

*“Peace is never a political  
treaty that is signed  
between a couple of men”*



## WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS OF UN PEACEKEEPING IN 2022



**United  
Nations**

This report showcases strategies and progress made by UN Peacekeeping on the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping priorities on Women, Peace, and Security to:

- a) ensure full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of the peace and political processes.
- b) systematically integrate a gender perspective into all stages of analysis, planning, implementation and reporting.

Updates on women in peacekeeping are found on <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/women-peacekeeping>

FRONT PAGE QUOTE: By Meltem Burak from Cyprus, a Youth Activist and Founder of the Sesta Podcast, speaking in the Seeking Peace podcast.

FRONT PAGE PHOTO: Women participate in the inauguration ceremony of the Songho and Yawakanda bridges in Mali in December 2022. The bridges, which were rebuilt by MINUSMA, are of capital importance for the movement of people and goods contributing to the wellbeing of women, men, girls and boys.

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## FOREWORD

The Annual Report by the Department of Peace Operations on Women, Peace and Security provides a timely opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of 2022 and on the way forward. The past year once again presented significant challenges to peace and security, which place us at a crossroad when it comes to gender equality and women's rights. As a result of the pandemic, we risk losing hard-won progress made in advancing gender equality and risk continuing on the same path. In most conflict-affected countries, *'men hold power, women are structurally or directly excluded, and women's rights and freedoms are deliberately targeted,'* as the Secretary-General stated in his [latest report on Women, Peace and Security](#).

Our peacekeeping missions operate in some of the most challenging environments in the world. These challenges include, among others, prevalent sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, and an under-recognition of the role of women as decision makers and peacebuilders. With every day and year that pass without systematically transforming this status quo for women, our chances of creating the conditions for political solutions and sustainable peace are reduced.

Against this background, advancing women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in all peace and political processes and making our work more gender-responsive is a political imperative for UN Peacekeeping. It is also essential as a way of making our work effective. As this report shows, peacekeepers in all areas and at all levels – be they military, police, or civilian – work tirelessly to implement these priorities. I am incredibly proud of their work.

Having dynamic and meaningful partnerships, especially with women leaders, activists, organizations, and networks, is central to our work. I have witnessed firsthand their powerful and impactful results and I have had inspiring exchanges with diverse women leaders in many contexts. I will continue to engage with them and promote their voices.

Going forward, the Department of Peace Operations will continue to boost implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda through the Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiative. We are also reviewing the [Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Policy](#). This review provides us with an opportunity to assess our accomplishments as we determine our priorities going forward. In partnership with others, we will work to ensure that women and girls will be at the center of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace.

Advancing women's rights is inherently linked to peace and security. We cannot afford to backtrack. We must instead press ahead and redouble our efforts to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

**Jean-Pierre Lacroix**

**Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peace Operations**



During a visit in November 2022, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and the UN Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, Courtney Rattray, met women leaders in Juba, South Sudan to discuss their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making and the country's political landscape.

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# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY: A POLITICAL PRIORITY

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Advancing women's participation in peace and security and integrating gender in peacekeeping is a political imperative for the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), as acknowledged in the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. UN senior leadership engaged with women leaders and organizations throughout the year, listening to their concerns and analyses and promoting their voices. Strategic political spaces for women to influence the work of the Department and mission mandate implementation were created through high-level events and bilateral meetings.

In October, DPO and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in partnership with the Permanent Representations of Canada, Ecuador, Germany, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States to the UN in New York, and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security hosted a high-level leadership dialogue to explore new pathways and strengthen accountability to advance the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in shared peacekeeping and humanitarian contexts. In the event, UN senior leadership from headquarters and missions exchanged with women civil society leaders. A series of recommendations on how to strengthen and ensure women's participation in peace, political, and humanitarian processes were outlined, which DPO is taking forward within the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping Plus plan and other frameworks.

Furthermore, women leaders and organizations across UN peacekeeping contexts continued to advocate for women's rights and participation through engagements with UN senior leadership. Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, USG Lacroix, as well as the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Head of Missions and Force Commanders engaged regularly with women leaders in



From the right: Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Heli Uusikyla and Mama Koité Doumbia participate in a panel discussion, moderated by Carla Koppell. The other panelists, Lizbeth Cullity, Sara Beysolow Nyanti and Anny Modi, joined virtually.

Abyei, Central African Republic (CAR), Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Lebanon, Mali, and South Sudan.

USG Lacroix prioritized meeting with women leaders during field missions in Abyei, Central African Republic, Mali, and South Sudan. In these meetings, women leaders have had the chance to provide their analysis of the political and security situation, share protection concerns related especially to women and girls, and give recommendations on efforts to enhance women's meaningful participation.

At the mission level, senior leadership engaged with women leaders through collaborative platforms. In MINUSCA, the Special Representative initiated regular exchanges with women leaders when she took office in February 2022. A series of round tables were held on the electoral process to discuss ways of increasing women's participation, with a focus on protection and the revision of the electoral law. Following up on the recommendations made, the SRSG used good offices to make a plea at the National Assembly in relation to the electoral law.

1. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).





The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Central African Republic, Valentine Rugwabiza, during interactive discussions with women leaders, representatives of various women's organisations, and associations.

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MONUSCO also continued its advocacy efforts to further women's meaningful participation in peace and political processes. As part of her regular engagements with Congolese women leaders, the Special Representative held meetings with women leaders from the Ituri and North Kivu provinces and with members of the African Women Leaders Network in Kinshasa, to discuss issues of peace and security, and women's political participation in the context of the revision of the electoral law.

In Mali and South Sudan, quarterly meetings between the Special Representatives and civil society organizations, including women-led CSOs, were held. In South Sudan, one of the outcomes was the use of good offices to advocate for increasing women's appointment into the peace agreement (Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, R-ARCSS).

Several missions also convened high-level events and engagements on WPS during the year. In Abyei, the Force Commander exchanged with local women leaders when commemorating the 22nd anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in October. This event offered a space for women to voice their concerns and highlight their specific roles and contributions to peace and security

in Abyei. Similarly in Kosovo, the Global Open Day was celebrated in June under the theme "Breaking Barriers and Building Peace: Advancing women's participation in political processes", with high-level participants including the Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, and UNMIK SRSG. In Lebanon, UNIFIL created space for civil society organizations, local women in Southern cities of Marjayoun, Bint Jbeil and Tyre to share their recommendations on how to support women through the multi-faceted crisis in the country with UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander.

Other public engagements on women's rights included, for example, the participation of UNMIK SRSG in a public protest following two femicide cases in Kosovo. The multi-stakeholder Security and Gender Group, which UNMIK is a member of, issued a statement condemning the crimes and calling on local authorities to deal with and prevent such cases.



UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander Major General Aroldo Lázaró meets with women from South Lebanon during the Open Day on Women, Peace and Security in Lebanon, organized by UNIFIL.

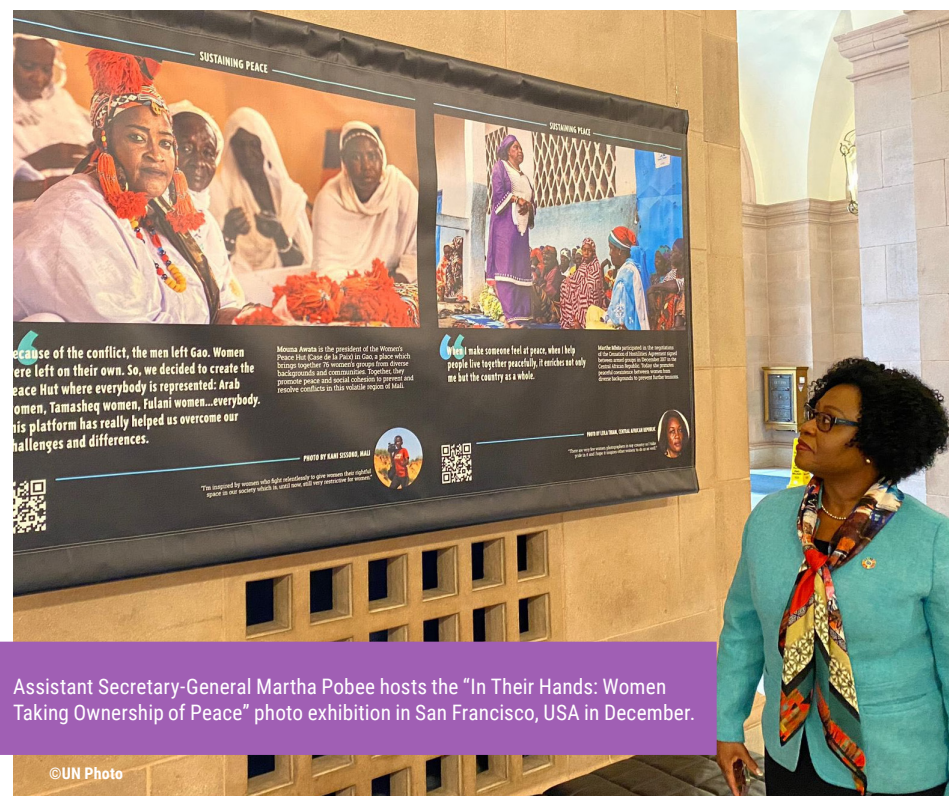
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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AS AN ADVOCACY TOOL

DPO continued to combine advocacy efforts with innovative strategic communications campaigns to elevate the voices of women leaders in peacekeeping contexts.

The “[In Their Hands: Women Taking Ownership of Peace](#)” public photo exhibition, developed in 2021 in partnership with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), UN Women and New York City’s iconic Photoville festival, continued to tour in 2022. The exhibition features 14 women peacemakers and peacebuilders in the contexts of peace operations through the eyes of women photographers. The exhibition has been hosted by UN senior leadership and been seen by over half a million decision-makers, citizens and activists in Kenya, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, USA (New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco), Mali, South Sudan, and at the World Expo in the United Arab Emirates.



In October, the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, DPO and Our Secure Future launched a five-episode podcast series. The third season of the [Seeking Peace](#) podcast portrayed the voices of women peacebuilders, peacemakers, and peacekeepers in conflict-affected countries to advocate for their full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace and political processes in peacekeeping settings. The interviewees in the podcast included mediators, activists, politicians, journalists, and women in uniform working in, among others, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cyprus, South Sudan, and Kosovo. The podcast also included interviews of UN leadership, experts, and researchers in the field. According to the metrics, by the end of December 2022 the podcast had reached over 6,000 listeners in 155 countries around the world. Listen Notes ranked Seeking Peace in the top two per cent of podcasts around the globe.

Social media communications on WPS continued to share positive stories and critical data and to elevate women's voices throughout the year, with a specific focus on the Security Council Open Debate on WPS in October. Missions promoted WPS actively in their communications, for example in [MINUSMA](#), [UNFICYP](#) and [UNMISS](#). In DRC, Radio Okapi continued to encourage women audiences to follow the morning news with the main political program presented by a woman.



*"First of all, it's a human right.  
So every individual – man or woman –  
has the right to participate in  
the public affairs of his or her country."*

-Mireille Laurier Affa'a Mindzie  
Senior Gender Advisor, MONUSCO



# ENHANCING WOMEN'S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

## WOMEN NEGOTIATING PEACE AND MONITORING PEACE AGREEMENTS

Women's participation in formal peace processes remains low globally. In peacekeeping contexts, missions continued to support the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in negotiating peace and monitoring peace agreements.

In Mali, women's participation in peace and political processes increased with MINUSMA's strong support. On 2 September, the Monitoring Committee of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement (CSA) officially announced the appointment of 15 additional women to the monitoring mechanisms of the CSA. Three additional women were appointed to the CSA and 12 to its four thematic sub-committees. This endorsement raised the percentage of women in the CSA from 31 to 38 per cent.

However, in December, the signatory movements suspended their participation in the CSA. The women members of the CSA and of its sub-committees condemned the lack of confidence and political will between the parties to proceed the implementation of the agreement. These women continue to advocate with the parties for the resumption of the work, advocating for a constructive dialogue approach.

MONUSCO facilitated the participation of women representatives in the third round of consultations of the East African Community (EAC)-led process for peace in the Eastern DRC, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya in December. Out of 110 representatives of the civil society and communities from Eastern DRC, 40 per cent were women (up from minimal participation), some of whom were survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

In Cyprus, the "Action Plan on women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the settlement process" was agreed by the Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades, and the Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar in January and launched officially on 13 April under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in the presence of the two leaders. The Technical Committee on Gender Equality, supported by UNFICYP, continued to engage in a constructive manner, including on how to further implement the Action Plan in Cyprus, but with limited progress.



*"We need to understand the relationship between culture and peacebuilding because peace is never a political treaty that's signed between a couple of men."*

-Meltem Burak  
Youth Activist and Founder  
of the Sesta Podcast, Cyprus

Structural and cultural barriers to women's participation remained in most peacekeeping settings, resulting in low participation of women in political processes. Peacekeeping missions continued to address this situation and created opportunities for women to influence key processes. For example, in Central African Republic, women's participation in the Republican Dialogue in March was low, making up only 17 per cent (78 women out of 450 dialogue participants). Women's contribution to the work of the committees was however effective in terms of formulating relevant recommendations for peace, security, and the country's socio-economic recovery. Two women were members of the Dialogue presidium. Following the Final Report of the Republican Dialogue in May, MINUSCA convened women leaders and members of the Women's Coordination for Peace to draft a communication and advocacy plan aimed at strengthening women's role in disseminating the recommendations of the Dialogue and their effective involvement in the monitoring mechanism.



In CAR, MINUSCA convenes women leaders to draft a communication and advocacy plan to strengthen women's role in disseminating the recommendations of the Republican Dialogue and their effective involvement in the monitoring mechanism.

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UNIFIL peacekeepers deliver a training for 22 women from south Lebanon on various negotiation and mediation skills and techniques.

©UNIFIL

## WOMEN BUILDING PEACE AND TRUST IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Women's role in contributing to peace and security at local level in their communities continues to be decisive. Peacekeeping operations support women in these efforts through various measures.

In South Sudan, UNMISS facilitated the participation of women in various local peace initiatives promoting women's meaningful participation in conflict resolution and contributing to reconciliation efforts for peaceful co-existence. Out of 5,127 total participants, 2,102 (41 per cent) were women. As an example, four women are now part of 18 members of the Aweil Jon Border Peace Committee. In the UNMISS-facilitated Western Equatoria State Traditional Leaders Forum, traditional leaders agreed to a minimum of 35 per cent representation of women as traditional chiefs.

In Mali, several projects enhanced women's role in the peace process. The participants of the project "Women peacemakers for the consolidation of peace and living together, for a lasting peace in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti and Taoudéni", testified that the project reinforced their role as actors of social cohesion in their communities.

Among other activities, three radio programs in local languages, led by women, raised awareness of the importance of women's role in the peace process. In another project, 62 community awareness-raising activities focused on the role of women in the peace process were organized in Bamako, the Central regions, Gao, Menaka, and Timbuktu. Approximately 11,682 participants took part in the sensitizations, including an estimated number of 4,000 women (34 per cent).



*“When the armed groups refused to talk to one another, it was the women who came knocking on the door and ensured that they sat together.”*

-Mama Koité Doumbia  
the President of Mali's Women's Platform

In Central African Republic, the number of Local Peace and Reconciliation Committees increased from 55 to 60. Of the 409 members of the committees set up across the country, 143 are women, representing 35 per cent and complying with the representation quota of the Gender Parity Law. In Kaga Bandoro, Bria, Bambari, Bouar, Birao, and Obo, women-led awareness raising campaigns on social cohesion and enhancing women's participation in upcoming local elections, with support from MINUSCA.

In DRC, MONUSCO in collaboration with Ituri provincial authorities, supported women's participation in the implementation of a landmark local peace agreement that resulted from an inter-community dialogue between Bira and Hema communities in Irumu. The mission facilitated the participation of 12 women, out of 72 community leaders and elders. As a result, the two communities agreed to settle all their differences peacefully and drew an action plan to be implemented in Hema and Bira. A 12-member commission, including six traditional chiefs, two women, two youth representatives, and two community leaders, was set up to monitor the implementation of the action plan.

In Lebanon, a UNIFIL Quick Impact Project helped to establish a local women's mediation network in Nabatiyeh Governorate in south Lebanon. A total of 22 women were trained by UNIFIL, in cooperation with UN Women, on various negotiation and mediation skills and techniques. The members of the women's mediation network are now equipped to prevent and manage local conflicts.

To support women's agency and to expand civic space for women, UNISFA commenced monthly consultative meetings on Women, Peace and Security. These consultative meetings engage local women's organizations, including about 100 Ngok Dinka members of Abyei Women Association (AWA) in the southern part of Abyei.

In Cyprus, UNFICYP facilitated 118 virtual and in-person intercommunal initiatives, meetings, and events with women's civil society organizations and informal women's groups, as well as with youth networks and the diplomatic community, to strengthen women's participation at all stages of the peace process and to support intercommunal



trust building on both sides of the divide. These included initiatives that brought Cypriot women from across the island and of all ages together to engage with women peacebuilders from other conflict affected contexts. For instance, workshops were organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Ireland and women mediators from Northern Ireland to support Cypriot civil society to develop skills and tools for trauma-informed peacebuilding.

In addition, UNFICYP helped foster intercommunal cooperation amongst Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot women outside of Nicosia, in the western part of the island. Women's groups from this region participated in a joint excursion, which for many of the women was the first intercommunal interaction.



***“The UN must continue to invest in women’s transformative leadership even if society says no.”***

**-Sara Beysolow Nyanti  
Deputy Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator and  
Humanitarian Coordinator, South Sudan**

## ADVANCING WOMEN’S RIGHTS THROUGH GENDER-RESPONSIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND GOVERNANCE

Peacekeeping missions provided vital support to host governments, women parliamentarians, and women civil society actors in legal reform processes to ensure that gender-responsive provisions are integrated.

In Mali, the United Nations Integrated Electoral Team (UNDP, MINUSMA and UN Women) has been supporting the Government in the preparation for the elections and reforms, with a particular attention to women’s engagement and gender integration in law reforms. MINUSMA provided technical assistance for electoral and institutional reforms, including the recent organization of a high-level inclusive seminar for the development of a roadmap to ensure an effective gender mainstreaming in the electoral process and political and administrative reforms. The mission engaged women leaders during the reform of the electoral law. As a result, some provisions of the new electoral law, especially those pertaining to the majority voting system, should facilitate women’s representation in parliament and compliance with the 2015-052 law on women’s quota. The electoral law stipulates that candidate lists with more than 70 percent men or women are inadmissible.

In South Sudan, UNMISS in cooperation with South Sudan Women Monitoring and Advocacy Group organized a series of gender-responsive governance workshops for women leaders in state-level governments, legislature, and civil society organizations. These workshops helped newly appointed women members of the Revitalized Transitional National Assembly and State Legislative Assembly to strategize on gender-responsive approaches in up-coming legal reform processes such as the constitutional reform.



USG Lacroix visits an Internally Displaced People site in Abyei and witnesses first-hand the dire situation for women who have been displaced by flooding and conflict.

©UNISFA

## ENHANCING PROTECTION FOR WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Protection risks to women and the need for tailored solutions and resources are continuously highlighted as a priority by women leaders and organizations in peacekeeping contexts. Most peacekeepers today serve in missions with mandates that prioritize the protection of civilians, and they play a major role in ensuring that protection measures are taken to enable women's participation.

### Improved security for women through Mixed and Female Engagement Teams

The work of Mixed Engagement Teams and/or Female Engagement Teams (FET) contributed to building trust with communities, especially with women, and improving gender-responsive protection approaches. This work helped to improve the protection of women, to foster conducive environments for women's meaningful engagement in local peace dialogues and initiatives, and to expand women's meaningful participation in political and civic issues.

In Abyei, UNISFA mixed engagement platoons conducted community engagements, including with local women, in conflict-affected and conflict-sensitive villages to strengthen situational awareness and enhance early-warning linked to gender-responsive protection interventions.

In DRC, joint efforts by protection actors including the Force through FETs, UN Police's Specialized Police Team on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, together with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the National Police (PNC), improved the integration of gender perspectives in situation analysis and threat mitigation. In Beni, 167 patrols were conducted by the FETs, 773 mixed patrols, and 591 mixed teams deployed to static locations. This work enhanced women's security situation in the community.

In CAR, MINUSCA deployed FETs in remote areas during and post human rights violations against civilians. The security situation of civilians increased as it was noted that civilians stopped fleeing into the bushes in some areas. Interventions also strengthened women's confidence to engage in the peace process.



*“Women are not victims. We are the anchors of peace in our families, our neighbourhoods and our communities. We are a vital element if South Sudan is to heal the devastation of civil wars and look forward to a brighter, more prosperous future.”*

-Laduma Patricia Egan  
Project Coordinator for Eastern Equatoria's Union  
of Persons with Disabilities,  
and Acting Director, Human Resources,  
at the State Ministry of Education, South Sudan

### **Women informing early warning analysis and protection efforts**

In DRC, MONUSCO continued to improve the protection of men and women by supporting Local Protection Committees (LPCs) to assess and update 15 Community Protection Plans. The Protection Plans identified specific protection actions for women and girls, including the need to sensitize communities on the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence and enhance female participation in Protection of Civilians forums, refer CRSV cases for medical, psychosocial, and legal support given by NGOs and other relevant actors, enhance collaboration between communities and all POC actors, and advocate for the reinforcement of patrols in areas frequented by women such as markets.

In Uvira, South Kivu, MONUSCO organized working sessions with 33 persons, including 24 women, to strengthen the capacities of Local Protection Committees to address concerns on protection of civilians, security, conflicts, and stabilization issues. In Mikenge, the expertise and needs of women and young girls were used to inform the work of the Local Protection Committees. This engagement between LPCs and local women's organizations addressed for instance the question of enhancing the leadership role of women and young girls in local protection mechanisms.

In South Sudan, noting the increased accounts of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in displacement sites and hotspot locations across Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, gender-responsive early warning analysis was utilized to inform the mission response planning. Protection of women and girls was strengthened through ensuring that 2,031 (474 women) representatives of local authorities, government security actors, host and IDP communities, and mission personnel now understand protection from threats of physical violence, including SGBV. With the support of UNMISS, the deployment of Special Protection Unit and Courthouse helped to reduce cases of sexual and gender-based violence in Aweil East County.



## Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence as agents of change

While all UN field missions should prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), four peacekeeping missions have specific Security Council mandates to address it: MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, and UNMISS. Following a survivor-centered approach, the missions engage on preventing and responding to CRSV, while promoting access to services and the empowerment and reintegration of survivors within society. This is presented in more detail in DPO's "Annual Summaries of Activities and Good Practices by Peacekeeping Missions in Preventing and Responding to CRSV".



In Western Equatoria State in South Sudan, UNMISS in partnership with a local NGO Rural Development Action Aid launched the second phase of a project providing critical livelihood support and legal training as well as psychosocial support for nearly 200 CRSV survivors, who were formerly abducted by armed groups. The ongoing project also aims to establish survivors' networks and train them in leadership skills to be able to advocate for their rights as survivors of CRSV.

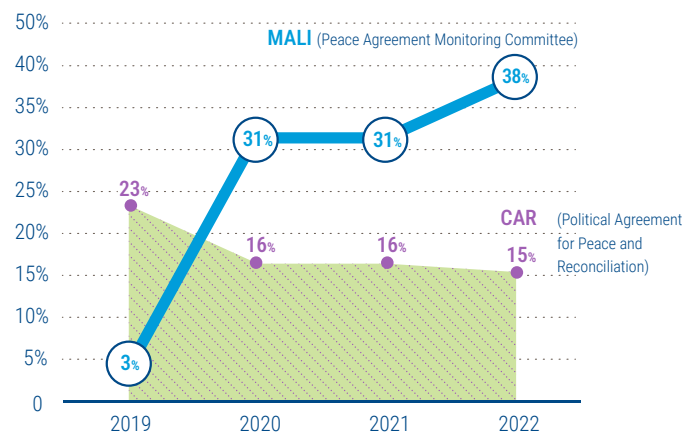
In DRC, MONUSCO supported the development of a draft law on protection and reparation for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and other crimes against peace and security. The draft law aims at promoting gender justice and fostering accountability for survivors in their fight against impunity, recognizing the harm inflicted, and providing support to the survivors in various ways. MONUSCO participated in technical consultations with the Congolese authorities and provided a comprehensive list of suggestions and comments on the draft law to ensure its compliance with international legal standards and to ensure that it forms part of a holistic transitional justice process. The National Assembly approved the draft law on 8 December and the law was promulgated by the head of state on 29 December.

The participation of Congolese women survivors of sexual violence was also enhanced in the third round of consultations of the East African Community (EAC)-led process for peace in the Eastern DRC. The women survivors advocated for their plight with recommendation being made to establish holistic care centres to enhance judicial, medical, psychological, and economic empowerment of survivors in the 17 insecure territories and to establish a network of women peace mediators at the territorial level to advocate for the disarmament of armed groups.

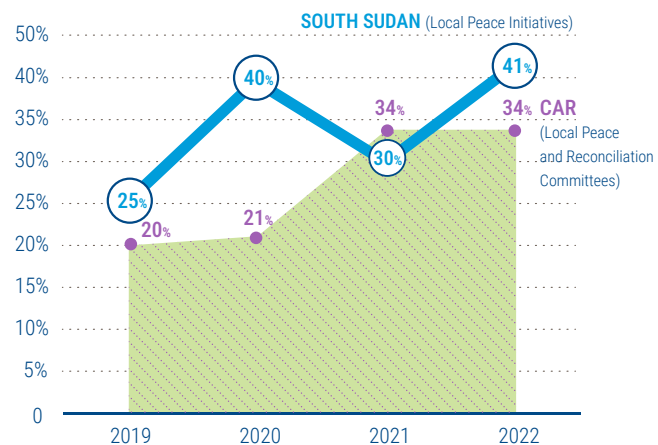
# KEY FACTS: WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN NUMBERS

## WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

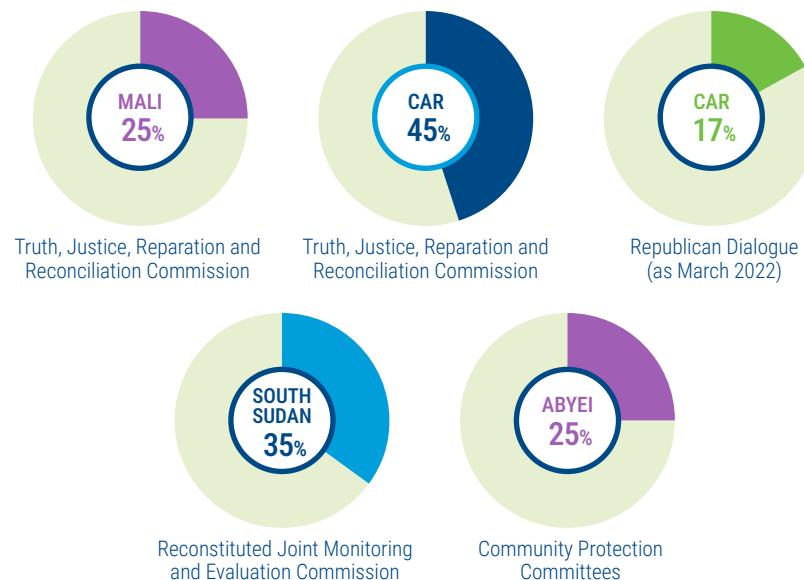
### Women in peace implementation mechanisms at the national level



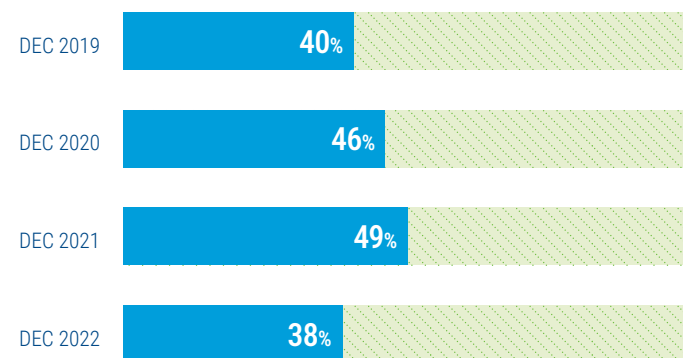
### Women in peace implementation mechanisms at the local level



## WOMEN IN OTHER MECHANISMS



## WOMEN IN EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



# GENDER-RESPONSIVE RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

Multipronged approaches were applied to ensure the integration of gender and WPS in rule of law efforts and supporting the reforms of security institutions, including advocacy measures, training and seminars, and enhancing gendered accountability mechanisms.

## ENHANCING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

Significant strides have been made in advancing norms, policy, guidance, data, and knowledge aimed at gender-responsive Security Sector Reform (SSR). Following the inclusion of a dedicated section on gender in the [2022 Secretary-General Report on SSR \(S/2022/280\)](#), which requested a Report on Gender Equality and the Status of Women in the Defence Sector, a database has been established, including data on the proportion of women serving as Ministers of Defence. The database demonstrates that 13 per cent of Ministers of Defence globally are women, and provides information on existing legal, normative and policy framework on gender equality in the defence sector at global and regional levels.

Furthermore, gender equality is being mainstreamed into the CroSS-Roads framework for UN guidance on different areas of SSR. Efforts have also been made to develop research on gender, including with a new policy brief on how gender-responsive SSR contributes to conflict prevention. Progress has also been made in establishing SSR Standing Capacity in Brindisi, which has proven instrumental for supporting peace operations, Resident Coordinators, country teams and national institutions. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, SSR Standing Capacity expert helped MONUSCO to mobilize resources to ensure gender analysis in the mission transition.



South Sudan's National Security Sector Women's Network was launched on 13<sup>th</sup> May. The network aims to attract more women to join the security sector and to empower female personnel by means of capacity building.

©Isaac Billy/UNMISS

In South Sudan, a national security sector Women's Network was formally established in May under the Ministry of Gender with the support from UNMISS to improve the status of women officers in the security sector by advocating among the highest levels of authority. Furthermore, women's networks were established in the the National Prison Services, the National Wildlife Services, South Sudan Defence Force, and the National Civil Defence Services.

## GENDER-RESPONSIVE JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS SERVICE

In October, MONUSCO organized a gender retreat on the theme "Promotion of Gender in Prisons: Role and Responsibility of Female Prison Staff". A total of 13 recommendations were agreed on which will contribute to more gender integration in Congolese Prison Services. The recommendations will be addressed by the continuing cooperation between the Mission and the Ministry of Justice.



In June, UNMISS supported the third deployment of the Joint Special Mobile Court to Gette, Western Bahr el Ghazal State, to investigate and adjudicate cross border crimes related to the seasonal movement of cattle between Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states. During this deployment, the judgement in five cases were issued, including three in cases of sexual and gender-based violence. The court's ability to rapidly respond to incidents, which had the potential to escalate into cross-border violence, demonstrated the relevance of accountability to mitigating sub-national conflicts and in ending impunity for crimes of SGBV.



*“We have a responsibility to carry the torch and break down the gender stereotypes, prejudices and barriers against women.”*

-Téné Maimouna Zoungana  
Coordinator of the Security Teams  
at the Ngaragba Central Prison, Recipient  
of the United Nations Trailblazer Award for  
Women Justice and Corrections Officers

## UN POLICE ENSURING PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

UN Police (UNPOL) continued to realize effective, efficient, representative, responsive, and accountable police services that serve and protect the population. This was done through analysing threats through assessments, evaluations and research as well as preventing and responding to violence against civilians. For example, UNPOL was part of a United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)-commissioned study on preventing CRSV through arms control, which recommended strengthening CRSV prevention measures through gender-responsive arms control and disarmament efforts.

To enhance the protection of women and girls in vulnerable situations, UNPOL focused on strengthening engagement with civil society and women's rights organizations. In DRC, long-standing community-based partnerships with disabilities-focused organizations improved effectiveness of police services and outreach to disabled women and girls in communities.

In South Sudan, UNMISS UNPOL conducted a large number of various gender-responsive patrols (a total of 16,911), helping to address protection risks for women. These patrols were informed by analysis of threat levels to women based on information collected from the community and intelligence sources.

## WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN MINE ACTION

UNMAS continued to promote a gender-responsive approach in its mine action activities. In DRC, UNMAS MONUSCO delivered tailored training on weapons and ammunition management to women police officers and women working at the National Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the reduction of armed violence (CNC-ALPC).

## DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION PROCESSES

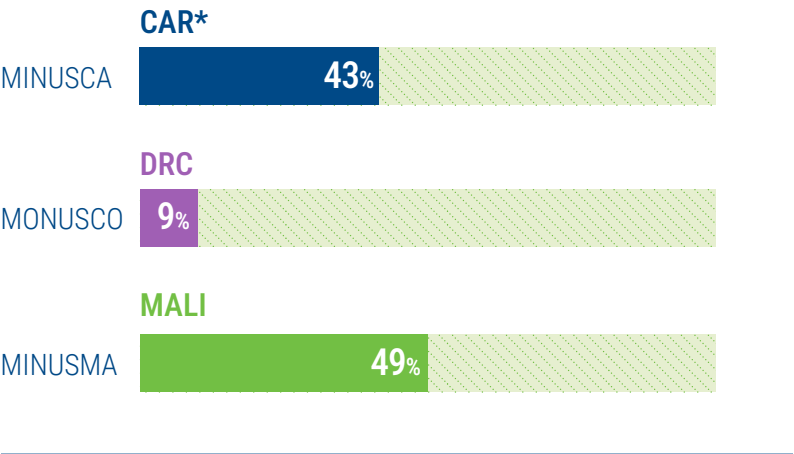
The prioritization of gender integration continued in all work streams, including operations and programmatic activities as well as research and capacity building initiatives. At policy level, gender and WPS considerations have been systematically integrated throughout the revision of the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS). In Mali, MINUSMA's demobilization and reintegration programmes integrated gender aspects. In DRC, 11 transit camps are now equipped with gender-and age-sensitive infrastructure: separate housing and toilets are available to men and women.

### Community Violence Reduction

In Mali, MINUSMA implemented 24 community violence reduction (CVR) projects in the regions of Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, Menaka, and Mopti for approximately 33,522 direct beneficiaries, including 16,856 men and 16,666 women (49 per cent). These projects supported the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process of vulnerable communities and youth at risk through providing temporary employment opportunities to prevent them from being recruited by armed or criminal groups.

In Bunia, DRC, 197 women out of a total of 500 direct beneficiaries (39 per cent) now represent a reliable and available workforce on the local market where solar-based systems are heavily used, after receiving training on the installation and maintenance of solar energy devices. The CVR public solar lighting projects implemented in Bunia, Bule and Jina have contributed to a significant reduction in cases of rape, nighttime violence and banditry facilitated by darkness, the presence of armed groups and unemployment.

## PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN BENEFICIARIES OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROJECTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL



\* Data reflects number of CVR beneficiaries within the 21-22 reporting period (financial year)

# INTEGRATING GENDER IN PEACEKEEPING

## STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF UN PERSONNEL

In 2022, DPO accelerated the systematic integration of WPS in all aspects of peacekeeping through the establishment of a Community of Practice and training initiatives.

A Community of Practice on Women, Peace and Security was established as a collaborative workspace to share information, guidance and learning related to the implementation of the WPS agenda. The Community of Practice now functions as a platform and resource for staff to connect, exchange lessons learned and discuss ways to advance gender equality and WPS commitments in peacekeeping.

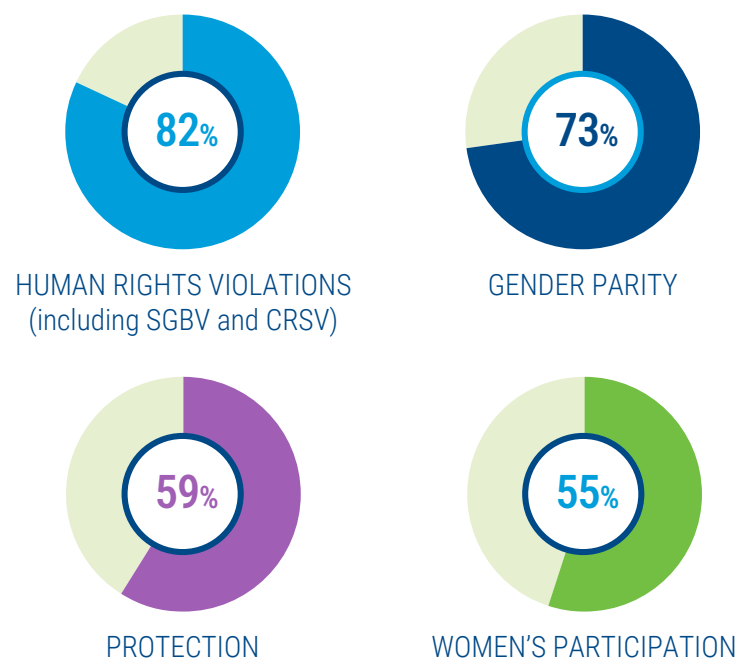
In August, DPO organized a [training on integrating gender and WPS in strategic planning, programming and budgeting processes](#) for 60 peacekeeping staff in HQ and field missions. The training strengthened the knowledge and skills of peacekeepers on how to find the entry points to integrate gender and WPS in strategic planning, programming and budgeting, how to identify gaps, opportunities, and barriers, and use gender markers for evaluation, tracking, and further planning.

## IMPROVING GENDER-RESPONSIVE REPORTING

In the Reports of the Secretary-General (SG) to the Security Council on peacekeeping contexts, DPO continued using gender-disaggregated data to measure progress in the WPS agenda. In 2022, 22 of the 23 reports contained gender information and/or gender-disaggregated data. The thematic area with the highest amount of gender-disaggregated data in the reports was human rights violations (including SGBV and

CRSV), where 18 out of the 22 reports (82 per cent) included this type of data. The second thematic area with the highest amount of gender-disaggregated data is gender parity, with 16 out of 22 reports (75 per cent) containing it.

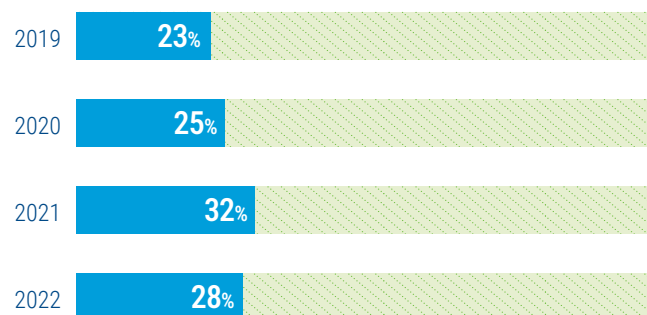
### Use of gender-disaggregated data in SG reports on peacekeeping contexts prepared by DPO



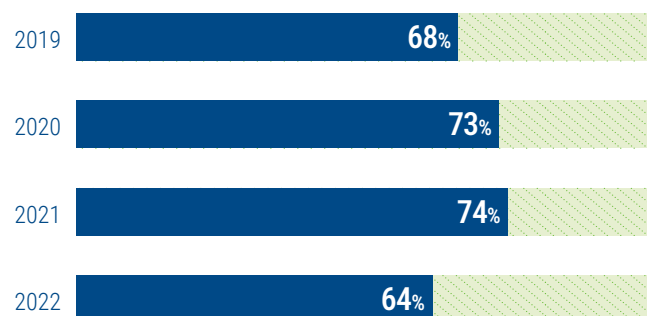
In 2022, the integration of gender analysis in the SG reports on peacekeeping contexts decreased as the number of paragraphs containing gender specific information and data went to 28.38 percent from 31.83 percent in 2021. This also translated into a decrease in the number of reports that include sections specifically targeting WPS and gender specific recommendations.



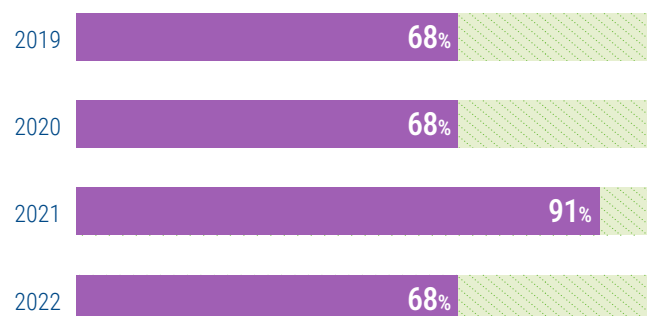
### Percentage of gender specific paragraphs in SG reports on peacekeeping contexts prepared by DPO



### Percentage of SG reports on peacekeeping contexts containing a WPS stand-alone section



### Percentage of SG reports on peacekeeping contexts containing gender specific recommendations



## DATA-DRIVEN APPROACHES AND ANALYSIS

In 2022, eight missions continued to systematically monitor progress, trends, and challenges in the implementation of WPS mandated tasks through specific WPS indicators. Two of these WPS indicators were introduced to the Action for Peacekeeping Plus framework (A4P+), where data reflects the impact of the operations regarding gender as a cross-cutting priority. These interoperability efforts also aim at reducing human and data silos, which further contributes to the systemic integration of gender and WPS in all aspects of peacekeeping.

In addition to that, the reporting showed that by 31 October, 11 out of 12 missions have gender and WPS considerations integrated into planning frameworks and/or the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System (CPAS). To strengthen the positioning of WPS as a political imperative, A4P+ also monitors the integration of WPS and gender-specific considerations in all core priority areas for gender responsive outcomes. The reporting shows that most political strategies have included priorities in relation to women's participation in the peace process, where applicable to the mandate of the mission, either as a guiding principle or integral element of the strategy.

The types of planning frameworks and reporting documents which include gender and WPS considerations vary from mission to mission, as they apply to the context of the areas of responsibility. From the Reports of the Secretary-General, to planning and performance (CPAS), budgeting (RBB - Results-based budgets), and strategic plans (among others, Mission Concepts and Youth, Peace, and Security Strategies), gender is integrated as a priority, and as gender-specific indicators and gender-disaggregated data. One example is MONUSCO's transition plan, in which gender and WPS is integrated in the four priority areas. Missions also have specific plans on gender equality and WPS, such as UNIFIL's WPS Action Plan or MINUSCA's Mission Gender Strategy.

# WAY FORWARD

Throughout peacekeeping mission contexts, violence against women and girls was highlighted by women leaders and organizations as a pressing matter that needs urgent solutions. It is important to understand that protection concerns cannot be used as a reason to prevent participation, but that protection enables participation. UN peacekeeping will continue to collaborate with, consult and support women leaders, activists, organizations, and networks to ensure their meaningful and safe participation in the processes supported by peacekeeping.

When we look at the future of peacekeeping, it is clear that we are facing imminent challenges. Climate crisis exaggerating existing vulnerabilities, mis and disinformation creating difficult environments for peacekeeping. However, there are also possibilities. How can we harness new technologies to support women’s participation? How can we use data to ensure that women’s concerns and priorities are taken into account? As the Secretary-General has noted, women and girls need to be at the center of the New Agenda for Peace.

The Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations policy will be reviewed in 2023. The review process will give us a chance to look at our accomplishments in the previous year as well as our priorities going forward. The review process will include wide consultations with UN staff and non-UN partners, including civil society and women’s organizations.



## GLOSSARY

MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali
MONUSCO	United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNISFA	United Nations Organization Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan

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