainstreaming in the region. The department also oversees the inclusion of children, persons with disabilities, youth and the elderly, and community development matters.

Box 4: EAC policies that support gender equality and EVAWG

EAC policies that support gender equality, women and girls' rights, and WPS

- EAC Gender Policy, 2018
- EAC Gender Equality and Development Act, 2016
- EAC Child Policy, 2016
- EAC Social Development framework, 2013
- EAC Youth Policy, 2013
- EAC Regional Implementation Framework on UNSCR1325, 2015-2019
- EAC Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2016

⁴⁹ <https://dotunroy.com/2017/10/12/justice-at-last-ecowas-court-rules-in-favour-of-dorothy-njemanze-3-others-vs-federal-republic-of-nigeria/>

⁵⁰ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/dem-rep-of-congo-approved-to-join-east-african-community-bloc/2501228>; <https://www.eac.int/press-releases/2411-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-formally-joins-eac-after-signing-of-the-treaty-of-accession-to-the-community>

Programs and Initiatives

The EAC treaty provides for the Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF), which allows actors from civil society, the private sector and other groups to have structured dialogue, consultations and engagement on issues of interest. The regional advocacy networks have been instrumental in influencing policies, laws and implementation on human rights, including women and girls' rights across the region. For instance, the Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), a sub-regional CSO working on women and girls' issues, has had a leading role in developing and advocating for the Gender Equality and Development Bill. EASSI, in partnership with national focal points, has developed an EAC Gender Equality and Development (GED) Barometer to monitor the gender responsiveness of EAC member states⁵¹.

In 2019, the EAC launched the Networking Platform for the 50 Million African Women Speak Project (50MAWS)⁵². Also entitled 50MAWS, the digital platform is designed to empower millions of women in Africa to start, grow and scale up businesses by providing a one-stop shop for specific information needs⁵³.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EAC engaged in targeted advocacy to influence national priorities and promote member states' commitments towards strategic resourcing for women's rights and gender equality⁵⁴. The secretariat partnered with the East African Civil Society Organisations Forum (EACCSOF) and the Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for young women (MEMPROW) to establish

mechanisms to mitigate the effects of COVID19 and address the GBV challenge in the region⁵⁵.

The Eastern African Court of Justice (EACJ) is one of the organs for the EAC, established in 2001 under Article 9 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community⁵⁶. The EACJ is in Arusha, Tanzania and hears cases on human rights violations.

Five countries – Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, and Ethiopia – are part of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan to End Cross Border Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 2019-2024, aimed at strengthening multi-country collaboration in tackling evasion of the law by acts of FGM across borders.

Gaps and Challenges

The EAC has developed a moderate number of frameworks focusing on gender equality and women and girls' rights. It is the only REC that has institutionalized consultations with civil society through the CDF, and the combination of a strong regional network with a civil society organization has contributed to progress in driving legislation on the gender bill and GED barometer framework in the region. However, progress on the ratification, domestication and implementation of global and regional commitments by Member States is still limited for several reasons highlighted below.

- i. *Limited Capacity within the EAC on EVAWG and WPS*: the EAC has few staff responsible for managing gender-related and community development issues. The limited human resources

⁵¹ The state of African women: Regional Report/The East African Community (EAC), July 2019 <https://www.kit.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/EAC-Regional-Report-The-State-of-African-Women-.pdf>

⁵² <https://www.eac.int/press-releases/146-gender-community-development-civil-society/1584-50-million-african-women-speak-project-to-launch-networking-platform>

⁵³ <https://www.womenconnect.org/platform#:~:text=Welcome%20to%2050%20Million%20African,for%20their%20specific%20information%20needs>

⁵⁴ <https://www.eac.int/gender/gbv/gbv-and-covid-19>

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ https://www.eacj.org/?page_id=19

capacity means that gender issues, particularly EAWG and WPS, often get submerged and less priority in the region.

- ii. *The limited political will to prioritize EAWG and WPS in the region:* a review of the EAC website shows a significant emphasis on business-related issues and women's economic empowerment like the 50MAWS Project⁵⁷. This can be seen from the lack of programs relating to EAWG.

4.2.4 Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD)

Legislative and Policy Framework: Implementation, Progress and Challenges

The Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) was founded in 1986 to focus on drought and desertification. This was changed to International Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) in 1996. Its mandate was expanded to include peace and security, agriculture and natural resources, regional cooperation and integration and health and social development. IGAD covers the following Member States: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

IGAD does not have a strategy or policy focused exclusively on ending violence against women. However, all policies and strategic documents are informed by international and regional commitments like CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995, the Maputo Protocol, AU

Continental Framework and UNSCR 1325. However, because of the region's propensity to conflict and its impact, emphasis is placed on women, peace and security, free movement, human trafficking and cross-border issues, including FGM. While gender equality and women's empowerment, is a crosscutting issue, EAWG has not been a major area of focus. The IGAD Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan (V2) 2016 to 2020 address Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) as a women's human rights issue. The Implementation Plan states that the IGAD Gender Affairs Program will support in strengthening national capacities for the prevention and response to SGBV through sharing good practices and lessons on SGBV prevention and response among key stakeholders.

Combatting sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), is evident in the Regional Action Plan for Implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820. Following the development of the IGAD Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan 2016-2020, IGAD developed a Gender Management System Handbook 2017 and Customized Gender Mainstreaming Tools 2017 to mainstream gender across its sub offices and divisions. In addition, IGAD has developed key gender mainstreaming strategies for gender mainstreaming in other divisions including the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), the IGAD Food Security Strategy (2005), the IGAD Environmental and Natural Resources Strategy (2007), and the Disaster Risk Management Programme in the IGAD Region (2002)⁵⁸.

⁵⁷ <https://www.eac.int/press-releases/146-gender-community-development-civil-society/1584-50-million-african-women-speak-project-to-launch-networking-platform>

⁵⁸ IGAD State of the Region Report. IGAD, 2020. <https://igad.int/documents/33-igad-state-of-the-region-report-popular-version/file>

Box 5: IGAD policies that support gender equality, EVAWG and WPS

IGAD Policies that support gender equality, women and girls' rights and WPS

- Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan, 2016–2020
- Gender Policy and Strategy Framework, 2012–2020
- Regional Action Plan for Implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820
- Regional Strategy for Higher Representation of Women in Decision-Making Positions, 2010
- IGAD Women and Peace Forum, 2011
- IGAD Institutional Gender Policy, 2018
- IGAD Gender Management System Handbook, 2018
- IGAD Customized Gender Mainstreaming Tools, 2017
- Handbook of IGAD, 2020

IGAD, under its Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan, 2016–2020, also provides capacity building for Member States in mainstreaming gender at a national and regional level. The IGAD Gender Affairs program is the division tasked with coordinating this. It is expected to work with focal points from the relevant ministries of gender in Member States, women parliamentary caucuses, national parliamentarians, CSOs and women's groups, as well as donor and development partners to train, advocate and campaign on EVAWG.

The secretariat is responsible for collating programmatic reports, usually delivered by the Executive Secretary to Member States.

Programs and Initiatives

Like other regions, the impact of climate change, protracted crisis and COVID-19 has exacerbated GBV further. IGAD is planning to review its Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan, 2016–2020, and develop a revised Gender Strategy, 2022–2026, where EVAWG is being considered as one of the key focus areas in the upcoming strategy. Under the IGAD Agriculture division,

a project to support Member States to mainstream gender, has led Member States to come together and agree to develop the Women's Land Rights Agenda and for Sectoral Ministers to endorse the Regional Women's Land Rights Agenda in July 2021.⁵⁹

IGAD is currently reviewing its Regional Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on Women Peace and Security. It has also been providing support to Ethiopia in the development of a NAP on 1325. IGAD also engaged in training its Peace and Security Division Staff on UNSCRs 1325, 1820 and subsequent resolutions, while continuing to play a key role in advocating for the implementation of NAPs on UNSCR in its Member States.

Gaps and Challenges

- Limited visibility on EVAWG standalone activities:** IGAD has a focus on gender mainstreaming, women, peace and security, which is understandable given the peculiarities of the region. However, the emphasis on the UNSCR1325 means that there is less focus on standalone EVAWG interventions and consequently

⁵⁹ <https://igad.int/divisions/agriculture-and-environment/2921-ending-violence-against-women-in-the-agriculture-environment-and-natural-resources-sector-in-the-igad-region>

fewer resources will be earmarked for EVAWG.⁶⁰

- ii. *Limited capacity of gender unit:* the current gender department is small with only four staff members headed by a Gender Manager under the Executive Secretary's Office and limited resources⁶¹ to manage the gender mandate across the region.

4.2.5 *The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)*

Legislative and Policy Framework: Implementation, Progress and Challenges

COMESA was established in 1994 by the Treaty of Establishing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (the COMESA Treaty). Its goals are to maximize natural and human resources and economic opportunities in its preferential trade area

and region. COMESA has 21 members: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Article 154 of the COMESA Treaty acknowledges that “Women make significant contributions towards the process of socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth and that it is impossible to implement effective programs for rural transformation and improvements in the informal sector without the full participation of women.” Article 154(b) also calls on Member States, through appropriate legislative and other measures, to eliminate regulations and customs that are discriminatory against women and girls.

Box 6: COMESA policies that support gender equality, EVAWG and WPS

COMESA policies that support gender equality, women and girls' rights, and EVAWG

- COMESA Gender Policy, 2002
- COMESA Revised Gender Policy, 2016
- COMESA Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Action Plan, 2008
- COMESA HIV and AIDS Workplace Policy, 2008
- Regional Strategy on Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture and Climate Change, 2011
- Framework for the Multi-Sectoral Programme on HIV & AIDS for COMESA, 2012-15
- Gender and Social Development Communication Strategy, 2015
- COMESA HIV/AIDS Policy, 2016
- Draft Gender Policy Implementation Plan and Monitoring Tracking Matrix (forthcoming)
- Framework for the Comprehensive Support for Women and Youth Cross Border Traders in the COMESA Region, 2018

⁶⁰ https://www.kit.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/State-of-African-Women-report_final.pdf

⁶¹ Ibid

The Division of Gender and Social Affairs in COMESA was established in 2008 and operationalized in 2009. The gender division works on various areas, including HIV, harmful practices, VAW, family planning, and reproductive health. The division also coordinates and oversees the implementation of the COMESA Gender Policy in Member States and at the Secretariat.

The 2016 Revised Gender Policy calls for gender management systems in the Secretariat and member state levels to be established, and for a gender mainstreaming accountability system at the management level of the Secretariat and Member States. There are four staff members in the Gender Directorate with gender mainstreaming expertise.

The 2016 Revised Gender Policy calls on states and the Secretariat to ensure sex-disaggregated data at the national level. Member States submit performance reports to the COMESA Secretariat based on COMESA's Guidelines for Preparing Country Progress Reports on the Implementation of the COMESA Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Action Plan and Council Decisions.

Programs and Initiatives

COMESA has developed annual progress reports on various issues including GBV and women's participation in decision-making since 2011. To support the implementation of gender-focused programs, COMESA has also developed gender mainstreaming manuals across the sectors to be used to train Member States. The manuals also provide tools for monitoring and reporting on activities in line with the COMESA Gender Policy and Strategic Action Plan.⁶²

COMESA implements initiatives such as the Small-Scale Cross Border Trade (SSCBT)

Initiative addressing gender issues in SSCBT, and the 50MAWS Platform Project to enable women, entrepreneurs, to access information on financial and non-financial services and opportunities.⁶³ COMESA engages in dialogue consultations with women who are involved in cross-border trade, and advocates for a comprehensive regional programme to respond to needs and address GBV.⁶⁴

The COMESA Secretariat is working to strengthen the research development and capacity of Member States to enhance policy development and service provision. The Secretariat acts as a hub for information and knowledge sharing, convener for high-level roundtables and advocacy among COMESA first ladies on gender equality, health and economic empowerment.

COMESA established The Federation of Women in Business (FEMCOM) to support business, provide technical training, and support the establishment of national and regional clusters in agro-processing to boost job creation and intra-regional trade.

Gaps and Challenges

COMESA has made progress in developing strong frameworks to support gender equality. However, there are some challenges identified below

- i. *Limited involvement of CSOs in COMESA activities*: COMESA is yet to create an adequate framework to meaningfully engage with CSOs.
- ii. *Limited funding for the implementation of gender-related activities*: the low prioritization of gender in national budgeting frameworks and a decline in the budget affects the work of the COMESA Secretariat to implement activities and monitor Member States.

⁶² Chapter 4: The Regional Economic Communities and women and girls' rights https://www.kit.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/State-of-African-Women-report_final.pdf

⁶³ <https://www.comesa.int/gender-social-affairs/>

⁶⁴ https://www.kit.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/State-of-African-Women-report_final.pdf

4.2.6 Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Legislative and Policy Framework: Implementation, Progress and Challenges

SADC was created in 1982 and covers 16 Member States (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). SADC focuses on regional integration toward economic development and provides a solid basis to women and girls' rights and gender equality as part of its development agenda.

Under the auspices of the SADC secretariat, the gender unit's responsibility is to facilitate, coordinate, monitor, and report on the implementation of SADC gender commitments at regional and national levels. Research on GBV in the Southern African region shows an alarmingly high rate of intimate partner violence and other forms of

violence targeted at women. To achieve its objective on EVAWG SADC developed the **SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2008)**, which was revised in 2016 to focus on the girl child and GBV. The SADC Gender Protocol incorporates international and regional commitments (including the Maputo Protocol, Agenda 2063 and Beijing +20) and serves as the legal and policy framework for the SADC region. All Member States, except Mauritius⁶⁵, have ratified the Protocol. Out of the SADC states, Mauritius, South Africa and Malawi have yet to accede to the revised SADC Protocol. The nature of the Protocol means that states are bound to ensure the implementation of the Protocol with the development of NAPs. These NAPs are expected to have measurable timelines, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with clear data collection and thorough analysis, along with baseline data information that progress will be measured against. States are expected to provide reports to the Executive Secretary of SADC once every two years.

Box 7: SADC policies that support gender equality, EVAWG and WPS

SADC policies that support gender equality, women and girls' rights, and EVAWG

- SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, 1997
- SADC Gender Policy, 2007
- SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, 2008
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for the SADC Region, 2006–15
- SADC Gender Monitor/Framework for Achieving Gender Parity in Political and Decision-Making Positions by 2015
- SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children already in Marriage, 2016
- SADC Workplace Gender Policy, 2009
- SADC Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security, 2018–2022
- SADC Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, 2009–19
- SADC Regional Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender-Based Violence, 2018–2030

⁶⁵ Mauritius had objected to the Protocol because of a clause on child marriage that conflicted with the country's civil code, which allowed children to marry below the age of 18, but above 16 with parental consent.

In addition to the Protocol, the 2018-2030 SADC Regional Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender-Based Violence provides a roadmap for the region. SADC's Protocol provides 28 concrete targets with indicators for monitoring and reporting progress by Member States. In 2017, gender ministers adopted a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework (MERF) with 121 gender indicators to monitor the progress on gender equality and women and girls' rights in the region. However, Part 8 of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, on Peace-Building and Conflict Resolution, is not included in the SADC Monitoring Tool for Reporting Progress on Implementation.⁶⁶

Some countries are yet to sign the Protocol, which is a cause for delay in printing/publishing the document for all Member States. In the meantime, reports are developed by the SADC Secretariat based on available research data and published in the SADC Gender and Development Monitor (SGDM) and used as an advocacy tool to encourage the Member States to ratify commitments and put structures for implementation and build the capacity of gender officers, directors, program officers in relevant ministries, national and regional CSOs.

The **SADC Committee of SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs** is mandated to ensure implementation of the Protocol. These ministers lobby at both a regional and national level for convergence towards the Protocol, including allocation of sufficient resources, and proper monitoring. There is also a **Committee of Senior Officials Responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs**. This committee reports to the Committee of SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs on the implementation of the Protocol and supervises the work of the SADC Secretariat. The **SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF)** has been an important partner in

the work around the SADC Gender Protocol. Gender equality and women and girls' empowerment is one of the five programs of this inter-parliamentary institution.⁶⁷

The **SADC Gender Protocol Alliance** is a regional 'network of networks' that championed the adoption of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. Established in 2005, the Alliance network comprises 15 national gender networks and 9 regional NGOs. Both regional and national members are national focal points and lead on themes of the SADC Gender Protocol. Gender Links is responsible for the coordination of the network and campaign. The Alliance was pivotal in the adoption, implementation and review of the SADC Protocol as well as the MERF. The Alliance has worked closely with the Gender Unit to carry out programs during the 16 Days of Activism and Gender Links on the 50/50 Campaign on women's equal representation and participation in decision-making.

Programs and Initiatives

With support from the European Union, SADC is implementing a programme aimed at enhancing the capacity of SADC stakeholders on gender-sensitive conflict prevention, management and resolution and for addressing the prevalence of SGBV.⁶⁸ SADC is also providing technical support to its Member States, specifically to parliamentarians and MDAs, to understand GBV and relevant commitments for review of NAPs on EVAWG and effective engagement in the ongoing development of a SADC GBV Model Law.⁶⁹

The SADC secretariat is also developing tools like the regional SGBV training guide, regional guidelines on developing GBV standard operating procedures (SOPs) and referral mechanisms, and regional inventory of SGBV legislation to guide the regional response to GBV.

⁶⁶ https://www.kit.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/State-of-African-Women-report_final.pdf

⁶⁷ https://www.kit.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/State-of-African-Women-report_final.pdf

⁶⁸ <https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/sadc-secretariat-develop-tools-guide-regions-response-gender-based-violence>

⁶⁹ Kill with SADC August 2021

Gaps and Challenges

- i. **Domestication of Protocol:** Research on GBV in the region shows that progress on EAWG, though commendable remains slow, with some Member States still lacking critical data on GBV⁷⁰. For example, most Member States have implemented multi-sectorial approaches, campaigns and actions on addressing violence against women⁷¹ and human trafficking laws, but only 13 countries (except DRC, Lesotho and Tanzania) have laws on domestic violence, 14 countries (except Angola and Seychelles) have laws on sexual assault, and 15 countries except Angola have sexual harassment laws.⁷²
- ii. **Limited Political Will:** there is still a limited political will to invest, implement and monitor progress on women and girls' rights.
- iii. **Gaps in data:** despite the MERF tool, some Member States are still not providing accurate data, which hinders implementation because of its inability to give the full situation of progress.
- iv. **Limited capacity of the gender unit:** the gender unit has four staff and varying degrees of expertise on EAWG. The staff members are responsible for monitoring gender commitments, liaising with member states, parliamentarians, and other key activities. Often staff prioritizes activities, which means that some things might fall through the cracks.
- v. **Limited Funding for GBV:** A major percentage of the funding SADC uses to carry out its activities comes from development partners. However, these funds are often short-term and target specific activities like national or regional consultations. There is still a need for sustainable long-term support for monitoring GBV in the region.
- vi. **Lack of a strong and operational Court in the region:** There is no operational court.
- vii. **Limited Capacity of Member States:**

Most Member States are limited in their understanding of GBV and specific roles they should play in effectively handling GBV. For instance, respondents mentioned that most state actors in Member States focus on the implementation of activities, projects and programmes, and neglect their coordination role.

- viii. **Outdated National Action Plans and Strategies:** Most Member States developed NAPs without adequate baseline data and the existing NAPs need to be evaluated to incorporate the context and actual data. Respondents also argued that Member States need to update existing laws and policies to align with the Protocol and other commitments.

4.3 Status of Development and Implementation of National Action Plans including Financing and Investments on EAWG by Member States



This section analyzes the status of the development of NAPs, including financing and investments by the Member States. The information is analyzed according to regions and starts with an overview before providing a deeper dive into case study countries. Table 4 below presents a summary on the development, implementation and financing of NAPs in AU Member states. Based on the information gathered from our desk review, 30 Countries have NAPs on Implementing UNSCR1325, however, only 15 of these have costed budgets for their activities. Approximately 11 Member States' UNSCR1325 NAPs are outdated and require revision.⁷³ Twenty countries have a National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage, however, only Guinea and Zambia have costed budgets.

The study was unable to ascertain if NAPs or a strategy for VAW/SGBV and FGM included costed budgets because of limitations in accessing the documents.

⁷⁰ #VoiceandChoice in the time of COVID-19 Barometer 2020

⁷¹ Ibid

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ African Union Commission Report on The Implementation of The Women Peace And Security Agenda In Africa (October 2019) p.10

Table 4: Summary on development, implementation and financing of NAPs

	Country	NAP or Strategy for VAWG / SGBV	NAP on UNSCR1325	NAP for FGM	NAP for Child Marriage
1	Algeria	✓			
2	Angola		✓ ^{N74}		
3	Benin				
4	Botswana				
5	Burkina Faso ⁷⁵	✓		✓	✓ ^N
6	Burundi	✓	✓ ^{Y76}		
7	Cameroon	✓	✓ ^Y	✓	
8	Cabo Verde	✓			
9	Central African Republic ⁷⁷		✓ ^Y	✓	
10	Chad	✓			
11	Comoros	✓			
12	Congo		✓		
13	Côte d'Ivoire ⁷⁸	✓	✓ ^Y		
14	DR Congo	✓	✓ ^Y		
15	Djibouti		✓	✓	
16	Egypt	✓			
17	Equatorial Guinea				
18	Eritrea				

⁷⁴ N – does not have a costed budget for activities.

⁷⁵ Burkina Faso National Action Plan, 2013–2016, has an estimated budget as opposed to a costed plan of activities

⁷⁶ Y – has a costed budget for activities

⁷⁷ Central African Republic National Action Plan, 2014–2016

⁷⁸ Cote d'Ivoire

	Country	NAP or Strategy for VAWG / SGBV	NAP on UNSCR1325	NAP for FGM	NAP for Child Marriage
19	Eswatini				
20	Ethiopia				
21	Gabon		✓Y		
22	Gambia ⁷⁹	✓	✓Y		
23	Ghana		✓N		✓Y
24	Guinea ⁸⁰	✓	✓Y		
25	Guinea-Bissau ⁸¹		✓N		
26	Kenya ⁸²		✓N	✓Y	
27	Lesotho	✓			
28	Liberia	✓	✓Y		
29	Libya				
30	Madagascar	✓			
31	Malawi	✓			
32	Mali		✓N	✓	
33	Mauritania	✓		✓	
34	Mauritius	✓			
35	Morocco	✓			
36	Mozambique	✓	✓Y		
37	Namibia ⁸³	✓	✓Y		

⁷⁹ Gambia National Action Plan

⁸⁰ Guinea National Action Plan, 2009-2013

⁸¹ Guinea-Bissau National Action Plan, 2010-2011

⁸² It is unclear if Kenya has a national strategy on ending child marriage, however, a key outcome of the 2020 webinar hosted by Girls Not Brides was to update the national strategy on FGM and CEFM

⁸³ Namibia Prioritized National Plan of Action on Gender Based Violence, 2019-2023

	Country	NAP or Strategy for VAWG / SGBV	NAP on UNSCR1325	NAP for FGM	NAP for Child Marriage
38	Niger		✓Y		
39	Nigeria		✓N		
40	Rwanda	✓	✓N		
41	São Tomé and Príncipe	✓			
42	Senegal ⁸⁴	✓	✓Y	✓	
43	Seychelles	✓			
44	Sierra Leone		✓Y		
45	Somalia				
46	South Africa		✓N		
47	South Sudan		✓N		
48	Sudan	✓	✓N	✓	
49	Tanzania	✓			
50	Togo ⁸⁵	✓	✓N		
51	Tunisia*	✓			
52	Uganda	✓	✓Y		
53	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic				
54	Zambia	✓			✓Y
55	Zimbabwe	✓			✓
	Totals	34	30	22	20

⁸⁴ Senegal National Action Plan, 2011-2015

⁸⁵ Togo - National Action Plan, 2011-2016

4.3.1 Southern Africa Region

Ten countries that fall under the Southern Africa Region are Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Botswana remains the only country yet to sign or ratify ACRWC, the African Youth Charter and the Maputo Protocol. Five countries, namely Angola, DRC, Mozambique, Namibia

and South Africa, have developed NAPs on UNSCR1325.⁸⁶ Six countries have developed national strategies or plans for ending child marriage. Seven out of the ten countries mentioned above have legislation on domestic violence except for Lesotho, Eswatini and Tanzania. However, Lesotho, Namibia, Eswatini and South Africa have recognized and passed specific legislation on marital rape. All countries have legislation addressing human trafficking.

Table 5: Status of Ratification and Implementation in Southern Africa Region

Treaty	Status of Ratification	Reservations/Remarks
CEDAW	All countries have ratified.	Lesotho has reservations to Article 2.
Maputo Protocol	Botswana is yet to sign and ratify. Madagascar has signed but not ratified. Mauritius, Namibia, and South Africa signed with reservations	Namibia has a reservation on Article 6 (d) South Africa has placed reservations on Article 6(b), (c), (d) (h). Mauritius has reservations with regard to Article 9, Articles 4 (2) (k), 10 (2) (d), and 11(3) Article 14(2) c of the Protocol, which speaks to access medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape and incest. This right is not provided when the matter has not been reported to the police or where the pregnancy has exceeded its 14th week. ⁸⁷
CRC	All countries have ratified.	Mauritius on 4 June 2008 withdrew its reservations in respect of Article 22. Botswana on 30 June 2022, withdraw the reservation made upon accession about Article 1 in so far as it may conflict with its laws.
ACHPR	All countries have ratified.	
ACRWC	All countries have signed and ratified.	Botswana does not consider itself bound by Article 2, which defines the child.
AYC	All countries except Botswana have signed and ratified.	Although Botswana is yet to sign or ratify it is already engaged in implementing provisions of the charter ⁸⁸ .
NAP UNSCR1325	Angola, DRC, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa have developed NAPs.	
NAP on Ending Child Marriages	Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have developed NAPs or strategies to end child marriages.	Zambia Action Plan has a costed budget.
NAP on GBV	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have NAPs on GBV.	

⁸⁶ <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/nap-overview/>

⁸⁷ https://www.equalitynow.org/news_and_insights/maputo_protocol_turns_18/

⁸⁸ [UNFPA Botswana | Botswana still to sign African Youth Charter](#)

4.3.1.1 Case Study – South Africa



South Africa continues to wrestle with the impact of decades of institutionalized racism, sexism, exclusion, structural violence, and other factors that have continued to undermine human development and positive social cohesion.⁸⁹

The Republic of South Africa has ratified several treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 15 December 1995, the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 16 June 1995, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on 9 July 1996, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on 7 January 2000, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), on 17 December 2004, the African Youth Charter on 28 May 2009 and the African Court Protocol on 3 July 2002.

South Africa is a constitutional democracy with a three-tier system of government and an independent judiciary. The national, provincial and local levels of government all have legislative and executive authority in their own spheres and are defined in the constitution as distinctive, interdependent and interrelated. The three-tier system comprises first of the national and provincial executive authority; this is the President, Deputy President, Ministers and Provincial Premier, and Members of the Executive Council. Second, it is governed by its Legislative Authority in the form of a National Parliament, which consists of 400 members of the National Assembly and 90 delegates of the National Council of Provinces, as well as the Provincial Legislature. Third, its Judicial Authority consists of the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court of Appeal, High Courts and Magistrates' courts. The President's approval needs to be obtained before any treaty or agreement can be signed.

South Africa is divided into nine provinces, namely Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North-West and Western Cape. South Africa is considered one of the most unsafe places in the world for women due to the high prevalence of rape and sexual violence.⁹⁰

The country has legislative and policy frameworks, which include a National Policy Standard for Municipal Police Services Regarding Domestic Violence, 2006, Criminal Law Amendment (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Act 32 of 2007, National Policy Guidelines for Victim Empowerment, 2009, Protection from Harassment Act 17 of 2011, and a National Policy Framework for the Management of Sexual Offence Matters, 2012. The Children's Act of 2005 and the Children's Amendment Act, of 2007, were enacted to protect children from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, or degradation. South Africa recently adopted its first National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide: GBV-NSP 2020 and NAP on women, peace and security, 2020-2025.

The entire South African judicial system has a role to play in addressing domestic violence in South Africa. The magistrates' court (South Africa's lowest court) is the first court a victim of domestic violence will encounter when applying for a protection order under the DVA. Where children are involved in an instance of domestic violence, a family court (a specialized magistrates' court) may be the appropriate court to approach to protect the interests of the child. The superior courts (high court, Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court of South Africa), also have a role to play in addressing domestic violence to the extent that complainants bring matters relating to domestic violence before them.

⁸⁹ National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence & Femicide Human Dignity and Healing, Safety, Freedom & Equality in Our Lifetime. The Republic of South Africa; 2020 <https://www.justice.gov.za/vg/gbv/NSP-GBVF-FINAL-DOC-04-05.pdf>

90 Ibid

Table 6: South Africa's Laws and Policies on EVAWG, HP and WPS

Title of the law/ policy/ NAP & year	Related international or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where is it applied	Responsible or lead agency
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 (as amended)	Maputo Protocol. CEDAW. ACRWC. CRC.	Equality. All forms of Violence. Children's rights.	Every person.	s. 12(1)© that everyone has a right to freedom from all forms of violence either by public or private sources. It further provides in s. 12(2) that everyone has a right to bodily and psychological integrity. s.28(1)(d) Child's right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.	National.	Department of Justice & Constitutional Development Department.

Title of the law/ policy/ NAP & year	Related international or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where is it applied	Responsible or lead agency
<p>Criminal Law (Sexual Offences & related Matters) Act 32 of 2007.</p> <p>As amended by Amendment Act 13 of 2021; Act 5 of 2015; Act 6 of 2012; and various Judicial Matters Amendment Acts; and Cybercrimes Act 19 of 2020.</p>	<p>CEDAW.</p> <p>Maputo Protocol.</p>	<p>To handle all legal aspects of sexual offenses & crimes under one statute.</p> <p>Violence against women.</p>	<p>Women, girls, all genders.</p>	<p>a) The act regulates all procedures, defences, and evidentiary rules in prosecution and adjudication of all sexual offences. (b) Criminalises any form of sexual penetration, sexual violation without consent, irrespective of the gender of the victim. (c) criminalises exposure or display of child sexual abuse material as well as situations in which an individual is forced or compelled to watch or witness certain sexual conduct. (d) criminalises sexual exploitation of children & mentally disabled persons. (e) provides a demarcation between the age of consent for consensual sexual acts between children aged 12 to 16 years. (f) Expands the National Register for Sex Offenders to include sex offenders beyond those convicted of sexual offenses against children and people who are mentally disabled.</p> <p>Subsequent amendments provide for new crimes of sexual intimidation and improve the management of the sex offenders register.</p>	<p>National.</p>	<p>Department of Justice & Constitutional Development Department.</p> <p>South African Police Service.</p>

Title of the law/ policy/ NAP & year	Related international or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where is it applied	Responsible or lead agency
Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998.	CEDAW. Maputo Protocol.	Violence against women and girls.	To provide for the issuing of protection orders for victims with regards to domestic violence, and all matters connected therewith.	S1 – provides for a clear & widened definition of VAW. S4(4) – allows for a minor to get a protection order. S7 – gives magistrates power to serve abusers with court orders & extend this to even the workplace of the victims. S9 – disarms the respondent who is the perpetrator & offers police protection to the victim. S18 – outlines the obligatory duties of the police. S18(4) – lays down penalties for the failure to execute such duties.	National.	Department for Social Development. South African Police Service.
Children’s Rights Act No. 38 of 2005.	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990. Maputo Protocol. Convention on the Rights of the Child.	Violence against children. FGM. Harmful practices on children.	Protection provided for women and children.	s.1 defines genital mutilation to include female circumcision. s.12 (1) HP on children prohibited. Art12 (3) FGM is prohibited.	The re-establishment of Family Violence Child Protection Units in the police force	National Prosecuting Authority.

Title of the law/ policy/ NAP & year	Related international or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where is it applied	Responsible or lead agency
Prevention & Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (2013).	Maputo Protocol. Convention on the Rights of the Child.	Trafficked persons.	To give effect to the Republic's obligations concerning the trafficking of persons in terms of international agreements. To provide for an offence of trafficking in persons and other offences associated with trafficking in persons. To provide for penalties that may be imposed in respect of the offences. To provide for measures to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons;	Comprehensively addresses trafficking in persons in South Africa. The Act establishes the offence of Trafficking in Persons and other related Offences. Creates penalties for Trafficking in Persons. Provides for protection and assistance to victims of Trafficking in Persons. Provides for the return and repatriation of foreign victims of Trafficking in Persons.	National.	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. South African Police Service.
Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Act 2008.		Violence against women & girls.	Adolescents & victims of rape.	The adoption of the National Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health & Reproductive Rights Framework Strategy, which seeks to provide an integrated action guide on adolescent sexual & reproductive health and reproductive rights, as well as increased access to information & services on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.	National.	Medical practitioner or by an appropriately trained nurse or midwife.

Programs and Initiatives

In 2019, South Africa held the Presidential Summit against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in Pretoria. The summit was in response to the demands of women's groups and the #TheTotalShutdownMovement. The outcome of the summit was a declaration that government, business, labour and civil society would collaborate to conceptualize, drive and implement concrete measures to eradicate GBV and femicide. The National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) is a comprehensive multi-sectoral plan to address GBV and Femicide in South Africa. A key commitment made by President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa is the reprioritization of R1,6 billion (\$106,380,000) for the creation of structures and activities for the implementation of the GBVF action plan.

The implementation structure for the GBVF includes the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) and National Council on GBVF working with CSOs at provincial and local levels. South Africa has a strong network of organizations working to address EVAWG. These organizations were instrumental in bringing to the forefront the issue and demands for addressing EVAWG. The National Council Against Gender-Based Violence (NCAGBV) is chaired by the Deputy President and championed by the Ministry of Women Affairs, whose mandate is to provide strategic leadership, coordination and management of GBV initiatives in the country.

Other initiatives include:

- The Department of Social Development has established the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre with toll-free numbers and 102 shelters for victims of GBV.
- South Africa has also established 19 safe houses to provide safety and shelter services to victims of domestic violence. In 2017, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development established 11 Sexual Offences courts.

- Eight Khuseleka One Stop Centers were established to offer a continuum of support services to victims of GBV as a single service point. Thuthuzela Care Centers, located in various areas in the country that are marred by a high incidence of violence against women and children, are one-stop centers that enable victims of rape to lodge a case with the police and receive counseling and medical care. These centers provide services for female and child victims of violence, such as trauma counseling and psychosocial support, health care, police services, legal assistance, and shelter services. The centers are open 24 hours a day.
- As of 31 March 2016, the South African Police Service had established 1027 victim-friendly rooms (VFRs) at certain police stations. The VFRs are private rooms where victims of GBV are interviewed for statement taking, providing a friendly environment that assures confidentiality, respect and dignity.
- Established SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units (FCS). These FCS Units fight against sexual offenses against children, person-directed crimes (where the family is involved), illegal removal of children under the age of 12 and crime facilitated through the electronic media.
- The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development has developed My Safety Plan Against Domestic Violence to assist victims of domestic violence to escape unharmed from violent attacks and reach for much-needed social and economic support. The Safety Plan program is being rolled out in rural communities through the Ndabezitha Program and with the assistance of the senior traditional leaders and their wives.

4.3.1.2 Case Study – Angola



The Republic of Angola is divided into 18 provinces. The President of the Republic is responsible for signing and ratifying

international treaties, after approval by the National Assembly. The Angolan constitution (Constituição da República de Angola) 2010⁹¹ is currently undergoing a review. Article 23 of the Constitution provides for equality before the law and that no one should be prejudiced, privileged, deprived of any right or exempt from any obligations based on sex. Article 26(1) provides that the provisions of fundamental rights must be interpreted and integrated in accordance with the international treaties ratified by the Republic of Angola.

Angola has ratified several treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1986, the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on 19 January 1991, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on 15 May 1992, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) on 16 July 2007, and the African Youth Charter on 13 May 2010. Although it signed the African Court Protocol on 22 January 2007, it is yet to ratify it.

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Ministério da Justiça e dos Direitos Humanos (MJDH))⁹² is responsible for human rights. In collaboration with the Red Cross of Angola and the Red Cross of Spain, the MJDH has edited the Human Rights Training Manual "Know and Defend your Rights", which includes a chapter on CEDAW.⁹³ The MJDH works with the Ministry of Interior to train police officers to handle rape cases and other GBV cases.

The Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women's Promotion (MINFAMU) is responsible for women's issues. Since 2013, MINFAMU has edited and distributed 5,045 brochures and organized different seminars.

In 2016, the Government, through MINFAMU, launched a free help desk to answer cases of domestic violence, called SOS Violência Doméstica SOS 15020.

Children's issues are handled primarily by the Ministry of Culture and the National Institute for Children (INAC).⁹⁴ They tackle issues of child marriage, sexual violence against children and harmful practices such as FGM and child witchcraft claims. In 2020, the government launched a hotline called "SOS Child" to report cases of violence against children. SOS CONTRA VIOLÊNCIA À CRIANÇA, is a support network for children who are victims of sexual violence.

Article 181(b) of the Angolan Penal Code defines sexual violence as any sexual act performed through threat, coercion, violence, or placing the victim in a situation where it is not possible to resist. A brochure of the MJDH, defines gender violence as any type of discrimination based on being a man or a woman. The same brochure defines violence against women and girls as a form of discrimination.

Articles 2 and 3 of Angola's Law no 25/11 of 14 July Law against Domestic Violence, determine and define the scope of domestic violence as any action or omission that causes physical injury or deformation and temporary or permanent psychological damage that reaches the human person. The law against domestic violence applies to events that occur within the family, in hospitals, kindergartens, schools, nursing homes, male or female boarding schools and similar relevant spaces of community or social interest.

Equality and non-discrimination were further reinforced by Article 214 of the new Criminal Code, which punishes those who discriminate on the grounds of race,

⁹¹ https://www.vicepresidente.gov.ao/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CRA_PT_VERSAO_DIGITAL.pdf

⁹² <http://www.servicos.minjusdh.gov.ao/files/publicacoes/brochuras/cartaafriicana.pdf>

⁹³ http://www.servicos.minjusdh.gov.ao/files/global/brochura-direitos-da-mulher_1524059494.pdf#:~:text=No%20%C3%A2mbito%20do%20Sistema%20Africano%2C%20Angola%20Ratificou%20a%20Assembleia%20Nacional%20n%C2%BA25%2F07%2C%20de%2025%20de%20Junho

⁹⁴ <https://www.unicef.org/angola/legislacao-sobre-os-direitos-das-criancas-de-angola>

color, ethnicity, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, illness, physical or mental disability, belief or religion, political or ideological beliefs, social status or origin, or on any other grounds, with imprisonment. The new Penal Code also criminalizes FGM.

Angola submitted its initial report of the Protocol on women's rights with its sixth

and seventh combined periodic reports on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on 12 March 2018. The report highlighted steps the government has taken to combat VAWG. It provides that Article 355, 356, 359ss, 393, and 394 of the Criminal Code criminalizes GBV, including femicide and rape.⁹⁵

Table 7: Angola's Laws and Policies on EVAWG, HP, and WPS

Title of the law/policy/ NAP and year	Related international or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where is it applied	Responsible or lead agency
Constitution of the Republic of Angola (5 February 2010).	CEDAW, Maputo Protocol, CRC, ACRWC.	The constitution establishes the principles and guidelines on fundamental rights, the principle of equality, protection of children, the elderly, young people, people with disabilities, and women.	The Principle of Equality is one of the principles that protects women, and protects the rights and well-being of children, people with disabilities, the elderly, and youths.	Protection of human rights in general.	National.	It is the responsibility of all State bodies to verify the compliance of their attributions and other laws with the constitution.
NAP entitled: Angola's 11 Commitments to Children 2007 (revised in 2011).	CRC, ACRWC.	It is the national framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).	It provides a general framework for promoting the rights of the child in various fields.	A general framework for protecting the rights of the child.	National	National Children's Institute (INAC).
NAP: Sos Contra A Violência À Criança.	CRC, ACRWC.	Child protection and support in the accountability process for offenders.	A support network for children victims of sexual violence.	Child protection and family support.	National.	National Children's Institute (INAC).

⁹⁵ Republic of Angola: 6th Periodic Report, 2011-2016 to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. +

Title of the law/policy/ NAP and year	Related international or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where is it applied	Responsible or lead agency
Protection and Comprehensive Development of the Child, Law n° 25/12 (22 August 2012).	ACRWC, CRC.	Defines legal rules and principles on the protection and integral development of the child.	Children.	Child protection.	National.	National Children's Institute (INAC).
Domestic Violence, Law no 25/11 (14 July 2011).	Maputo Protocol, CEDAW.	Combat sexual violence against women and girls.	It protects women and girls who are victims of all types of violence, from sexual to psychological.	Promotion of actions that allow for a change in behavior at the level of families and society.	National.	Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, in partnership with the Ministry of the Interior.
Family Code, Law no 1/88 (20 February 1988).	Maputo Protocol, CEDAW, CRC, ACRWC.	Gender equality.	Equality is guaranteed by promoting the right to education and work. It protects children born in and out of wedlock without discrimination.	Protection, Equality and Non-Discrimination.	National.	Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women's Promotion.

Angola also has a national human rights strategy NHRS 2019-2022 and a National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity 2013, which covers five priority areas: access to basic social services, access to resources and opportunities, participation and representation in public and political life, domestic violence, and family and community.

In Angola, at least 35 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years old, experience intimate partner physical and sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.⁹⁶

4.3.2 North Africa Region

Member States under the Northern region are Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. Progress on the legislative frameworks for gender equality, women and girls' rights and EVAWG are low. More than half of the countries in North Africa have reservations on CEDAW and CRC. Morocco's reservation on Article 2 CEDAW, limits the application of the gender equality Protocol in cases where it conflicts with Islamic law or in relation to succession of the

⁹⁶ Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), Ministério da Saúde (MINSÁ), Ministério do Planeamento e do Desenvolvimento Territorial (MINPLAN) e ICF, 2017. Quoted on UNWOMEN global database on violence against women: <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/fr/countries/africa/angola>

throne. Similarly, Egypt makes a reservation on the notion of equal rights in marriage as provided in Article 16 CEDAW, based on Sharia law. Tunisia on the other hand has withdrawn all of its reservations. Egypt is yet to sign or ratify the Maputo Protocol, while Morocco is yet to ratify the ACRWC, African Youth Charter and the Maputo Protocol. Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, and Tunisia have ratified the Maputo Protocol. Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is the latest country to ratify the Maputo Protocol and deposited its commitments of ratification in April 2022.⁹⁷

Most states have constitutional provisions that provide for the equality of men and women before the law and not specifically freedom from discrimination based on sex or gender. Countries penalise violence⁹⁸ in their constitution or penal code. Tunisia has a specific law on domestic violence. However,

Morocco, appears to be the only country to have criminalized marital rape. In its report to the CEDAW Committee, Morocco explained that Act 103.13 on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Article 486 of the Criminal Code of Morocco, applies to all forms of rape regardless of whether those involved are in a marital union.⁹⁹ Six countries have legislation against human trafficking. However, as of December 2021, only Tunisia has developed NAPs on UNSCR1325. Table 5 above provides an overview of the status of ratification and development of NAPs in Africa.

Morocco has the most recent gender policies and NAPs on VAWG – the National Plan for Gender Equality III, 2022–2026, and the National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and Girls, 2022–2030.¹⁰⁰

Table 8: Status of Ratification and Implementation in the North Africa Region

Treaty	Status of Ratification	Reservations/Remarks
CEDAW	All countries have ratified. Algeria, Egypt, and Libya have reservations Tunisia made a general declaration. Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is excluded.	Algeria’s reservation is to Article 2. Libya has reservation to Article 2, paragraph 16(c) and (d). Egypt has made reservations to Article 2, 16, and 29. Tunisia has made a declaration that “it shall not take any organizational or legislative decision in conformity with the requirements of this convention where such a decision would conflict with the provisions of chapter I of the Tunisian Constitution”. It has since withdrawn its reservations to Articles 9(2), 15(4), 16, and 29(1) Morocco withdrew its reservation to Article 9(2) as it has modified its laws for Moroccan women to have the same rights as men to transfer their nationality to a foreign spouse, but retains reservations to Articles, 2, 15(4), 16, and 29.

⁹⁷ <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20220504/sahrawi-arab-democratic-republic-becomes-43rd-african-union-member-state>

⁹⁸ The State of African Women – June 2018 on p.160.

⁹⁹ Replies from Morocco to the list of issues and questions in relation to its combined fifth and sixth periodic reports, CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/MAR/RQ/5-6) (25 February 2022) Para 72, p14. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fMAR%2fRQ%2f5-6&Lang=en

¹⁰⁰ UNFPA, Morocco Country program document (CPD) UNFPA, 6 June 2022, p.2: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/board-documents/main-document/DP.FPA_CPD_MAR_10%20-%20Morocco%20CPD%20-%20DRAFT%20Final%20-%206Jun22.pdf

Treaty	Status of Ratification	Reservations/Remarks
Maputo Protocol	Egypt and Morocco are yet to sign or ratify.	
CRC	All countries have ratified. Morocco and Tunisia have ratified with reservations. Algeria has interpretative declarations.	Egypt withdrew its reservations to articles 20 and 21 of the convention in 2003. ¹⁰¹ Morocco's reservations are with Article 14, Paragraph 1, considering its constitution. Tunisia's reservation is on the preamble to and provisions of the convention in Article 6. Algeria has interpretative declarations on Articles 14 (1), (2); 13, 16, 17, & 26 ¹⁰² .
ACERWC	All countries have ratified. Mauritania and Egypt ratified with reservations.	Egypt withdrew reservations to Articles 24, 30(e) and 44 of the ACERWC in February 2015, published in a gazette in November of that year. ¹⁰³ Mauritania: Does not consider itself bound by Article 9 regarding the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
ACHPR	All countries except Morocco have ratified the African Charter.	
AYC	Algeria and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic are yet to ratify.	
NAP UNSCR1325	Only Tunisia has developed a NAP in the region.	
NAP on Ending Child Marriages	Egypt has a NAP on ending child marriage.	
NAP on GBV	Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia have NAPs on GBV.	
NAP on FGM	Egypt and Mauritania have NAPson FGM.	

¹⁰¹ Paragraph 12, Consideration of third and fourth reports of Egypt to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child CRC/C/SR.1622: <http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPrICAqhKb7yhsialUb%2BZGftp59yZHGEX789zBEgMcH5uVNhbPJOJEhk585B7SQxxco3ACwMVjwQa3k%2FxsRk2Tpa%2FY5dogPVIaupWnVjcr4TJWz4eTeJ3h0%2Bk>

¹⁰² https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&clang=_en#EndDec

¹⁰³ <https://egyptindependent.com/egypt-cancels-reservations-african-child-rights-charter/>

4.3.2.1 Case Study – Egypt



The Arab Republic of Egypt has a unitary, semi-presidential government comprising a President, Prime Minister and a bicameral legislature. The country is divided administratively into 27 governorates within its seven regions. Egypt has ratified many of the relevant treaties. It ratified CEDAW on 18 September 1981, CRC 6 July 1990, African Charter on 3 April 1984, ACRWC on 22 May 2001 and AYC 1 April 2015. It has signed the African Court Protocol on 17 February 1999, but is yet to ratify it. It has neither signed nor ratified the Maputo Protocol. In recent times, it has amended its constitution and laws to be in line with international best practices. Article 11 of the Egyptian Constitution 2014 reiterates the State's obligation to achieve equality between women and men in all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The Penal Code was amended by Law No. 78 of 2016 imposing stringent punishments for FGM especially if it results in death. Notably, Egypt withdrew its reservation to article 21 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1990, which prohibits the marriage of persons under the age of 18.

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) is Egypt's National Human Rights

Institution created in 2003. The coordinating national women's machinery is the National Council for Women (NCW). It has specialized departments and agencies that focus on women's rights, children's rights and combat SGBV in the human rights division of the Ministry of Justice, as well as in the Unit to Combat Violence against Women in the human rights division of the Ministry of Interior. This latter has trained female police officers to respond to GBV crimes. The Ministry of Social Solidarity established 14 shelters to cater for victims and survivors of GBV.¹⁰⁴

In line with the theme of 'Protection' under the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030, the country adopted the following strategic documents: National Strategy to Reduce Early Marriage (2015–2020), National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and Girls (2015–2020); National Population Strategy (2015–2030), National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women (2016–2030), National Strategy to Counter Female Genital Mutilation (2016–2020), Industrial Development Strategy to improve the status of women adopted by the Ministry of Industry (2016), and The Egypt Vision 2030 sustainable development strategy.

¹⁰⁴ Combined eighth to tenth periodic reports submitted by Egypt under Article 18 of the convention, due in 2014* (22 April 2020) CEDAW/C/EGY/8-10, p.12.

Table 9: Egypt’s Laws and Policies on EVAWG & HP

Title of the law/policy/ NAP and year	Related international or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where is it applied	Responsible or lead agency
Egypt Constitution 2014.	CEDAW, CRC, ACRWC.	Discrimination against women.	All persons.	Article 11: State has a duty to protect women from violence. Article 93 stipulates that: “citizens are equal before the law, possess equal rights and public duties, and may not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, belief, sex, origin, race, color, language, disability, social class, political or geographical affiliation.” Other relevant Articles 60 (dignity), 67 (honour crimes), 89 (trafficking), 80 (child violence).	National.	The national government, National Council for Human Rights, the General Directorate for Human Rights Affairs was established by the Minister of Justice, human rights sector of the Ministry of Interior.
National Female Genital Mutilation Abandonment Strategy, 2016–2020.	ACRWC.	FGM/C.	Women and girls.	Strategy tackles FGM as a cultural and social one not only a religious or health issue.	National.	Ministry of Health and Population; National Council for Women.
National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women, 2016–2030.	CEDAW.	Protection from violence, promotes gender equality and equity.	Women.	Eliminating all harmful and discriminatory practices against women in both the public sphere or within the family.	National.	National Council for Women.

Title of the law/policy/ NAP and year	Related international or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where is it applied	Responsible or lead agency
National Strategy for Combating Violence Against Women 2015–2020.	CEDAW.	Violence Against Women.	Women.	Violence grouped as 1) Domestic Violence, committed by husbands or other members of the family against women or girls, and 2) Community Violence – acts of violence committed by strangers, eg street harassment. Pillars of the strategy: Prevention, protection, intervention, and legal procedures.	National.	The National Council for Women.
National Strategy to Reduce Early Marriage (2015–2020).	CEDAW, CRC, ACRWC.		Children – girls who were married early, families and communities.	Reduce early marriage by 50%, empowerment of girls, support to mitigate negative impact of early marriage on victims, legal reform and public awareness.	National.	Ministry of Health and Population, National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.
Law No. 50 of 2014 amending Law No. 58 of 1937, promulgating the Penal Code.	CEDAW.	Sexual harassment.	Every person.	Article 306(bis)(a) & (b) – Imprisonment or fines for sexual or obscene gestures or with intent for sexual gratification.	National.	Law Enforcement General Directorate for Combating Violence against Women in the Ministry of Justice.
Child Law no.12 of 1996, as Amended by Law no.126 of 2008.	CRC, ACRWC.	Child marriage, FGM, trafficking.	Children.	Article 31-bis – marriage contract shall not be registered for persons below 18-years-old. Articles 61, 241, 242, 242-bis, punishing FGM Articles 291 penalty for trafficking, sexual and economic exploitation.	National.	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

Egypt has made some progress in enacting laws and policies to combat SGBV, especially against girls. The withdrawal of its reservations to the CRC and ACRWC on the age of marriage and enactment of its child marriage act show a commitment to ending this harmful practice. However, implementation and pursuing judicial enforcement for breaches of the law have stalled. In January 2016, an Egyptian appeals court convicted the father of a 13-year-old girl, Sohair al-Batea, who had died in 2013 following a botched FGM procedure, along with the doctor who carried it out the procedure. It was the first conviction since FGM was outlawed in Egypt in 2008.

A 2015 survey by the National Council for Women revealed the economic cost of GBV and its impact on women's health. The survey showed that abortion and stillbirth rates were higher among women who have experienced violence, than women who do not experience violence (40.1 percent compared to 36.6 percent). Low birth weight was also higher for women who have experienced violence, than women who have not experienced violence (7.3 percent compared to 5.3 percent). The study put the total cost of GBV at EGP 6,015 million per year, which is approximately US\$383,913, if violent incidents perpetrated by husbands and fiancés continued at the same rate throughout the past year.¹⁰⁵

Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights & Interights v. Egypt, ACHPR Communication No. 323/06 (2011) was brought on behalf of four women who were victims of assaults during a demonstration in 2005 organized by the Egyptian Movement of Change, regarding the referendum seeking to amend the Egyptian Constitution, allowing multi-candidate presidential elections. The African Commission on Human and Peoples'

Rights found Egypt violated the African Charter and CEDAW. The four women had been physically attacked by security agents, stripped, and sexually assaulted. According to the ACHPR, the violence was "perpetrated based solely on the sex of the persons present in the scene of the demonstration", and that the violence was discriminatory and gender specific.

In its report to the ACHPR, The Egyptian government stated that in cooperation with the National Council for Women, it launched several initiatives combatting VAW such as the creation of anti-harassment units in six universities, a public orientation program called "Together for the Nation", training for female clerics in conjunction with the Ministry of Awqaf and Churches to promote messages combatting VAW, training 120 preachers on 'Islam's position on violence against women' to correct misconceptions about violence against women, increasing the number of women police officers, a public awareness campaign entitled "Ta' al-marbutah (Womanhood): Secret of Your Strength", a Women's Complaints Bureau and Family Advice' hotline, and workshops targeting media professionals¹⁰⁶. The "Ta' al-marbutah (Womanhood): Secret of Your Strength" was launched by the National Council for Women under a project with support of several agencies - UNWomen, Swedish Development Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UNFPA, and UNDP. About 72 million people followed the campaign on social media.¹⁰⁷

The Ministries of Health and Population, Justice, the Interior and Social Solidarity jointly produced a Medical Guide for Treating Victims of Gender-Based Violence with the support from UNFPA in Egypt.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ Study on the economic cost of gender-based violence, National Council for Women and the Central Authority for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAMPAS), 2015 quoted in Egypt's combined eighth to tenth periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee (2020) CEDAW/C/EGY/8-10

¹⁰⁶ Periodic Report of Egypt to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights 2017 at pp. 59-61.

¹⁰⁷ Combined eighth to tenth periodic reports submitted by Egypt under Article 18 of the convention, due in 2014* (22 April 2020) CEDAW/C/EGY/8-10 pp. 8-9.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid. p.54

The Azhar University published the Position of Islam on Violence Against Women in Matters of Personal Status¹⁰⁹ And the Islamic Perspective On Protecting Children From Violence And Harmful Practice¹¹⁰, which provide analysis on eliminating violence using Islamic precepts.

4.3.3 West Africa Region

Fifteen countries make up the West Africa Region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Niger is the only West Africa Region yet to ratify the Maputo Protocol. Regarding legislation and policies on EVAWG, Member States show substantial progress with the development of NAPs on GBV. Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo have NAPs on GBV. Thirteen Member States –except Benin and Cape Verde – have developed NAPs on UNSCR 1325. 11 countries –except Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, and Togo – have specific legislation on domestic violence. Seven countries –Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria,

Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo – have developed a national strategy or action plan to end child marriage, while Guinea and Mali are developing their action plans¹¹¹.

In Association Pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes Maliennes (APDF) and the Institute For Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) v Mali¹¹², the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights decided that Mali's 2011 family code, which limited women's consent to marriage, accepted child marriage and other harmful practices, violated the Maputo Protocol, ACERWC and CEDAW, thereby ordering the government to amend the law to comply with international human rights law and standards.

Following the judgment of the ECOWAS Court in December 2019 in the case of Women Against Violence and Exploitation in Society (WAVES) v Sierra Leone¹¹³, the government of Sierra Leone, overturned a controversial policy banning pregnant school girls from attending mainstream schools.

Table 10: Status of Ratification and Implementation in West Africa Region

Treaty	Status of Ratification	Reservations/Remarks
CEDAW	All countries have ratified CEDAW.	Niger had reservations to Articles 2(d) (f), 5(a), 15 –paragraph 4 and 16 (l), (c), (e) and (g), and 29.
Maputo Protocol	All countries except Niger have ratified the Maputo Protocol.	
CRC	All countries have ratified.	Mali has reservations on Article 16 in view of the provisions of the Mali Family Code.
ACERWC	All countries have ratified.	
ACHPR	All countries have ratified.	
AYC	Liberia and Sierra Leone are yet to ratify.	

¹⁰⁹ <https://alazhar-iicpsr.org/azhariicpsr/uploads/books/islams%20position%20on%20violence%20against%20women-final%20final.pdf>

¹¹⁰ <https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/2291/file/EGY-PeaceLoveToleranceReport-September2016.pdf.pdf>

¹¹¹ <https://atlas.girlsnotbrides.org/map/>

¹¹² Application 46/2016 11 May 2018; <https://ihrda.uwazi.io/en/entity/xzvp9hhehgjvtq5523ayvi?page=1>

¹¹³ ECW/CCJ/JUD/37/19; <https://ihrda.uwazi.io/en/entity/li7yfu3qr0cj>

Treaty	Status of Ratification	Reservations/Remarks
NAP UNSCRI325	Benin and Cape Verde do not have NAPs on UNSCRI325.	
NAP on Ending Child Marriages	Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo have NAP and strategic action plans on ending child marriages.	Ghana has a costed NAP.
NAP on GBV	Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire ¹¹⁴ , Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, and Togo have NAPs on GBV.	
NAP on FGM	Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, and Senegal have NAPs on FGM.	

4.3.3.1 Case Study - Nigeria



The Federal Republic of Nigeria is considered the most populous country in Africa¹¹⁵ and ranks 161 in the UNDP Human Development Report.¹¹⁶ Nigeria operates a three-tiered presidential system of government, with the Federal Government, made up of the executive arm, the legislature and the judiciary. Nigeria has a Federal Capital City (FCT) and 36 states. Each state has an independent executive arm headed by a governor and a State House of Assembly. There are 774 local government areas, each led by a local government chair and its executives.

The process of ratification and domestication of global and regional treaties into law is guided by The Constitution of The Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999), which states, section 12 (1) "No treaty between the Federation and any other country shall have the force of law except to the extent to which any such treaty has been enacted into law by the National Assembly".¹¹⁷ Consequently, the main process through which treaties become enacted into law at the federal

level is through the National Assembly and subsequent assent from the President. Once the law is passed at the federal level, states are expected to replicate the process through the State House of Assembly and develop policies or action plans for implementation.

The Constitution of The Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) provides equality and non-discrimination because of sex. Section 34 (1) also protects from violence, slavery or servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. Nigeria operates a dual legal system with the Criminal Code in the south and Penal Code in the north.

Nigeria has ratified several treaties without reservations, such as the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 13 June 1985, the Convention for the Rights of the Child on 19 April 1991, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on 22 June 1983, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on 23 July 2001, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African

¹¹⁴ Côte d'Ivoire

¹¹⁵ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-10-most-populated-countries-in-africa.html>

¹¹⁶ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NGA>

¹¹⁷ Onomrherhinor, Flora Alohan. A Re-Examination of the Requirement of Domestication of Treaties in Nigeria. NAUJILJ 2016

Court on Human and Peoples' Rights on 20 May 2004, the Maputo Protocol on 16 December 2004, and the African Youth Charter on 21 April 2009.

With regards to domestication and implementation of laws and policies on EVAWG, Nigeria has developed several laws and policies that specifically focus on SGBV. These are the Child Rights Law (2003), the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act (2015), Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act (2015), the National Action Plan on the implementation of the

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and the National Policy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of FGM (2013 - 2017). The actualization of CEDAW in Nigeria has been greatly hindered because there is not yet an enabling legislation to domesticate the convention. At the time of developing this report, Nigeria's constitution¹¹⁸ is undergoing a review and five gender equality bills were included for deliberation.¹¹⁹ Also, processes are being made to develop the third-generation NAP UNSCR1325. Table 13 provides a complete list of the laws and policies on EVAWG, HP, and WPS.

Table 11: Nigeria's Laws and Policies on EVAWG, HP and WPS

Title of the law/policy/NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where it is applied	Responsible or Lead Agency
Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act [VAPP] Act, 2015.	Maputo Protocol. CEDAW. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.	Intimate partner violence, rape, FGM, emotional, verbal or psychological abuse, harmful widowhood/traditional practices, abandonment and attack with harmful substance.	Protection for women, children, and men.	S1 - clear definition of rape. S6 - prohibition of FGM. S14 - protection from emotional, psychological and verbal abuse. S15 - punishment for harmful widowhood practices. S16 - abandonment. S19 - protection from spousal battery. S20 - punishment for harmful traditional practices. S21 - punishment for attack with harmful substance.	FCT (Federal Capital Territory) only, and has been passed into law in 27 States.	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

¹¹⁸ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/03/condemnation-of-the-national-assemblys-rejection-of-bills-seeking-gender-equality-by-funmi-falana/>

¹¹⁹ Five gender equality bills were among the 68 proposed amendments to the 1999 Constitution that Members of the Senate and House of Representatives voted on 1 March 2022.

Title of the law/policy/NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where it is applied	Responsible or Lead Agency
Child's Rights Act, 2003.	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. ECOWAS Roadmap on Prevention of Child Marriage (2019).	Child marriage/betrothal, drug trafficking, infliction of skin marks. Abduction, sexual exploitation.	Protection provided for children.	Sections 21 to 40 provide for the protection of children against discriminatory, harmful and exploitative practices. Sections 50 to 52 provide for the protection of children in need of care and against physical or moral danger. Section 221 (1) clause (b) prohibits corporal punishment/imprisonment.	FCT (Federal Capital Territory) only, and 25 States.	Child Rights Implementation Committee. Ministry of Women Affairs - Child department. NAPTIP. National Human Rights Commission.

Title of the law/policy/NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where it is applied	Responsible or Lead Agency
National Gender Policy 2021.	Maputo Protocol. Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004).	Gender inequality.	Protection of women.	The revised policy is based on the GEESI Framework (Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women, and Social Inclusion). The policy seeks to address sexual and GBV, harmful traditional practices against women and girls as priority areas in promoting gender equity and equality, women's empowerment and social inclusion in sociocultural practices (3.8). Strategic Objective 2: Protect women's human rights and mitigate sexual and other GBV through appropriate buffers and related services.	National.	Federal and State Ministry for Women's Affairs.
National Policy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of FGM in Nigeria (2013-2017).	Maputo Protocol. CEDAW. ACRWC.	FGM.	Protection provided for girls and women.	Plan is aimed at reducing the incidence and prevalence of FGM.	National.	Federal Ministry of Health.
National Strategy to end child marriage in Nigeria (2016-2021).	Maputo Protocol. CEDAW. ECOWAS Roadmap on Prevention of Child Marriage (2019). ACRWC.	Child Marriage.	Girls, young women, and boys.	Goal: To reduce the percentage of girls who are married before attaining full maturity (18 years) in Nigeria by 2021.	National.	Federal & State Ministry of Women Affairs.

Title of the law/policy/NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where it is applied	Responsible or Lead Agency
National Gender Policy Strategy Framework (Implementation Plan) 2008-2013.	CEDAW. Maputo Protocol.	Women's human rights, SGBV.	Protection provided for women and children.	Same as listed in the National Gender Policy (see above).	National.	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs.
NAP for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.	UNSCR1325. ECOWAS ECPF Plan of Action for women and peace component.	Sexual-related violence during and post-conflict.	Protection provided for women and girls during conflict and post-conflict situations.	To ensure the prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls, institute coping mechanisms and systems for averting and mitigating disasters. To ensure women and girls' rights and security are protected and promoted in conflict and peace, and prosecute such rights violators.	National and 14 States have developed State Action Plans (SAP).	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs.

Title of the law/policy/ NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it covers	Relevant provisions	Where it is applied	Responsible or Lead Agency
Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015.	African Charter. Maputo Protocol. ACRWC.	Prohibits trafficking of persons, importation & exportation of person for sexual exploitation or for use in armed conflict, abuse, procurement, recruitment of person for organ harvesting, buying or selling of human beings for any purpose, forced labour, and child trafficking.	Protects women, girls, men, and boys.	Sections 15 to 17 prohibits abuse, procurement or recruitment of persons for sexual exploitation. S23 prohibits employment of a child as a domestic worker and inflicting grievous harm on the child.	National.	NAPTIP.
National Reproductive Health Policy and Strategy, 2001.	Maputo Protocol.	GBV.	Protection provided for women and girls.	The policy addresses the severe consequences of domestic violence and sexual abuse against women and girls, reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality due to pregnancy childbirth by 50%, limitation of all forms of GBV and other practices that are harmful to the health of women and children.	National.	Federal Ministry of Health.
Protection Against Domestic Violence Law (PADVL) 2007.	Maputo Protocol. CEDAW.	Domestic Violence.	Every person.	Domestic violence, Procedure for Protection orders.	Lagos State.	Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT). https://dsvrtlagos.org/

The Nigerian government's response to SGBV and its prevention is directed and implemented by multiple ministries at national and state levels.¹²⁰ The gender department under the Federal and State Ministry of Women Affairs has the mandate of streamlining gender, gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment. The Ministry is also responsible for coordinating technical working committees and collaborating with other MDAs like the Ministry of Health, Justice, Education, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to prevent and respond to GBV. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established in 1995 to address the coordination, protection and enforcement of human rights for all citizens in Nigeria. The commission also has oversight functions on human rights violations, including SGBV, harmful practices, and child protection. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) mandate is to administer the provisions of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, which is to eliminate violence in private and public life and prohibit all forms of violence against persons to provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders and other related matters.

Programs and Initiatives

In June 2020, the government issued a State of Emergency GBV in the country after intense nationwide protests led by women's groups and CSOs, on the increased prevalence of SGBV during the pandemic. It was during this time, the Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF) made

commitments to pass the VAPP into law and invest in its implementation across their respective states. An immediate outcome of these actions is the increase in states with VAPP laws from 14¹²¹ to 26.¹²² In a bid to ensure comprehensive services for survivors of SGBV, CSOs and development partners working with the Ministry of women affairs have established Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in 32 locations across Nigeria.¹²³ However, only 19 states out of 36 have established Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) that provide free medical, counseling and support services to survivors of sexual violence. The government launched Nigeria's first national sexual offender and service provider register in November 2019. The sexual offender register contains the names of those persons reported, arraigned and/or convicted of sexual offenses since 2015 (as defined under section 1(4) of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act).¹²⁴

Nigeria has an active network of national and local CSOs working with donors and development partners on EVAWG. Notable networks include the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW), Women in Peace Network, Womanifesto and the Network of Women Peace Mediators. CSOs often work across a wide range of issues on gender equality and GBV. CSOs engage in advocacy for the passing of laws and policies, monitor and evaluate the laws, and training of government agencies. CSOs are often the first responders for violence cases and are sometimes responsible for providing services to survivors, including support for treatment and legal redress.

For instance, with the support of the EU-UN SIARP, UNFPA engaged traditional

¹²⁰ Strengthening the Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria. Technical Report; E2A Project <https://www.pathfinder.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/E2A-Nigeria-SGBV-Report-2020.pdf>

¹²¹ <https://www.icirnigeria.org/hall-of-shame-23-states-yet-to-pass-anti-rape-law-majority-are-from-the-north/>

¹²² <https://www.partnersnigeria.org/vapp-tracker/>

¹²³ Directory of Sexual Assault Referral Centre. Updated November 2021 <https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.138.219/rz7.4a5.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/new-SARCs-directory.pdf>

¹²⁴ <https://www.justice-security.ng/register-launched-sexual-offenders-and-service-providers>

and religious leaders on ending GBV¹²⁵, the first-ever GBV data situation room and dashboard was launched by the government in November 2020.¹²⁶ SIARP has supported women’s organizations, government agencies and the media with capacity building, awareness creation, and advocacy for SGBV issues.¹²⁷ The #HerStoryOurStoryNG campaign was established in 2018 with support from the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) program.¹²⁸ The campaign seeks to challenge the persistent cycle of SGBV in Nigeria.¹²⁹ Similarly, the Agents for Citizen-driven Transformation (ACT) program, supported by the EU and the British Council, helped gender-focused CSOs to jointly address and create awareness about the increasing cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in two states.

Gaps and Challenges

Nigeria has shown improvement with its institutional and legal context. There is an increased level of awareness and visibility on SGBV issues because of the pandemic. However, there are still gaps and challenges in addressing EVAWG and HP.

- i. **Increase incidence of GBV:** despite the awareness, VAW is still at an all-time high across the country. One school of thought attributes the high cases of VAW to increased reporting of incidence brought on by sensitization and awareness creation. Others argue that the lack of impunity, negative social and cultural norms make many perpetrators commit such acts of violence.
- ii. **Multiple Legal Systems:** Nigeria operates under English Law, Customary Law and

Sharia Law systems, which often overlap and contradict each other. For instance, setting the age of marriage to 18 is attributed to be one of the reasons for resistance to the passage of the Child Rights Law in some Northern States where Sharia Law is practiced. Here, puberty is considered the accepted marker for marriage. Both the Penal and Criminal Code do not recognize spousal rape. Specifically, Section 282 (2) of the Nigerian Penal Code states that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife is not considered rape if she has attained the age of puberty. Similarly, Section 6 of the Nigerian Criminal Code defines unlawful carnal knowledge as a carnal connection that takes place otherwise than between husband and wife¹³⁰. Another contradiction is Section 55 (subsection 10) of the penal code, which recognizes that “a man can chastise his wife if it does not cause injury”. In principle, the VAPP is meant to supersede such laws. However, thirteen states are still yet to pass VAPP, and where it has been passed, there is a huge need to create awareness among key stakeholders and the public.

- iii. **Limited coordination among agencies responsible for EVAWG:** addressing SGBV is multi-sectoral – involving the Ministries of women affairs, Justice, Health, Education, Finance and Humanitarian. It also involves other agencies like the National Bureau of Statistics, who handles data for planning purposes, and the Nigerian Police who are responsible for arresting, investigating and persecuting offenders. However, a notable challenge is often the lack of synergy and coordination among these agencies to achieve their mandate.

¹²⁵ <https://nigeria.unfpa.org/en/news/spotlight-initiative-hosts-virtual-round-table-conference-traditional-and-religious-leaders>

¹²⁶ <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/fr/node/44676>

¹²⁷ <https://nigeriahealthwatch.com/spotlight-initiative-tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-nigeria-through-surveillance/>

¹²⁸ The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) Program is working to strengthen the application of the law and curb corruption. It currently operates at the federal level and in five focal States. It is funded by the European Union

¹²⁹ <https://www.justice-security.ng/her-story-our-story>

¹³⁰ [https://www.thecable.ng/qa-rape-from-the-standpoint-of-current-laws-in-nigeria#:~:text=Penal%20Code%20\(PC\)%3A%20section,of%20death%20or%20of%20hurt%E2%80%9D](https://www.thecable.ng/qa-rape-from-the-standpoint-of-current-laws-in-nigeria#:~:text=Penal%20Code%20(PC)%3A%20section,of%20death%20or%20of%20hurt%E2%80%9D)

- iv. *Lack of political will*: the pandemic exacerbated pre-existing inequalities but also highlighted huge gaps in the government's rhetoric and actions on women's rights. For instance, SARCs and other health services for women and girls were not considered essential services during the lockdown consequently, most shelters and services were closed. To date, thirteen states are yet to pass VAPP, while only a handful are actively implementing VAPP.
- v. *Outdated action plans for FGM, child marriage, and WPS*: these plans are overdue for review, but it is unclear if actions have already begun on the review. The gender policy (2008)
- vi. *Lack of dedicated budget for the implementation of EAWG*: government agencies have limited or no funding for EAWG. This is because agencies do not have budget lines dedicated to EAWG activities, while the Ministry of Women Affairs, which is responsible for coordinating on women and girls' rights, remains the most underfunded department and often relies on donors and development partners for funding for EAWG activities. For instance, activities for the development of the third-generation action plan have stalled because there was no funding. The review is unable to state what percentage of funding on EAWG is from the government because much of the activities were funded by donors and implementing partner. While it is understandable that donors and development partners are drawn to support EAWG programs in Nigeria because of the conflict and other gender relation issues, there is a tendency for an overreliance on donor funding that has resulted in sustainability challenges for the future.
- vii. *Weak Accountability Mechanisms for EAWG*: a major challenge for the effective implementation of laws and policies on

EAWG and harmful practices is the lack of effective and efficient monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms.

4.3.4 East Africa Region

The East Africa Region covers 14 countries – Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. All the Member States have signed the Maputo Protocol. However, Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan have yet to ratify. Somalia is yet to sign or ratify CEDAW. Three countries have laws on GBV – Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda – and only Rwanda recognizes and criminalizes marital rape. Eight countries, except for Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, have laws on human trafficking. Five countries – Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda – have NAPs on UNSCR1325. Four Countries – Ethiopia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda – have a national strategy or plan to end child marriage, while Kenya and Sudan are developing one.¹³¹ Five countries – Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia and Ethiopia – are implementing the Regional Inter-Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan to End Cross Border Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Action Plan, 2019-2024. Overall, progress with legislation and policies on EAWG in the region can best be described as slow and uneven. Some countries, like Kenya, are making significant progress with legislation and implementation, Rwanda has withdrawn its reservation on article 14 (2) and has made progress in complying with the Maputo Protocol's provision on safe abortion, development of a Law on the prevention and punishment of GBV¹³² and the creation of Isange One Stop Center for responding to VAW/GBV.¹³³ South Sudan set up a Gender Based Violence and Juvenile Court in Juba on 3 December 2020, with video-conferencing facilities to enhance privacy for survivors of SGBV.¹³⁴

¹³¹ <https://atlas.girlsnotbrides.org/map/>

¹³² <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/special-rapporteur-on-rights-of-women-in-africa-presentation-for-csw-implemetation.pdf>

¹³³ Ibid

¹³⁴ <https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/press-releases/south-sudan%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-court-inaugurated-during-16daysofactivism>; <https://sudantribune.com/article258026/>

Table 12: Status of Ratification and Implementation in East Africa Region

Treaty	Status of Ratification	Reservations/Remarks
CEDAW	All countries, except Somalia and Sudan, have ratified. Sudan’s Council of Ministers approved ratification but is yet to deposit its instruments of ratification.	Ethiopia does not consider itself bound by Paragraph 1 of Article 29 of the convention. In April 2021, Sudan’s Council of Ministers approved the ratification of CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol with reservations to Articles 2, 16 and 29 (1) of CEDAW. ¹³⁵ However, they are yet to deposit the instruments of ratification.
Maputo Protocol	Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan are yet to ratify.	Uganda has placed reservations on Article 14 (1) (a) and 14(2) (c), which mandates Member States to ensure that women’s right to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights is respected and promoted. South Sudan’s parliament has placed reservations on the article that gives the right to procure abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where continuous pregnancy endangered the mental or physical health of the mother ¹³⁶ . However, it is yet to deposit the instruments of ratification. ¹³⁷ Kenya made reservations on Article 10(3) on reducing military expenditure vis a vis social development and 14(2)(c) on access to SRH&RR services, including medical abortion.
CRC	All countries have ratified.	Somalia had reservations for “Articles 14, 20, 21 of the above stated convention and any other provisions of the convention contrary to the General Principles of Islamic Sharia.”
ACERWC	Somalia and South Sudan are yet to ratify. Sudan ratified with reservations.	Sudan ¹³⁸ made reservations to Article 10 Protection of privacy, Article 11 (6) – Education of children who become pregnant before completing their education, and Article 21 (2) – child marriage and betrothal of girls and boys.
ACHPR	All countries have ratified.	
AYC	Eritrea and Somalia are yet to sign or ratify. Comoros is yet to ratify.	
NAP UNSCRI325	Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.	Uganda has costed budget lines in its action plans.
NAP on Ending Child Marriages	Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda have NAPs.	
NAP on GBV	Comoros, Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda have action plans.	
NAP on FGM	Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda have plans.	Kenya has a costed plan.

¹³⁵ <https://www.mewc.org/index.php/gender-issues/human-rights-of-women/11592-sudan-cabinet-approves-cedaw-maputo-protocol-ratification>

¹³⁶ <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/science-health/south-sudan-ratifies-maputo-protocol-1375680>

¹³⁷ <https://au.int/es/node/41932>

¹³⁸ <https://www.acerwc.africa/ratifications-table/>

4.3.4.1 Case Study – Kenya



The Republic of Kenya entered into a new political era when the Constitution of Kenya 2010 came into force. This introduced a bicameral parliament, devolved county government and constitutionally tenured judiciary. The republic of Kenya is divided into 47 counties. Each county is run by an elected governor and has its own County Assembly.

Kenya ratified CEDAW, on 9 March 1984, CRC on 30 July 1990, the African Charter on 10 February 1992, ACRWC on 10 August 2000, the African Court Protocol on 18 February 2005, and the AYC on 29 January 2014. Kenya also ratified the Maputo Protocol on 13 October 2010. However, Kenya does not consider itself bound by the provisions of Article 10(3) of the Maputo Protocol, which

requires state parties to reduce military expenditure in favor of social development and the promotion of women. It has further placed reservations on Article 14(2)(c), which provides access to health and reproductive rights including medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother or the life of the mother or fetus¹³⁹.

Nationally, Kenya has a NAP on UNSCR125 and is currently developing a NAP for ending child marriage. The country also has robust laws against FGM¹⁴⁰. In terms of reporting, in its combined 12th and 13th state report to the ACHPR in 2021, Kenya also submitted a report on the Maputo Protocol for the first time.¹⁴¹ The state reported holding wide consultations, including with civil society, to develop the report.¹⁴²

¹³⁹ https://www.equalitynow.org/news_and_insights/maputo_protocol_turns_18/; see also Article 26(4) Kenyan Constitution 2010

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-africa-fgm-lawmaking-idUSKCNILT2OQ>

¹⁴¹ Kenya: Combined report of the 12th and 13th periodic reports to the ACHPR, submitted 15 March 2021: <https://www.achpr.org/states/statereport?id=135>

¹⁴² Ibid at paragraph 6 of Introduction chapter, p.6

Table 13: Kenya's Laws and Policies on EVAWG and HP

Title of the law/policy/ NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it protects	Relevant provisions	Where does it apply	Responsible or Lead Agency
The Constitution of Kenya, 2010.	CEDAW, Maputo Protocol, CRC, ACRWC.	Discrimination against women, violence in public and private spheres, harmful practices.	Contains a Bill of rights applicable to every person.	Article 27(4) prohibits direct or indirect discrimination, inter alia, on the basis of sex, pregnancy and marital status. Article 29(c) right to freedom from any form of violence from either public or private sources. Article 53(d) prohibits harmful cultural practices and all forms of violence, etc against children (and youth – Article 55 (d)). The application of the Constitution's guarantee of non-discrimination with respect to all laws, including those in marriages, divorce, adoption, burial, and succession.	This applies in the entire country.	State Department of Gender (under the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs & Special Programmes); https://gender.go.ke/ ; http://www.psyg.go.ke/ ; National Gender and Equality Commission; https://www.ngeckkenya.org/ .
Sexual Offences Act, 2006.	CEDAW, Maputo Protocol.	Women face the risk of being victimized for initiating prosecutions against their abusers.	Victims of sexual offences, whom majority happen to be women are now able to report cases of sexual violence without fear of criminal sanctions.	Definition and punishment of sexual violence eg rape, sexual assault, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and trafficking etc.	It applies in the entire country.	Department of Justice.
Marriage Act, 2014.	Maputo Protocol, CEDAW.	Social inequality between men and women in marriage.	The Act provides that parties to a marriage have equal rights and obligations at the time of the marriage, during the marriage and at the dissolution of the marriage 3(2).	The Act provides that all marriages will be issued with marriage certificates, including customary marriages.	It applies in the entire country.	Registrar General Children and Social Development and local leaders.

Title of the law/policy/ NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it protects	Relevant provisions	Where does it apply	Responsible or Lead Agency
National Strategy for Gender Development 2019	Maputo Protocol, CEDAW.	Unequal opportunities for women.	Promotes gender equality and equity in the country.	Protection of gender equality for all Kenyans.	It applies in the entire country.	Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs & Special Programmes, https://gender.go.ke/#
Women Economic Empowerment Strategy.	Maputo Protocol, CEDAW.	Discrimination of women against economic empowerment.	Empowerment of women.	Empowers women economically and politically.	It applies in the entire country.	Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs & Special Programmes, https://gender.go.ke/#
National Policy for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation 2019. The Roadmap for Presidential Acceleration Plan to End FGM by 2022.	Maputo Protocol, ACRWC, CRC.	FGM.	Eradication of FGM in Kenya using a multisectoral approach.	Provides an overview of the situation in Kenya and Designed around five priorities or objectives.	National.	Anti-FGM Board (in the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs & Special Programmes) https://www.antifgmboard.go.ke
Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011.	Maputo Protocol, ACRWC, CRC.	FGM.	Prohibition of FGM.	Section 2, defines types of FGM, Sections 19 to 25, provide for offenses for committing FGM.	National.	Anti-FGM Board (in the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs & Special Programmes) https://www.antifgmboard.go.ke
Children's Act 2021.	ACRWC, CRC.	Children are the beneficiaries. The Act makes provision for specialist child courts and list the duties of parents and the government.	Prohibition of child marriage, harmful practices, child trafficking	Section 21, children must be protected from harmful practices including child marriage and FGM. Section 152(2)(h) – court can declare child marriage a nullity. Section 146(k) A child subjected to FGM or child marriage can be ground for placing a child in the care and protection of the state.	National.	National Council for Children's Services; http://www.childrenscouncil.go.ke/

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development is responsible for overseeing gender and EAWG. However, under its gender policy, it operates an Inter-ministerial, multisectoral approach to handling EAWG. For instance, the ministry launched the National Policy on Gender and Development in March 2021¹⁴³. They are also developing a Safe Space Manual that guides the development and coordination of shelters for victims of violence. Some counties have their own GBV policy, for example the Meru County Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2019.¹⁴⁴ In March 2022, Kenya launched its first Sexual and Gender-based Violence court at the Shanzu Law Courts in Mombasa to deal exclusively with SGBV and provide a survivor-centered approach to prosecution and management of cases.¹⁴⁵

The President of Kenya signed the Children's Act 2021 into law in July 2022. This repeals the Children's Act of 2001.¹⁴⁶

A respondent who wished to remain anonymous pointed out that gender issues have been mainstreamed into the national budget and the government is quite positive in its push towards EAWG. The ministry also actively works on a Government of Kenya/ UN joint programme on the Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence¹⁴⁷ that started from 2016 to 2020 with CSOs, donor and development partners to develop

and implement programs, projects, and awareness-raising campaigns on EAWG. The ministry works closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to liaise and input into strategic policies like the EAC and IGAD on gender policy and the 50MAWS program. The ministry also works with the AU on women, peace and security in terms of ending violence against women in conflict.

Despite the strong political will exhibited in the Roadmap for Presidential Acceleration Plan to End FGM by 2022¹⁴⁸, the practice is still prevalent. Studies show that during the COVID-19 lockdowns there was an increase in FGM occasioned by girls being at home, restriction of movement hindering access to safe homes, legal, and health services.¹⁴⁹ Poverty has also been attributed to increase in FGM with poorer families choosing to marry off their girls who then undergo FGM as a rite of passage to womanhood¹⁵⁰. In March 2021, the high court in Kenya held that the prohibition of FGM was constitutional and in line with Kenya's obligations to protect the human rights of women and girls as provided in treaties such as CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol, ratified by Kenya.¹⁵¹ The court also dismissed the petitioner's claim that the Anti-FGM Act violated the right to culture.

4.3.5 Central Africa Region

The Central Africa Region comprises nine countries – Burundi, Cameroon, Central

¹⁴³ <https://www.genderinkenya.org/news/kenya-launches-long-awaited-national-policy-on-gender-and-development/>

¹⁴⁴ <https://home.creaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SGBV-POLICY-Meru-County.pdf>

¹⁴⁵ This is Africa: <https://thisisafrika.me/politics-and-society/kenyas-first-specialised-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-court/>

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-07-07-president-kenyatta-signs-six-parliamentary-bills-into-law/>

¹⁴⁷ GOK/UN Joint Program on the Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence: <https://gender.go.ke/gok-un-joint-program/>

¹⁴⁸ <https://kenya.unfpa.org/en/news/presidential-commitment-end-female-genital-mutilation-2022>

¹⁴⁹ Esho et al, The perceived effects of COVID-19 pandemic on female genital mutilation/cutting and child or forced marriages in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Senegal, BMC Public Health (2022) 22:601: <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-022-13043-w>

¹⁵⁰ Global GLOW team, COVID-19 and the Rise of FGM in Kenya (6 May 2021): <https://globalgirlsglow.org/covid-19-and-rise-of-fgm-in-kenya>

¹⁵¹ Dr. Tatu Kamau v AG & Others, Constitutional Petition no. 244 of 2019. Available: <https://www.kelinkenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Ruling-on-case-challenging-the-constitutional-validity-of-the-prohibition-of-Female-Genital-Mutilation-AntThe-Anti-FGM-Act.pdf>; See also Equality Now, "Kenya's High Court Rules Anti-FGM Law Is Constitutional: A Jubilant Day For Girls And Women In Kenya" 17 March 2021. https://www.equalitynow.org/press_release/kenya_fgm_case_response_2021/#:~:text=NAIROBI%2C%20Kenya%2C%20March%2017%20%E2%80%93,to%20protection%20against%20harmful%20practices

African Republic (CAR), Chad, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe. Progress on legislation and policies on EAWG is uneven in the region. Cameroon ratified the Maputo Protocol with reservations, while Burundi, CAR, and Chad are yet to ratify. Only Sao Tome and Principe have laws criminalizing marital rape. Seven countries – except Cameroon, Congo and DRC – have national legislation on GBV, eight countries – except Congo and Equatorial Guinea – have laws on human trafficking, about half of the

countries – except Chad, Congo Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe – have NAPs on UNSCR1325. Chad and DRC have NAP or strategies for ending child marriage, while Cameroon is developing one.¹⁵²

Although its Penal code, Law No.2016/007 of 12 July 2016 criminalizes, FGM (article 277-1) and early marriage (Article 356), Cameroon has adopted a national strategy to combat GBV, 2022-2026, and a NAP for the elimination of female genital mutilation, 2021-2025.

Table 14: Status of Ratification and Implementation in the Central Africa Region

Treaty	Status of Ratification	Reservations/Remarks
CEDAW	All countries have ratified CEDAW.	
Maputo Protocol	Burundi, CAR, Chad, and Sao Tome & Principe are yet to ratify.	Cameroon made a reservation on homosexuality, abortion, except therapeutic abortion, genital mutilation, and prostitution.
CRC	All countries have ratified.	
ACERWC	CAR, DRC, and Sao Tome & Principe have signed, but are yet to ratify.	
ACHPR	All countries have ratified.	
AYC	Burundi, CAR, DRC, and Equatorial Guinea are yet to ratify.	
NAP UNSCR1325	Burundi, Cameroon, Congo Republic, DRC, and Gabon have NAPs.	All states mentioned have costed NAPs.
NAP on Ending Child Marriages	Cameroon, Chad, and DRC have action plans.	
NAP on GBV	Burundi, Chad, DRC, and Sao Tome & Principe have action plans.	
NAP on FGM	CAR has an action plan.	

¹⁵² <https://atlas.girlsnotbrides.org/map/>

4.3.5.1 Case Study – Burundi



The Republic of Burundi, like many other African countries, is slowly recovering from the effects of COVID-19, which compounded its existing fragile economic condition and socio-economic development.¹⁵³ The country is divided into 18 provinces comprising of communes and hill districts. It is a constitutional republic headed by a president supported by a vice-president and a Prime Minister. The revised constitution of the Republic of Burundi 2005 as amended in 2018 contains a bill of rights and recognizes right to equality and non-discrimination (Articles 13, 22).

Burundi ratified CEDAW on 8 January 1992,

the CRC on 19 October 1990, the African Charter on 30 August 1989, and the ACRWC on 24 August 2004. Burundi signed the Maputo Protocol on 3 March 2003, and is yet to ratify it.

Burundi has a National Gender Policy, 2012–2025, (2011) and accompanying action plan, 2017–2021. The policy’s objective is to combat the different types of discrimination and inequality affecting women to achieve equality between the sexes. However, certain practices under customary law in relation to inheritance, and matrimonial property, limit women’s enjoyment of their human rights. Act No. 1/13 of 22 September 2016 on the prevention and punishment of GBV and the protection of its victims.

Table 15: Burundi's Laws and Policies on EAWG and HP

Title of the law/policy/ NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it protects	Relevant provisions	Where it applies	Responsible or Lead Agency
Amendments to the Penal code (Law No. 1/05 of 22 April 2009 and 2017). Criminal Procedure Code.	CEDAW.	Violence against women and girls.	Women and girls.	This Penal Code offers women much more protection. Here we must cite the clarification of certain offenses (rape, indecent assault, and prostitution) the creation of new incriminations (sexual harassment, the integration of a section on domestic violence, and the repression of marital rape).	National.	Ministry of Justice.
Articles 554–562 of the Criminal Code.	CEDAW.	Sexual violence.	Women and girls.	Articles 542 to 562 of the Criminal Code criminalize sexual violence and domestic rape. Penalties may not be reduced. The offenses are not subject to the statute of limitations or amnesty and are non-pardonable.	National.	Ministry of Justice.

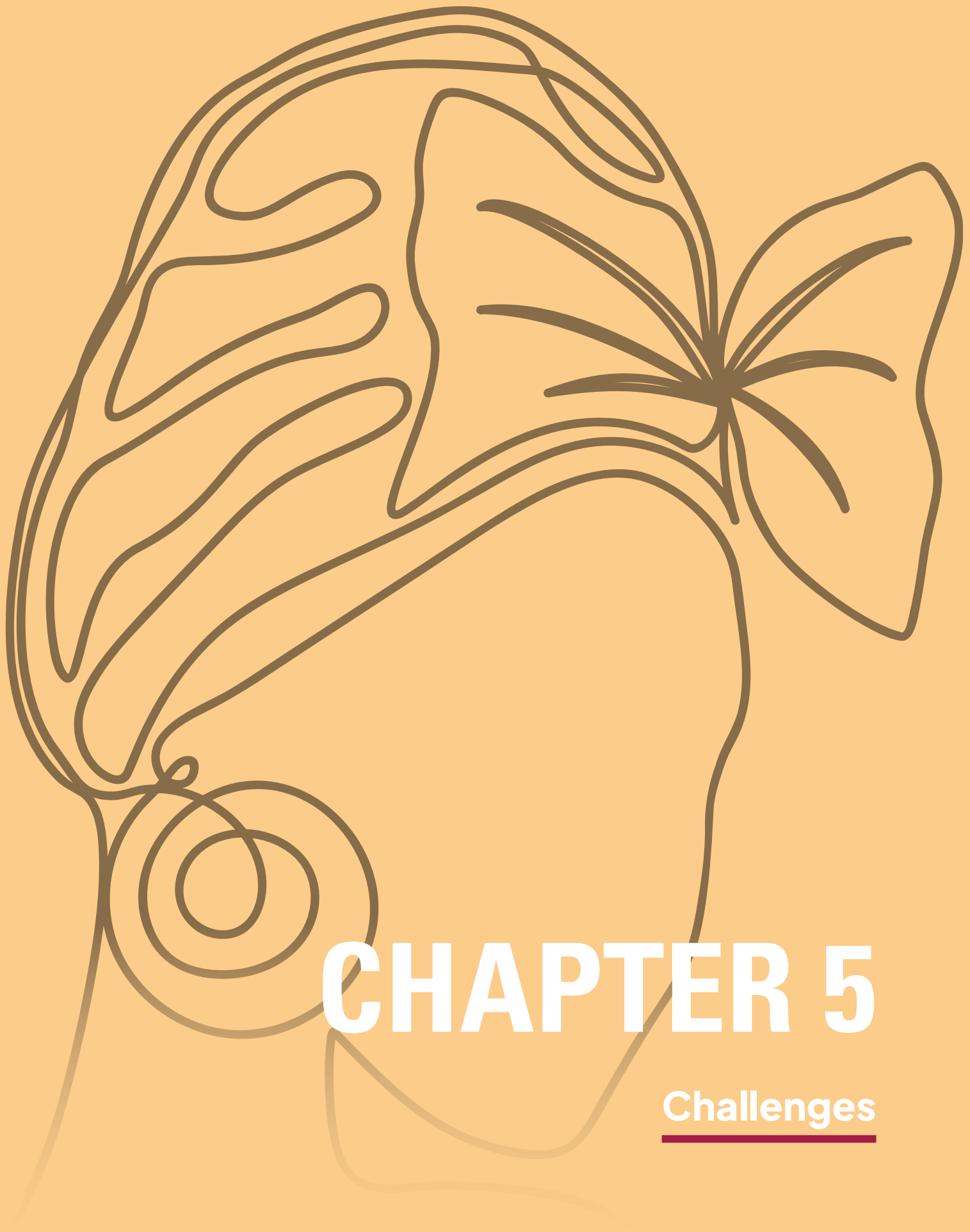
¹⁵³ The World Bank in Burundi <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burundi/overview>

Title of the law/policy/NAP and year	Related International or regional treaties (domestication & implementation)	Type of Violence it covers	Who it protects	Relevant provisions	Where it applies	Responsible or Lead Agency
Article 25, Constitution of the Republic of Burundi 2005 as amended to 2018.		Violence against women and girls.	Every person.	Article 25 of the Constitution: every person has the right to dignity freedom of movement, and freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.	National.	Ministry of Justice.
Article 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi 2005 as amended to 2018.	CEDAW, CRC, ACRWC.	Child and forced marriage.	Every person.	Article 29 of the Constitution prohibits forced marriage. The freedom to marry is guaranteed as the right to choose a partner. The marriage may only be concluded with the free and full consent of the future spouses.	National.	Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights, and Gender.
Law No. 1/004/2003 and 1/004/2003 (Penalizing the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity).	CEDAW.	Sexual violence in conflict.	Women.	Article 4 (B)(u), which provides that "war crimes shall include ... other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict, within the established framework of international law, namely any of the following acts: (u) rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, enforced sterilisation or any other form of sexual violence constituting a grave breach of the Geneva Convention".	National.	Ministry of Justice.
SGBV law 2016.	CEDAW.	SGBV.	Every person.	Article 7 provides that "spouses enjoy equal rights, particularly in matters of health, family planning and household property". Parents must ensure "equal treatment of boys and girls in all aspects of life from an early age".	National.	Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender.

Burundi has made efforts to develop legislation addressing EAWG, considering it has been affected by multiple crises that have impacted on the development of the country. In 2011, Burundi established the National Independent Human Rights Commission under Act No. 1/04 of 5 January 2011. The Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender is responsible for gender. In its report to the CEDAW Committee, the country set up the Humura Centre in Gitega, a pilot center providing comprehensive care to victims of GBV since

July 2012.¹⁵⁴ Other initiatives include the establishment of specialized units to address GBV, training for Judicial and Legal officers on GBV prevention and protection, the application of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Protocol on the Prevention and Repression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Burundi, a national consultation workshop to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the scope of the crime of GBV, with the motto “United to Prevent, to Put an End to Impunity.”¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁴ Fifth and sixth periodic reports of Burundi to CEDAW, (CEDAW/C/BDI/5-6) https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fBDI%2f5-6&Lang=en
¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.* p.34



CHAPTER 5

Challenges

The ratification of treaties by Member States is quite high, with 43 out of 55 ratifications to the Maputo Protocol and 52 ratifications to CEDAW. However, the status of domestication and enforcement of relevant treaties is marred by strong cultural beliefs in support of certain harmful practices, gaps in laws and policies and weak accountability mechanisms.

5.1 Challenges with Domestication and Enforcement of treaties on EAWG



Gaps in legislation: In specific Member States, gaps in legislation pose significant challenges to the effective implementation of EAWG. For instance, The Nigerian Constitution states that “any woman who is married is deemed to be of full age”. In addition, both the Criminal nor Penal Code does not recognize marital rape. Similarly, Kenya has made significant progress on specific legislation like the Anti-FGM Act and Protection Against Domestic Violence Act 2015.¹⁵⁶ Moreover, it is highlighted that Kenya’s Constitution discriminates on the issue of marriage, inheritance, and access to critical sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights services like abortion (abortion is only allowed on the grounds of a trained health professional certifying its necessity if the life or health of the mother is threatened).¹⁵⁷

Adherence to Cultural and Social beliefs contributing to the prevalence of GBV: Despite legal and policy frameworks prohibiting GBV and continental, regional and national campaigns on harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM, these violations subsist. For instance, while Kenya has made significant progress in enacting specific legislation for FGM, including a Presidential Roadmap to end FGM by 2022, the practice of FGM persists

due to its link to cultural rites of-passage for girls and requires more action towards implementation.¹⁵⁸ The rise in the cases of GBV was noted during the wave of COVID-19-19 pandemic lockdowns in 2020. However, it is not clear if some of this increase can be attributed to increased awareness that has led to more reporting or an increase in the cases in general. In South Africa, the first response to SGBV is generally a policing one. However, there has to be more emphasis on changing social norms and behaviour and addressing violent masculinity. Moreover, one cannot expect to reduce violence against women without addressing more widespread violence, harmful cultural practices and the larger societal issues. For example, traditional practices such as Ukuthwala is a form of customary marriage that involves the staged kidnapping of a girl or young woman by a man and his friends or peers to compel the bride's family to begin customary negotiations. However, this has morphed into a harmful cultural practice that involves forced abduction, rape, violence and the non-consensual marriage of girls.¹⁵⁹

Limited Political Will on EAWG: A lack of political will has slowed down the domestication and implementation of the treaties at both the regional and national levels. For instance, there is little or no evidence of standalone campaigns on GBV in the IGAD region, which often explains the absence of attention and resources. Also, Nigeria’s Dualist System means that treaties entered do not automatically become law in Nigeria, but go through domestication by the National Assembly (Legislature). Furthermore, each Federal State can either adopt the law entirely or adapt it to suit the context. Consequently, all 36 Federal States are at varying levels regarding legislation and implementation of laws and policies on EAWG. The unprecedented cases of GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic

¹⁵⁶ http://kenyalaw.org/ki/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/ProtectionAgainstDomesticViolenceAct_2015.pdf¹⁵⁷
Ibid

¹⁵⁸ Implementing the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa: Analysing the Compliance of Kenya’s Legal Framework, 2014

¹⁵⁹ <https://wlce.co.za/jezile-v-the-state/>

spurred the government to declare a “State of Emergency on GBV”. Consequently, more States passed critical legislation like the Nigerian Child Rights Act and VAPP. However, some eight States are yet to pass the VAPP and nine States do not have a Child Rights Law.

Lack of enforcement of Court Judgements:

An Egyptian doctor sentenced to terms of imprisonment for committing FGM that led to the death of a 13-year old girl, allegedly did not serve the sentence.¹⁶⁰ Even with regional courts like the ECOWAS Court of Justice, a major limitation is the inability of the courts to enforce judgments that have been made. A notable example is the case of Dorothy Njemanze and three others vs the Federal Government of Nigeria¹⁶¹ where the court held that Nigerian security agents violated the claimant’s right to freedom from GBV as provided under the Maputo Protocol and awarded them damages of N6 million naira (approximately \$16,500) each in 2017. The government is yet to implement the decision.

5.2 Availability of Resources and Capacities at Regional and National levels



Weak Accountability Mechanisms at all levels:

Apart from the periodic reports of the REC there are no specific mechanisms for reporting on the progress of implementation. It should be noted that the current mechanisms for enforcement and implementation include reporting, fact-finding missions, and advice and recommendations on implementation mechanisms. At the Member State level, GBV is still underreported, making monitoring

and reporting highly problematic. Most Member States lack the means to collate data, document, and report GBV. The South African Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities has noted that *“in trying to address SGBV, South Africa needs more detailed recording, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated statistics on sexual and domestic violence so that SGBV can be tracked methodically and responded to more effectively. There should also be a shift in focus from the reduction of sexual and domestic violence crimes to encouraging prevention and reporting and to providing a quality service to all victims of these crimes. This will necessitate a change in how police performance is measured”*.¹⁶²

Limited funding for EAWG in Regional and National Budgets:

Low regional and national budgets allocated to implementing gender equality and EAWG are a fundamental challenge, and make it difficult to effectively roll out programs in an efficient and timely manner. Implementation of EAWG is limited because of little or no allocation for institutional mechanisms or capacity building for key actors to monitor and report on action plans.

Respondents highlighted that a major portion of the funding that RECs use to carry out activities comes from development partners. However, these funds are often short term and target specific activities like national or regional consultations. There is still a need for sustainable long-term support for monitoring GBV in the region.

Also, at the level of the Member States, respondents noted that the quality of the facilities and services provided, as

¹⁶⁰ Leila Fadel, “Egyptian Doctor Found Guilty Of Female Genital Mutilation Isn’t In Jail” NPR, 11 December 2015: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/12/11/459238614/why-the-egyptian-doctor-found-guilty-of-female-genital-mutilation-isnt-in-jail>

¹⁶¹ Osai Ojigbo, “Litigating Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination - The Dorothy Njemanze Case” in Litigating the Maputo Protocol - A Compendium of Strategies and Approaches for Defending the Rights of Women and Girls in Africa (2020) Equality Now; Dotun Roy, Justice at last! Ecowas Court rules in favour of Dorothy Njemanze and three others vs the Federal Republic of Nigeria; <https://dotunroy.com/2017/10/12/justice-at-last-ecowas-court-rules-in-favour-of-dorothy-njemanze-3-others-vs-federal-republic-of-nigeria/>

¹⁶² South Africa, National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2020 - 2025: 30-36. https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202103/south-african-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security.pdf

well as budget allocations, monitoring and evaluation and coordination, remain inadequate in relation to their population. In many cases, they do not meet United Nations and WHO standards of the Essential Services Package¹⁶³, a guidance tool identifying essential services to be provided to all women and girls who have experienced GBV, including services that should be provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors.

Lack of Coordination among relevant stakeholders: Despite progress, coordination among relevant actors is still a challenge. For instance, the practice of the AUC and United Nations agencies contacting Member States directly leads to questions around the role of the RECs in EAWG. This is a challenge for two reasons. First, it can undermine the role of RECs as an authority on the issues. Second, it often means that efforts on EAWG get duplicated, which is problematic given the limitations on human and financial resources at the level of the Secretariat. Coordination among the AU and RECs beyond meetings was a recurring theme in the study. At the country level, strategic documents often proffer a multisectoral approach to EAWG. Yet, coordination among the various ministries, departments and agencies is limited. The ministries responsible for women affairs or gender are responsible for coordinating gender equality, women and girls' rights, women peace and security, and EAWG. However, they remain under-resourced on technical, human and budgetary needs.

Non-alignment of countries with EAWG priorities at a continental and regional level: Part of the challenge that led to the development of the EAC policy is that "EAC Member States have multiple memberships to other Regional Economic Communities (RECs). They are signatories to different multilateral and bilateral commitments, and there is no alignment of priorities, initiatives,

monitoring and evaluation frameworks that would embed accountability within the EAC".¹⁶⁴ However, it is unclear how this has been rectified with the current policy framework.

Focus on WPS Agenda: Not all Member States have committed to developing action plans. For instance IGAD, respondents highlighted that focus in the region revolved around women, peace and security, which aligns with the AUC and United Nation's commitment in the region. However, not all the IGAD Member States have committed to developing action plans. For instance, Ethiopia does not have a NAP as it was not considered a priority due to other overlapping policies. While NAPs on WPS are aligned to UNSCR1325, countries do not have uniform basis for NAPs for EAWG.

Limited Capacity of Staff on Gender and EAWG issues: The RECs note that their staff are stretched compared to the number of countries they need to work with in their regional blocs and support in meeting their obligations. Senior and junior-level ministerial staff at a national level do not often fully understand gender-sensitive budgeting and aspects of EAWG. Moreover, research shows that splits and mergers within the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Welfare, and Gender, and multiple changes in the ministry's leadership compromise the continuity of gender policy and action.

Outdated National Action Plans and Strategies: Most Member States developed NAPs without adequate baseline data, and since the emergence of the GBV Study would need to re-evaluate those plans to incorporate the context and actual data. Respondents also argued that Member States need to update existing laws and policies to align with the Maputo Protocol and other commitments.

¹⁶³ UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP & UNODC. 2015. Essential Services Packages for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. Core Elements and Quality Guidelines

¹⁶⁴ East African Community Gender Policy 2018.

Inaccessibility of Information: Another challenge is the inaccessibility of NAPs on public platforms. SADC can only refer researchers to Member State, even in such situations. Information about national budgets and allocations of resources for EAWG were not publicly available and not shared on request. This makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of any plan and whether the resources provided are sufficient or any monitoring on how those budgets have been spent.

Limited Capacity of Member States: Most Member States are limited in their understanding of GBV and specific roles in effectively handling GBV. For instance, respondents mentioned that most state actors in the Member States focus on implementing activities, projects and programmes and neglect their coordination

role. The gender departments often do not have all the staff they need in order to carry out their functions.

Role of Civil Society: CSOs very active at the level of Member States in advocating for the implementation of the global and regional treaties and the implementation and reporting on campaigns and activities on EAWG. CSOs are also critical voices for ending violence against women and girls at a regional level. They provide services for victims and survivors of VAWG and carry out human rights education, advocacy and public awareness on GBV. All RECs and the AU recognize the role of CSOs in supporting initiatives to EAWG. However, access to key policy spaces is on invitation and it is unclear what mechanism exists to enable regular engagement between RECs and regional CSOs.



CHAPTER 6

Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusion



The conclusion provided is based on the findings from the assessed continental and regional bodies and from case studies. AU Member States have overwhelmingly ratified the global and regional human rights treaties on EAWG. As of June 2022, 98percent of Member States have ratified both the ACHPR and the CRC, 95percent have ratified the CEDAW, 89percent have ratified the ACRWC, 78percent have ratified the Maputo Protocol, 71percent the AYC and 60percent the African Court Protocol. The mapping identified a wide range of actors from continental bodies, RECs, and Member States engaged in addressing EAWG in line with the relevant treaties. Their efforts include the enactment of laws, developing NAPs, high-level advocacy, implementation of programs and campaigns, monitoring and reporting on actions, and programs and campaigns for EAWG.

The RECs, for instance, have shown considerable progress in developing normative frameworks that align with CEDAW, Agenda 2063, UNSCR 1325, the Maputo Protocol and other international and regional frameworks on gender equality and women's and girls' rights. In some instances, like with ECOWAS and SADC, these frameworks are binding on Member States. RECs uniquely offer a platform for coordination and reporting on gains made at national level within their regions. All RECs have the infrastructure in place that focus on gender. However, these structures are often small, less-resourced, with limited capacity to monitor and report on progress on EAWG across Member States.

At national level, AU Member States are at varying stages in addressing EAWG with 34 out of 55 countries having a NAP on EAWG or SGBV, while 22 and 20 Member States have a NAP on Ending FGM and Child Marriage respectively. Many Member States have some framework captured within their Constitution or an actual law or policy on gender, non-discrimination and GBV. For example, the South Africa Constitution

1996 (as amended) contains a bill of rights and while it does not specifically mention VAWG, it does provide in section 12(1)(c) that everyone has a right to freedom from all forms of violence either by public or private sources. In addition, South Africa has a law against SGBV Criminal Law (Sexual Offences & related Matters) amendment Bill Act 32 of 2007. Thirty Member States specifically have violence against women and girls in conflict captured in NAPs on UNSCR1325 on women, peace and security (WPS). While some countries like Tunisia and Angola have adopted their first UNSCR1325 NAP, countries like Nigeria are on their third NAP. However, some plans require updates and reports are not readily accessible publicly. Of the Member States that have a UNSCR1325 NAP, at least 11 of those plans are now outdated and require revisions.

Few strategic cases brought before national courts and regional judicial and quasi-judicial bodies have produced extensive decisions on addressing and holding states accountable for VAWG. For example, the *APDF v Mali* case at the African Court contributes to the progressive jurisprudence on states' obligations to international law where its standards conflict with cultural or religious practices. In *Dorothy Njemanze v Nigeria*, the ECOWAS Court awarded damages against the state for acts of its state security agents which amounted to VAW on the women claimants.

Overall, the extensive efforts put in by the AU, UN, RECs and Members States in addressing the menace of VAWG in Africa is evident in the robust normative frameworks for EAWG at continental, regional and national level. While implementation of the laws and policies are varied across the continent, indeed, some of those actions have yielded positive change, including increased awareness of EAWG and increased reporting on VAWG incidents.

In order to consolidate the gains and maximize resources to deliver impactful change for the greatest number of women and girls in Africa, the AU through the RECs

would need to improve coordination and avoid duplication of efforts. Regular monitoring of states' compliance with their obligations under the treaties they have ratified through streamlined and simplified reporting process would increase commitment and accountability. The AU and its partners should invest in the existing structures at RECs to achieve this. Working with CSOs and relevant gender focal points at a regional and national level would enhance the flow of information. Availability of these online and on each country's government pages would bring about transparency and comparative exchange of good practice and knowledge sharing.

6.2 Recommendations

i. To African Union Member States

Provide the Funds, approve the budgets and invest in resources to EAWG

- The gender equality issue is the least funded in the many Member States. Prioritizing and setting funds aside would increase facilities such as centers to respond to VAWG cases. Member States can pool the resources for the different units in government to increase funding for EAWG. That way, funds are derived from budgetary allocations in existing ministries of health, justice, gender, youth etc. for holistic responses to tackling the scourge. However, clear and committed coordination is critical so one ministry or department would need to be noniated to become the coordinating agency and national focal point on EAWG
 - Increase funding for ministries of gender or women affairs in all Member States to carry out their functions, which complement the additional work they do to address EAWG
 - Increase investment towards SGBV at all levels holistically, so that EAWG
- is captured in the national budgeting processes. This can be done by building the capacity of relevant institutions, teams that have the overall mandate on gender budgeting, facilitating inter-agency exchanges across the different line ministries. This is not only a 'women's ministry' priority. Host budget sessions and include several players when looking at SGBV and interventions to EAWG. For example, the Ministry of Justice, the legislature, the Ministry of Labour could evaluate responses to SGBV and allocate resources for it. Measures would need to be in place to ensure that all partners are well coordinated at a national level and can function as a system.
 - Ensure allocation of adequate resources to finance the delivery and implementation of services to end harmful practices. Learn from successful campaigns, such as in Malawi, where a chief annulled hundreds of child marriages and the constitution was amended to prohibit child marriages¹⁶⁵, or in Senegal where some villages committed to ending FGM law have been resolute in their campaigns to find alternative rites of passage and sources of income for cutters.¹⁶⁶. Both examples show how working with cultural leaders is crucial in convincing communities to eradicate these harmful traditional practices.
 - Integrate issues of EAWG into plans early, clearly and upfront, around building-back and building-up after COVID-19 for Member States and partners.
 - Building on research about the harm of COVID-19 restrictions on women and girls experiencing SGBV, and to identify and invest in addressing these issues in a post COVID-19 framework.
 - Ensure institutions tasked with addressing VAWG in relevant agencies are well resourced to implement the necessary structural changes,

¹⁶⁵ <https://www.heforshe.org/en/ending-child-marriage-malawi>; see also <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/02/24/malawi-amends-constitution-remove-child-marriage-loop-hole>

¹⁶⁶ <https://allafrica.com/stories/201711280464.html>

effectively and for the long-term. For example, ensure that continuous training is provided for police at gender desks, and they get the tools they need to do their job.

- A multisectoral approach should be encouraged and linked to adequate budgetary allocations and finance, to be able to implement and provide prevention and protection services.

Improve Accountability and Co-ordination of processes

- Prioritize which issues to focus on with clear timelines. As we build-up and build-back post Covid-19, be clear on the issues we are to focus on, such as HP and. It is a priority subject to different country's needs or context, and context is important, therefore a strongly and well-articulated need for this is important.
- Prioritize prevention, response in the midst of post-COVID -19 recovery on the continent
- Establish One-stop Centers for supporting and documenting experiences of survivors of SGBV and providing a safe place where they have access to comprehensive services. A survivor needs to report the incident, get medical help, legal advice and support to seek justice.
- Multi-sectoral approach in ending harmful practices at a national level, which includes the National Human rights commissions and statistical bureaus for data and evidence-based planning.
- Local ownership of campaigns to EAWG is key. AU has launched significant campaigns, such as the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage, Continental Initiative to End Female Genital Mutilation – Saleema Initiative, yet there is still resistance based on strongly held cultural and religious beliefs. The involvement of cultural and religious gatekeepers through specific programming to align cultural values with international human rights standards can lead to local ownership and collective

enforcement of policies and laws on EAWG.

- Creating linkages in a holistic manner, including an integrated system, education, health, and the judiciary, with social protection programs (cash and care).
- Develop a cross cutting pilot programme on SGBV integrated into all programs. An example would be the governance, environment, climate change or related poverty reduction.

Domesticate and Implement the Global and Regional Treaties

- Adopt national laws and policies that ensure the safeguarding of women and girls from violence. Ensuring that laws, policies and other measures taken are put into effect and treaties ratified by Member States fully address VAWG and that domestic standards meet the minimum requirement expected in international law.
- Establish a monitoring and follow-up mechanism in the relevant ministry at a national level to coordinate documentation and reporting of interventions.
- Organize an annual review with the legislature and civil society on status of compliance and domestication of international treaties.
- States and RECs should harmonize communication and ways of working to ensure advocacy and campaigns targeting social change carry consistent messaging.
- Regularly update NAPs and laws to reflect current realities and meet agreed milestones.
- In Member States operating a Federalism or dualist system, where ratification of treaties requires another legislative step to become law, more attention is required to ensure the state involves all relevant agencies in domestication as well as uniform application of the laws across the country and not only is specific communes or regions.

ii. *To the African Union Commission (AUC) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)*

Development of policy frameworks and adaptation of global and regional standards

- Develop guides to AU and regional policy and normative frameworks to support Member States on what they can do to further enhance the protection of human rights in their respective countries
- Follow-up on countries yet to ratify relevant treaties to do so and provide periodic support to Member States on domesticating and implementing regional and global commitments. An accountability tool can be incorporated to guide the AU towards Member States that are not enforcing or reporting on these critical areas, as well as provide support to Member States for reporting. There are different levels of reporting by Member States, so any system that harmonizes the reporting would help ease time spent on reporting as well as free time to spend on the actual implementation of laws and policies.
- Deploy effective tracking mechanisms that will help in ensuring all the critical stakeholders and Member States who are implementing commitments to EAWG are able to see their progress, especially on domestication, investigation, ratification, and enforcement of some of these frameworks, in line with international human rights commitments.
- Ensure Member States align national and customary laws against harmful practices through analysis and feedback on gaps, developments and good practices.
- Replicate the SADC child marriage law and the GBV model law, at a national level so that a minimum standard is set across the region. Other RECs can also work towards standardizing model laws for their regions. Engage with the continental and regional parliamentary arms, such as the Pan African Parliament, engagement of the SADC parliamentary forum, EAC Parliament, ECOWAS Parliament, to convene high-level commitment meetings on EAWG

to get wider buy in that can influence law making and adaptation at national level.

- RECs should streamline the development and review of their action plans with M&E frameworks on EAWG, SGBV, or GBV and on an annual basis have a session on the margins of the AU summits to hold a comparative session on their regions' compliance with relevant treaties and the status of implementation of initiatives in their regions.

Gender responsive budgeting

- Gender-responsive budgeting at the AUC and REC level for EAWG responses.
- At a national level, AU can lobby for a declaration on financing EAWG (such as the Abuja declaration on health) to get Member States to commit a certain percentage of their budget.
- Encourage governments to share their budgets and costed plans to exhibit areas where national financing of initiatives have led to the successful implementation of schemes aimed at EAWG.
- Allocate resources for capacity building and training on social norms measurement to help frontline practitioners and frontline workers to be able to plan from the onset, the idea, conception, and concept notes; drafting into the development plans and putting in place the right interventions, and indicators that will help them to eventually measure change, as social norms play a huge role in affecting the rights of women and young girls.
- Provide or facilitate training on gender responsive budgeting and other strategic capacity-building initiatives for Member States and stakeholders, including CSOs.

Research and Innovation

- Develop a continental set of indicators for Member States to report on, based on empirical data and the African context.
- Carry out a cross regional study to improve learning and build an understanding of and capacity for implementing partners and governments; to have the capacity to

- advocate for, influence and develop the regional, sub national and programmatic actions and most importantly, budget to end child marriage, which are in line with the international human rights standards. Mapping of the ending of child marriage policies, strategies and plans that are in place – assist the integration and inclusion of plans and activities in the budget.
- Conduct an analysis of national, local government and development partners’ budgets and spending against child marriage policies, strategies and plans, to understand why planned activities are failing when not integrated with national budgets.
 - Develop a cross cutting pilot program on SGBV integrated into all our programs. For example, the governance, environment, climate change or related poverty reduction, also to make sure that all programs being implemented should integrate a dimension on SGBV.
 - Engage cultural and traditional leaders: There is need to increase engagement with cultural and traditional leaders’ gatekeepers such as cultural and traditional leaders to advocate support for EAWG. For example, the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) initiative¹⁶⁷, which involves traditional rulers in the initiative and means best practice is used in engagement to change cultural and societal norms and values.

Support Civil Society Engagement and Advocacy

- Support to regional CSOs for capacity building of women and girls’ groups to hold duty bearers accountable and in making demands of States.
- Strengthen the capacity of civil society to critically engage in advocacy and influencing Member States – at a national, regional and global levels.
- Create an enabling environment and opportunity for strategic regional advocacy on GBV for RECS and Member

- States to engage effectively during AU and REC summits, dialogues and meetings.
- Improve collaborations and strategic engagement with CSOs at regional levels to ensure the mechanisms work for establishing relationships and connectivity between the RECs, Member States and CSOs.

iii. To International donors and partners

- Engage AUC and RECs – advocate, build and strengthen their capacity to influence Member States.
- Ensure that programs funded by partners are integrated at a national level for sustainability. Create models that are suitable for countries in Africa, are cost effective, and flexible.
- Support a coordinating mechanism for reporting on EAWG at a regional level with each of the RECS. This will also fill the gap in terms of staffing, resourcing and finance for regional initiatives, M&E and reporting.

iv. To Regional and National Civil Society Organizations

- Build capacity of young women and men at national and local levels to engage duty bearers on the development of policies and ensure adequate budgetary provisions for implementation.
- Support and strengthen government interventions by building capacity of government staff in the ministries of health, education, justice and law enforcement to understand policies on EAWG.
- Support with evidence-based research and reports that show gaps and progress in interventions addressing EAWG.
- Continued advocacy to targeted stakeholders at national and community levels on EAWG. The advocacy will encourage countries’ efforts to domesticate and implement regional and national strategies to end violence against women and girls.

¹⁶⁷ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/commitment-of-the-council-of-traditional-leaders-of-africa>

Appendix

a. *List of International and Regional Treaties*

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), 1981
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) 1990
- African Youth Charter (AYC) 2006
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2007
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) 2003
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) 1998
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development, 2008
- United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 on Women Peace and Security
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III), 1948

RECs Policy frameworks

- ECCAS. 2018. Plan D'action Regional De La Ceeac Pour La Mise En Œuvre De La Resolution 1325 Du Conseil De Securite Et Des Resolutions Connexes Sur Les Femmes, La Paix Et La Securite
- ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) for the Women, Peace and Security Component, (2017 – 2020)
- ECOWAS Plans of Action for the 15 Components of the ECOWAS Conflict

- Prevention Framework, (2018 – 2020)
- ECOWAS Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), Guidelines on Women, Peace and Security. December 2020
- ECOWAS Gender Policy, 2004
- Southern African Development Community SADC. Regional Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security 2018 – 2022

b. *Bibliography*

Reports, Books, Papers and Articles

- African Union Commission. 2015. Agenda 2063 The Africa We Want. Framework Document
- African Union Commission, African Common Position on the AU Campaign To End Child Marriage In Africa
- African Union Commission. 2018. Marriage laws in Africa: A Compendium from 55 African Union Member States.
- African Union Commission. 2015. The Effects of Traditional and Religious Practices of Child Marriage on Africa's Socio-Economic Development A Review of Research, Reports and Toolkits from Africa
- African Union Commission Report on The Implementation of The Women Peace and Security Agenda in Africa (October 2019)
- African Union Commission. 2019. African Union Continental Results Framework. The Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security of The Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- African Union Commission, Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security of AUC, Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Africa (2016)
- African Union Commission. 2016. Report on Status of Implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of

- Women in Africa.
- African Union Commission and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade/Manatū Aorere. 2021. African Union Handbook 2021: A Guide for those working with and within the African Union.
 - African Union Commission et al. 2020. Policy Paper on Gender-Based Violence in Africa During the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Esho, T., Matanda, D.J., Abuya, T. et al. The perceived effects of COVID-19 pandemic on female genital mutilation/ cutting and child or forced marriages Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Senegal. *BMC Public Health* **22**, 601 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-22-13043-w>
 - Flora Alohan Onomrerhinor, A Re-Examination of the Requirement of Domestication of Treaties in Nigeria. Nnamdi Azikiwe University Journal of International Law and Jurisprudence NAUJILJ 2016 print ISSN: 2276-7371
 - Girls Not Brides. Ending Child Marriage in Africa: A brief by Girls not Brides <https://fecongd.org/pdf/crianca/Child-marriage-in-Africa.pdf>
 - Great Lakes Region of Africa. Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Resolution 1325 (2000). 2018 - 2023
 - Lodenstein, Elsbet & Van eerdewijk, Anouka & Kamunyu, Mariam & Visser, Marlies. (2019). The State of African Women/The East African Community (EAC) Regional Report.
 - Ojigho, Osai. (2020). Chapter 2 Litigating Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination -The Dorothy Njemanze Case " in Litigating the Maputo Protocol - A Compendium of Strategies and Approaches for Defending the Rights of Women and Girls in Africa (2020) Equality Now.
 - Oxfam GB. 2014. Implementing the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa: Analysing the Compliance of Kenya's Legal Framework
 - Oyekunle A, Ralph-Opara U, Agada P and Hawkins K (2021) Impact of COVID-19 response on women with disabilities in Lagos State, Nigeria. Evidence Download, Gender and COVID-19 Project
 - Plan D'action National Pour L'implication Des Femmes Égyptiennes Dans Resolution Des Conflits Et La Consolidation De La Paix : Strategies De Mise En Œuvre Des Resolutions 1325 Et 1820 Du Conseil De Securite Des Nations Unies
 - Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance. 2020. SADC Gender Protocol Barometer 2020. #VoiceandChoice in the time of COVID-19.
 - UNICEF & UNFPA. (2018). Child Marriage: A Mapping of Programmes and Partners in Twelve Countries in East and Southern Africa
 - UNICEF. 2018. Child Marriage in West and Central Africa; At a glance
 - UNICEF, 2014. The State of the World's Children 2015: Reimagine the future
 - UN Women. 2018. Multi-Country Analytical Study of Legislation, Policies, Interventions and Cultural Practices on Child Marriage in Africa
 - UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP & UNODC. 2015. Essential Services Packages for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. Core Elements and Quality Guidelines
 - UN Women & Sightsavers. 2021. 'No One is Listening'. Experiences of Women with Disabilities in Nigeria during COVID-19.
 - UN Women, Handbook For National Action Plans On Violence Against Women <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/handbook-for-nap-on-vaw.pdf>
 - UNFPA, Morocco Country programme document (CPD) UNFPA, 6 June 2022, p.2: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/board-documents/main-document/DP.FPA_.CPD_.MAR_.10%20-%20Morocco%20CPD%20-%20DRAFT%20Final%20-%2006Jun22.pdf
 - USAID & Evidence to Action. 2020. Strengthening the Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria. Technical Report; E2A Project.
 - Van eerdewijk, Anouka & Lodenstein, Elsbet & Kamunyu, Mariam & Sow,

Rainatou & Nyrinkindi, Laura & Visser, Marlies. (2018). *The State of the African Woman Report - Key Findings*.

State Reports and Plans

- Angola (2018): 6th Periodic Report, 2011-2016 to the ACHPR.
- Burundi (2015). Fifth and sixth periodic reports of Burundi to CEDAW, (CEDAW/C/BDI/5-6)
- Burundi (2011). Burundi: 2nd Periodic Report, 2002-2010 to the ACHPR
- Central African Republic. National Action Plan for the Implementation of Resolution 1325 of the Security Council of the United Nations Women, Peace and Security 2014 – 2016
- Gambia. (2012). The Republic of the Gambia National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
- Guinea-Bissau (2010). National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
- Kenya (2021). Republic of Kenya Combined report of the 12th and 13th periodic reports, 2015-2021 to the ACHPR
- Nigeria (2018) Federal Republic of Nigeria: 6th Periodic Report, 2015-2016 to ACHPR
- Senegal. République du Sénégal. Plan D'action National Mise En Œuvre Au Senegal De La Resolution 1325 (2000) Du Conseil De Securite Des Nations Unies
- South Africa (2015). South Africa: 2nd Periodic Report, 2003-2014 to the ACHPR
- South Africa (2020). Republic of South Africa National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security – 2020 to 2025
- South Africa. 2020. Republic of South Africa National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence & Femicide Human Dignity and Healing, Safety, Freedom & Equality in Our Lifetime.
- Sudan. Republic of the Sudan National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security 2020 – 2022

Cases

- Dr. Tatu Kamau v Attorney General & 2 others; Equality Now & 9 others (Interested Parties); Katiba Institute & another (Amicus Curiae), Constitutional Petition no. 244 of 2019 [2021] KEHC 450 (KLR). Available: <https://www.kelinkeny.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Ruling-on-case-challenging-the-constitutional-validity-of-the-prohibition-of-Female-Genital-Mutilation-AntThe-Anti-FGM-Act.pdf>;
- Dorothy Njemanze and three others v. Nigeria [ECOWAS Court] suit ECW/CJ/APP/17/14; Judgment no: ECW/CCJ/JUD/08/17
- Association Pour Le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes Maliennes (APDF) And the Institute for Human Rights And Development In Africa (IHRDA) v. Republic Of Mali [African Court] Application 046/2016
- Egyptian Initiative for Personal and Interights v. Egypt, ACHPR Communication No. 323/06 (2011)

Others

- Equality Now, “Kenya’s High Court Declares Anti-FGM Law Is Constitutional: Jubilant Day For Girls And Women In Kenya.” 17 March 2021, https://www.equalitynow.org/press_release/kenya_fgm_case_response_2021/#:~:text=NAIROBI%2C%20Kenya%2C%20March%2017%20%E2%80%93,to%20protection%20against%20harmful%20practices.
- Global GLOW team, COVID-19 and the Rise of FGM in Kenya (6 May 2021): <https://globalgirlsglow.org/covid-19-and-the-rise-of-fgm-in-kenya/>
- Leila Fadel, “Egyptian Doctor Found Guilty Of Female Genital Mutilation Isn't In Jail” NPR, 11 December 2015: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsofa/2015/12/11/459238614/why-the-egyptian-doctor-found-guilty-of-female-genital-mutilation-isnt-in-jail>

Websites

- <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/nap-overview/>
- <http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPRiCAqhKb7yhsialUb%2BZGftp59yZHGEX789zBEgMcH5uVNhbPJ0JEhk585B7SQxxco3ACwMVjwQa3k%2FxsRk2Tpa%2FY5dogPVIaupWnVjcr4TJWz4eTeJ3h0%2Bk>
- http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/ProtectionAgainstDomesticViolenceAct_2015.pdf
- http://www.africanchildforum.org/clr/Status%20Table/African_Regional_Instruments.html
- http://www.servicos.minjusdh.gov.ao/files/global/brochura-direitos-da-mulher_1524059494.pdf#:~:text=No%20C3%A2mbito%20do%20Sistema%20Africano%2C%20Angola%20Ratificou%20a,da%20Assembleia%20Nacional%20n%C2%BA25%2F07%2C%20de%2025%20de%20Junho.
- <http://www.servicos.minjusdh.gov.ao/files/publicacoes/brochuras/cartaaficana.pdf>
- <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/commitment-of-the-council-of-traditional-leaders-of-africa>
- <https://allafrica.com/stories/201711280464.html>
- <https://atlas.girlsnotbrides.org/map/>
- <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20180129/high-level-consultation-ratification-maputo-protocol;>
- <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20211125/african-union-legal-frameworks-aim-break-cycle-violence-against-women-and>
- <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20211125/african-union-legal-frameworks-aim-break-cycle-violence-against-women-and>
- <https://au.int/es/node/41932>
- <https://borgenproject.org/7-facts-about-child-marriage-in-africa/>
- <https://botswana.unfpa.org/en/news/botswana-still-sign-african-youth-charter>
- https://www.equalitynow.org/news_and_insights/maputo_protocol_turns_18/
- <https://egyptindependent.com/egypt-cancels-reservations-african-child-rights-charter/>
- <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>
- <https://fecong.org/pdf/crianca/Child-marriage-in-Africa.pdf>
- <https://femnet.org/beijing+25/beijing-25-national-reports/>
- <https://gender.go.ke/gok-un-joint-program/>
- <https://home.creaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SGBV-POLICY-Meru-County.pdf>
- <https://igad.int/divisions/agriculture-and-environment/2921-ending-violence-against-women-in-the-agriculture-environment-and-natural-resources-sector-in-the-igad-region>
- <https://igad.int/documents/33-igad-state-of-the-region-report-popular-version/file>
- <https://kenya.unfpa.org/en/news/presidential-commitment-end-female-genital-mutilation-2022>
- <https://nigeria.unfpa.org/en/news/spotlight-initiative-hosts-virtual-round-table-conference-traditional-and-religious-leaders>
- <https://nigeriahealthwatch.com/spotlight-initiative-tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-nigeria-through-surveillance/>
- <https://preventgbvafrica.org/member-directory/>
- <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/special-rapporteur-on-rights-of-women-in-africa-presentation-for-csw-implementation.pdf>
- <https://seureservercdn.net/160.153.138.219/rz7.4a5.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/new-SARCs-directory.pdf>
- <https://sudantribune.com/article258026/>

- https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fBDI%2f5-6&Lang=en
- <https://thisisafrica.me/politics-and-society/kenyas-first-specialised-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-court/>
- https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&clang=_en
- <https://wlce.co.za/jezile-v-the-state/>
- <https://www.28toomany.org/continent/africa/>
- <https://www.acerwc.africa/ratifications-table/>
- <https://www.achpr.org/states/statereport?id=135>
- <https://www.african-court.org/wpafc/the-republic-of-guinea-bissau-becomes-the-eighth-country-to-deposit-a-declaration-under-article-346-of-the-protocol-establishing-the-court/>; <https://www.african-court.org/wpafc/democratic-republic-of-congo-ratifies-the-protocol-on-the-establishment-of-the-african-court-on-human-and-peoples-rights/>
- <https://www.eac.int/gender/gbv/gbv-and-covid-19>
- https://www.eacj.org/?page_id=19
- <https://www.ecowas.int>
- https://www.equalitynow.org/fgm_in_africa/
- https://www.equalitynow.org/news_and_insights/maputo_protocol_turns_18/
- <https://www.fcg.fi/en/projects/mapping-synergies-maputo-protocol>
- https://www.genderandcovid-19.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PAC00497_Gender-Covid-19-Gender-Response-Lagos-Brief-1.pdf
- <https://www.genderinkenya.org/news/kenya-launches-long-awaited-national-policy-on-gender-and-development/>
- <https://www.globalpartnership.org/blog/effects-covid-pandemic-girls-education>
- https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202103/south-african-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security.pdf
- <https://www.heforshe.org/en/ending-child-marriage-malawi>
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/02/24/malawi-amends-constitution-remove-child-marriage-loophole>
- <https://www.icirnigeria.org/hall-of-shame-23-states-yet-to-pass-anti-rape-law-majority-are-from-the-north/>
- <https://www.justice.gov.za/vg/gbv/NSP-GBVF-FINAL-DOC-04-05.pdf>
- <https://www.justiceinitiative.org/publications/east-african-court-justice>
- <https://www.justice-security.ng/her-story-our-story>
- <https://www.justice-security.ng/register-launched-sexual-offenders-and-service-providers>
- <https://www.mewc.org/index.php/gender-issues/human-rights-of-women/11592-sudan-cabinet-approves-cedaw-maputo-protocol-ratification>.
- <https://www.mewc.org/index.php/gender-issues/human-rights-of-women/11592-sudan-cabinet-approves-cedaw-maputo-protocol-ratification>.
- <https://www.one.org/africa/blog/invisible-pandemic-gender-based-violence/>
- <https://www.one.org/africa/blog/invisible-pandemic-gender-based-violence/>
- <https://www.partnersnigeria.org/vapp-tracker/>
- <https://www.pathfinder.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/E2A-Nigeria-SGBV-Report-2020.pdf>
- <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-africa-fgm-lawmaking-idUSKCN1LT2OQ>
- <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2020/07>
- <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/fr/node/44676>
- <https://www.svri.org/documents/svri-resources?link-section=2020-2019>
- <https://www.thecable.ng/qa-rape-from-the-standpoint-of-current-laws-in->

a. *List of Participants at Virtual Regional Validation Workshop*

Domestication and Enforcement of Human Rights Instruments and Development and Implementation of National Action Plans on EVAWG took place on 26 May 2022 on Zoom.

A virtual regional validation workshop of the Regional Evidence-Based Mapping and Assessment Report on the Status of

No	Name	Organization
1.	Adèle Nyake Maka	Ministère de la Justice-Cameroon
2.	Amal Tawfik	The national council for women
3.	Amina Farah	IGAD
4.	Anne Khisa	African Population and Health Research Center
5.	Anthony's Ajayi	African Population and Health Research Center
6.	Awotash Tefera	IGAD
7.	Azmera Kassahun	UN Women
8.	Azouz Attaoui	MSISF
9.	Bernadette Françoise Bekono	Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la famille-Cameroon
10.	Betelhem Mengistu	UNDP RSCA
11.	Beza Nardos	UNDP RSCA
12.	Cleopatra Hurungo	UNDP RSCA
13.	Doreen Olembo	Equality Now
14.	Enna Koskelo	IGAD
15.	Esther Waweru	Equality Now
16.	Faiza Mohamed	Equality Now
17.	George Odwe	Population Council
18.	Germain Ntawuyamara	Ministry of Justice-Burundi

No	Name	Organization
19.	Gicuku Karugu	Equality Now
20.	Glory Chagama	EANNASO
21.	Hanen Benzarti	Ministère de la Famille, de la Femme, de l'Enfance et des Personnes Agées-Tunisia
22.	Iheoma Obibi	MyLid company
23.	Ivy Chimedza	WLSA
24.	Jane Mangwana	African Population and Health Research Center
25.	Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie	African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights
26.	Jill Anami	FEMNET
27.	John Ede	Ohaha Family Foundation
28.	Joseph Mbirizi	UNICEF
29.	Julius Otim	SIARP Program coordination unit
30.	Lindiwe Ngwenya	AUC
31.	M Bangha	African Population and Health Research Center
32.	Maame Darkwaa Twum Barima	Strategic Initiative for women in the Horn of Africa
33.	Marie Claire Nishimwe	UNDP
34.	Marritt Claassens	Partners in Sexual Health
35.	Mercy Jelimo	CREAW
36.	Naomi Mwangi	Equality Now
37.	Nneoma Albert-Benson	CSRRG
38.	Odette Kabaya	UNDP RSCA
39.	Onesmus Kalama	EANNASO
40.	Osai Ojigbo	MyLid company

No	Name	Organization
41.	Peter Mokwe	ECOWAS
42.	Sandrine Koissy-Kpein	UNDP
43.	Sandrine Mwiliriza	Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Ethiopia/Djibouti and Permanent Mission to AU and UNECA
44.	Sarah Wambui	Equality Now
45.	Sherine Athero	African Population and Health Research Center
46.	Sonia Zekri Aamira	Observatoire nationale pour la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femme-Tunisia
47.	Tabu Jimmy	UNDP RSCA
48.	Tatenda Zvobgo	UNDP RSCA
49.	Thato Gwangwa	Botswana Embassy-Ethiopia
50.	Thelma Tash	Initiative for Gender Equality and Development in Africa
51.	Tsion Bergano	African Union Commission, OLC
52.	Valentine Nguetche Konlak	Women's Advocacy and Communication Network (WANET)

