



NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND DRIVING CHANGE

Women, Peace and Security Highlights
of UN Peacekeeping in 2023



**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;
- c) increase the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping at all levels and in key positions.

COVER PHOTO

Congolese woman casting her vote in a polling station in Matonge, Kinshasa in December 2023.

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FOREWORD

In 2023, despite many challenges, peacekeepers helped support political solutions to conflict, monitored ceasefires, protected civilians from violence and strengthened the role of women in all peace efforts. They strived to do all this in a gender-responsive manner.

With the rapid spread and intensity of armed conflicts and protracted crises, heavily impacting women and girls worldwide, the call of the Secretary-General to implement the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is more urgent than ever. It is central to our work to achieve long-lasting political solutions and peace.

In the Peacekeeping Ministerial held in Ghana in December 2023 I reaffirmed that WPS is both a political imperative for the Department of Peace Operations and a personal priority. For the first time, a woman civil society leader was invited to participate in the Ministerial to underline the importance of cooperation between women civil society actors and peacekeeping missions.

I have met with inspirational women leaders and changemakers in our peacekeeping contexts. What I'm hearing from them is a three-fold message – that women continue to face complex challenges, that there exists an enormous potential for transformation, and that there is a critical need for resources and political support. We need to ensure that women's organizations have the space and resources to do their crucial work.



Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix joined Ghanaian peacekeepers and Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers patrolling the Blue Line in January 2023.

This Annual Report provides excellent examples of our work on gender equality and WPS. Our missions in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan worked to ensure women's meaningful participation in political processes, including elections. In Abyei and Kosovo, UNISFA and UNMIK took a strong stance on violence against women. In Cyprus and Lebanon, community engagement by the missions strived to ensure that the voices of women, including young women, are heard in decision making. Before its drawdown, the peacekeeping mission in Mali supported women's safety and their meaningful participation in electoral and political processes, peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts.

We also continued to strengthen the meaningful participation of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping and to promote working and living environments that support gender equality. Gender-balanced teams of peacekeepers are key in supporting the delivery of peacekeeping mandates. They add important capabilities in building trust with host communities, improving mission coverage, security and service provision and encouraging diverse and representative host-country security institutions.

WPS and gender equality are priorities throughout the life cycle of a mission – from its inception to its closure. We work in close partnership with other UN entities and Host Governments to ensure gains made on gender equality are not lost. I encourage Member States to continue investing in critical gender architecture.

As we move ahead, our efforts will be guided by the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace. It calls to “*dismantle the patriarchy and oppressive power structures which stand in the way of progress on gender equality or women's full, equal and meaningful participation in political and public life*”. This requires scaling up our gender-responsive approaches – whether these relate to the protection of civilians, to the advancement of stabilization and political processes, to the of monitoring ceasefires or are in our support to regional organizations as part of a more networked multilateralism. Under the Secretary-General's leadership, DPO will work together with Member States to ensure that WPS is front and center in bringing forward the agenda that will be laid out in the Summit of the Future.

Alongside my colleagues across UN Peacekeeping, and through the Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiative, we remain steadfast in our efforts to make women's meaningful participation in peace and political processes a reality, to continue strengthening the gender-responsiveness of our operations and increase the number of women peacekeepers.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix

Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peace Operations

UN PEACEKEEPING ADVANCING THE WPS AGENDA

In 2023, UN peacekeeping operations centralized the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as an imperative for operational effectiveness in fulfilment of mission mandates. Missions employed a multiplicity of approaches in response to their contextual realities in the quest to translate the mandates on WPS into action on the ground. This included encouraging women's participation in all aspects of life while taking into consideration the disproportionate impact of the current conflicts on women and girls.

POSITIVE MASCULINITY EFFORTS AND INCREASED WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL EFFORTS SUPPORT TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN THE DRC

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) explored strategic and innovative approaches to transform patriarchal structures and gender roles by engaging men. Entrenched norms of gender inequality and discrimination against women and girls are among the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in conflict settings. The meaningful participation of women in political and peace processes are measures to minimize risks, including of violence against women.

The mission supported sensitization campaigns promoting positive masculinity through a bottom-up approach that relies on community champions and role models. As women and girls in the DRC are disproportionately affected by SGBV while men and boys are often perpetrators of violence driven by toxic masculinity, involving them as partners is vital. Given their societal roles, men engaged as gender champions can and have demonstrated their ability and willingness to transform their power into positive influence.

Through the sensitization campaigns, men and boys as gender champions now promote respectful manhood, responsible behavior, and non-violence.

Congolese women are increasingly participating in local protection committees and alert networks, strengthening the embedding of gender perspectives in communities affected by conflict. The promotion of women's practical roles in protection mechanisms also helped strengthen collaboration and trust among protection actors. MONUSCO supported capacity building workshops in multiple locations for leaders from civil society organizations, local community structures, national police, armed forces, and intelligence services, with a view to bringing more male allies/gender champions into the fight against SGBV. The broadcasting of radio programs in hotspots and areas with heightened conflict risks in the east of the country have reinforced messages on positive masculinity.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ROLE IN PEACE AND POLITICAL PROCESSES IN ABYEI

In Abyei, good offices and advocacy efforts by the United Nations Organization Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) with the Juba-appointed Administration strengthened women's leadership and meaningful participation in conflict prevention and resolution processes and mechanisms. This strategic advocacy resulted in two women being appointed to ministerial positions in the local administration, making women's representation at 22 per cent. Continuous engagement with traditional and local leaders resulted into women being signatories of the final communique of the Todach inter-communal peace dialogue in March.

To enhance the understanding of priorities for women and their protection, 28 Ngok Dinka women from the four counties of the Abyei took a training on early warning systems and were provided with communication and mobility tools for timely reporting and rapid response. These Early Warning Focal Points are now providing information on the gendered impacts of the situation on the ground.

Joint efforts by military and civilian peacekeepers led to an increase in the number of women enlisted in Community Protection Committees, which were initially male dominated.

UNMIK LEADERSHIP TAKING A STANCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women in Kosovo¹ continue to be subject to high rates of gender-based violence (GBV), notably domestic violence. The trust-building projects of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), implemented by civil society organizations, have focused on supporting GBV survivors, advocating for the provision of sustainable government services for victims, raising awareness on early marriage harms and other forms of violence against women and girls, and promoting tertiary education for economic empowerment.



UNMIK SRSG and personnel walked in solidarity with victims and survivors of gender-based violence in November.

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

In November, UNMIK collaborated with the Ministry of Justice for the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” annual global campaign, organizing more than 80 awareness-raising activities. The launch of the campaign was attended by representatives of Kosovo institutions, civil society, service providers at women’s shelters as well United Nations officials, receiving wide media coverage in Kosovo.

In support of South Mitrovica Municipality, UNMIK continued to help in the construction of a sustainable shelter to safe house GBV survivors as well as at-risk women, girls, and children from all communities. The shelter is scheduled to be finished in 2024. Upon completion, the shelter will contribute to providing a safe space for women’s reintegration, and addressing risks and vulnerabilities to ensure active and meaningful participation of women.

Furthermore, the UN Global Open Day 2023 event in Kosovo and the UNMIK-supported “One in Three” initiative helped to enhance women’s economic and social empowerment in Kosovo. Through showcasing survivor-led businesses and facilitating comprehensive training for women from different communities, these efforts expanded opportunities and promoted a culture of inclusion.

UNFICYP ADVANCING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION AT ALL LEVELS OF PEACE EFFORTS

The steady increase of women’s participation in intercommunal trust-building initiatives on WPS demonstrates the commitment of United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to advance women’s leadership and agency in spaces of decision making. In 2023, UNFICYP facilitated 107 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.

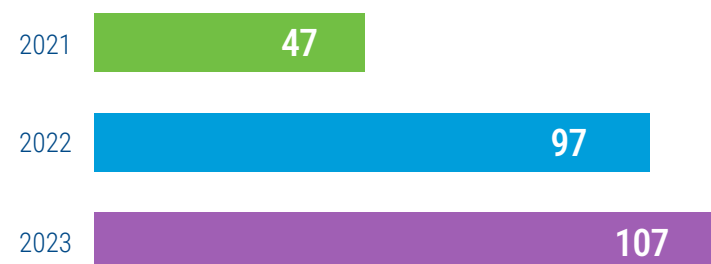


Figure 1 - Intercommunal trust-building WPS initiatives, meetings and events in Cyprus facilitated by UNFICYP.
Source: DPO GU WPS Indicators.

UNFICYP continued to support several civil society-driven intercommunal initiatives that increase collaboration and cooperation amongst women. This included support for workshops aimed towards raising awareness of the diverse histories of both Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot women and creating space through which the unique histories of women in Cyprus can be discussed across the divide. In continuing to engage with women’s associations outside of Nicosia, the mission supported two visits that allowed women from rural areas of both sides of the divide to learn about the traditional handicrafts, exchange good practices in local entrepreneurship, and interact with each other to promote closer collaboration. In some cases, these initiatives are the first contact between the two communities which demonstrates the criticality of supporting peacebuilding at local and community levels.

To strengthen cooperation on the WPS agenda amongst new constituencies and to allow new perspectives and voices that are often underrepresented to emerge in this context, the mission supported a second iteration of the Peacebuilding in Divided Societies program, geared towards supporting youth, and in particular young women, to develop skills pertaining to inclusive peacebuilding. The mission supported a series of workshops on inclusive negotiation, mediation, and grassroots peacebuilding, and to further consolidate a network of peacebuilders, held a follow-up action in which youth visited women peacebuilders in the Famagusta region.

In terms of women's participation in the formal peace process, UNFICYP, together with UN Office of the Special Adviser on Cyprus (OSASG), continued to facilitate the work of the Technical Committee on Gender Equality in implementing relevant aspects of the Action Plan on ways to ensure women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in the eventual settlement process. The Technical Committee organized three seminars, bringing awareness to the importance of participation of women in key areas of entrepreneurship, key roles and leadership. The seminars strengthened the Technical Committee's regular engagement with civil society, women, and youth organizations to solicit their views on a broad range of topics and to prepare the ground for a possible future settlement.



Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women gathered for the closing of "HERstory for peace" initiative where women from across the divide shared stories of Cypriot women, often unheard in public spaces.

WOMEN'S PEACE CIRCLES ADVANCING SOCIAL COHESION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

As per the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic (APPR) and the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Roadmap, United Nations Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) developed and implemented a communication strategy to foster ownership of the mutualized peace process by different actors at both local and national level. The meaningful participation of women in peace initiatives at all levels has been at the center of the strategy.

MINUSCA supported the strengthening of women's participation in the peace process by using good offices, political advocacy, strategic communications, and awareness raising with the Government, political, local, and religious leaders. MINUSCA also supported and mobilized women's groups, networks, and organizations at local and national level by amplifying their advocacy efforts. As women continue lacking economic and other resources and bearing the primary responsibility of care duties which hinder their effective participation, MINUSCA provided capacity building, income-generating activities and resources, including grinding mills and agricultural tools for farming, in support of local initiatives for peace and the strengthening of inter-community resilience.

The implementation of projects supporting women's initiatives for peace at the local level has enabled the capacity building of more than 300 women leaders on peaceful conflict resolution, culture of peace, social cohesion and mediation in the regions of Kaga-Bandoro, Bria, Zemio, and Bossangoa. This resulted in the establishment of 12 Circles of Peace. Through these circles, women are committed to put into practice their acquired knowledge and to advance peace and social cohesion in their communities through reconciliation, mediation and sensibilizations. In Kaga Bandoro and Bria, MINUSCA supported women's organizations with income-generating activities intended

to strengthen the work of the Peace Circles and women's resilience in the context of a dual economic and security crisis. In addition, MINUSCA sensitized 720 women on the mutualized peace process across 12 localities in the regions.



Women and girls from 25 women's associations in Bangui, Bégoua and Bimbo were trained in the use of computers and sensitised to the importance of social media for business, as well as the risks of cybercrime.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DREW ATTENTION TO WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT IN SOUTH SUDAN

To advance women's leadership and agency in South Sudan, in line with 35 per cent quota provision on women's representation in the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Government of South Sudan hosted the first-ever International Conference on Women's Transformational

Leadership in February. Over 400 international and national delegates engaged on the status of women's leadership in South Sudan in the transitional arrangements and on prospects for advancing gender equality and WPS. This resulted in recommendations on key strategies and accession to international and regional frameworks central to WPS.

To enhance women's capacity in transformative leadership and their meaningful participation in the wake of upcoming elections, the mission trained 33 women parliamentarians on the role of parliamentarians in political processes, parliamentary procedures, engagement with constituents for peace and reconciliation, and networking in Western Equatoria. Sustained advocacy and engagement efforts in Mayom County in Unity State contributed to the appointment of four women in executive and traditional roles. One was appointed in the executive court and three in the traditional courts. These appointments demonstrate a shift in perceptions on women's leadership and community recognition of the criticality of women in safeguarding women's rights during judicial processes.

UNIFIL SUPPORTING THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE WPS AGENDA IN LEBANON

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continued to support the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on WPS, including by providing training on gender mainstreaming for 4,921 UNIFIL military and civilian personnel, of whom 452 were women. UNIFIL supported the National Commission for Lebanese Women in the implementation of the Lebanese National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 as well as the gender unit of the Lebanese Armed Forces. In December, the Lebanese Armed Forces Commander approved the gender mainstreaming strategy of the Forces.

With daily exchanges of fire across the Blue Line, beginning on 8 October, UNIFIL's outreach activities remain suspended. Through quick-impact projects, UNIFIL continues to assist local authorities in the delivery of basic services.

THE FOOTPRINT OF MINUSMA IN ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND WPS IN MALI

In Mali, the latter half of year 2023 was marked by the Security Council's decision, upon the request of the Malian Transitional Government, to terminate the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). From June MINUSMA gradually reduced its footprint and completed the withdrawal by 31 December. Before this, for 10 years, MINUSMA supported the Malian authorities in ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in peace and political processes. The mission worked in an environment where such participation was extremely limited but contributed to slowly changing this status quo.

Central to the progress made were the mission's strong partnerships with the Malian Government and civil society organizations, including through the Mali Women Leader Platform. By amplifying the advocacy efforts, strengthening capacities, supporting awareness raising campaigns of the Platform, and by providing support to the host Government, MINUSMA helped strengthening the legal framework on gender equality and its implementation. For example, the gender parity law n° 2015-052 championed by women leaders was a significant milestone which paved the way for instrumental change. The number of women in decision making increased in the National Assembly in 2020, in the transitional assembly following the Coup d'Etat in 2020, as well as in the monitoring mechanisms of the Peace Agreement. Furthermore, MINUSMA supported women's advocacy efforts for the integration of the parity law to the electoral law in June 2022. This will help address structural barriers to women's participation in elections.

In 2023, before its withdrawal, the mission provided support to nationwide sensitization on the electoral process to foster women's meaningful participation. For example, within the UN joint efforts to support women's participation in the public and political life, capacity-building workshops on leadership and public speaking took place in Mopti, Segou, Gao, Tombouctou, Taoudeni, Menaka and Kidal regions.

These workshops reinforced the skills of a total 258 participants (200 women) from civil society, political parties and potential candidates in the planned elections. Along with the UN Country Team, MINUSMA also supported the Malian Government in the development of a roadmap to ensure effective gender mainstreaming in the electoral process and political and institutional reforms. It is a positive legacy of the mission that the Transitional Government took forward the Roadmap through the official launch in February 2024.

Nevertheless, the impact and sustainability of the work on gender equality and WPS by MINUSMA must be read in the light of the bigger political context. While the increase in number of women across transitional institutions is a significant gain, lessons learnt have shown that numbers do not always translate into meaningful and sustained participation, for which continuous engagement of the UN in support of the Malian government's efforts and civil society will be crucial. The departure of MINUSMA prompted a significant reassessment of the United Nations Country Team's resources and coordination with the government to pursue joint efforts in promoting women's and girls' rights, welfare, and SGBV, especially in the field and in aid of the displaced population.

A PIVOTAL MOMENT FOR CHANGE – WOMEN AND ELECTIONS

The transformative role of elections remains key in advancing women's leadership, agency and access to decision making. UN peacekeeping missions put in place measures to strengthen women's meaningful participation before, during and after elections, notwithstanding the outcome.

In 2023, UN peacekeeping missions also supported governments and transitional governments to prepare for upcoming elections. In 2024, a record-breaking number of citizens globally are preparing to cast their votes. This includes elections that are planned to be held in South Sudan, and the Central African Republic.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS

Despite positive developments made by the Government of CAR, leading to more robust political, legal and strategic frameworks, the adherence of international instruments to promote gender equality, and public political endorsement of the WPS agenda, women continue to face enormous challenges in participating in decision making and peacebuilding processes.

In this context, the local elections scheduled for 2024-2025 offer a unique and strategic entry point to strengthen women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the political sphere, but vast barriers to ensure women can fulfill their political right to vote and participate remain. MINUSCA, in partnership with United Nations entity for gender equality and women's empowerment (UN Women) and the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is applying innovative and strategic approaches to tackle such barriers and help minimize the risk of women being sidelined in the elections.

To foster a gender-responsive legislative framework, MINUSCA leadership has engaged in a dialogue with women politicians to understand the socio-political context and challenges related to women's participation in local elections. These priorities were highlighted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in a high-level advocacy with the President of the National Assembly as part of the revision process of the Electoral Code to ensure the 35 per cent quota for women would be factored in the Code. The revised electoral code includes gender provisions aiming to promote gender parity, but does not introduce compliance measures to enforce the 35% quota as per the national parity law. On a positive note, for municipal elections the code introduces an alternating (man-woman) candidate list system. Under the current legal framework, parties can provide an explanation to the Council of States as to why they have not met the quota and still get validated, which was the case in the last legislative elections. Through the good offices of the SRSG, MINUSCA also engaged in support of the obtention of the birth certificates for voters, specifically women and youth, which remain a challenge.

MINUSCA's key approach in advancing women's meaningful participation in elections is institutional and technical support to local women's organizations and groups. Despite multifaced discriminations and challenges faced, local women's organizations perform key roles in mediation, sensitization outreach and recovery interventions in their communities, and will be core actors to ensure women's participation in local elections. However, they remain underfunded, which can undermine their transformative work. To leverage their role, MINUSCA is supporting women's organizations with income generating activities to ensure they have means to



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MINUSCA's key approach in advancing women's meaningful participation in elections is institutional and technical support to local women's organizations and groups.

support women candidates and create space for them to engage with community and religious leaders. For example, MINUSCA provided support for the organization of a meeting with 56 (36 men and 20 women) community and religious leaders, and journalists who committed to responding to challenges women candidates face such as intimidation and threats from male oppositions (including armed groups), domestic violence, socio-cultural constraints, and the lack of funding to cover application fees.

In October, MINUSCA facilitated a discussion in Bria with 33 members of the *Organisation des Femmes Centrafricaines* to strengthen their role in mobilizing women candidates for the elections. Similar engagements took place with women's groups in Sibut, Galafondo and Dekoa. In Sibut, the engagements resulted in a slight increase in women's representation in the traditional chieftaincy. Four out of 54 chiefs elected (7.40 per cent) were women, compared to three women previously (5.6 per cent). The chieftaincy election was an important process for women to engage in community decision making, which can build towards increasing women's participation in the local elections, but it also demonstrates the vast barriers that remain to be tackled, security being at the core of it.

MINUSCA has observed risks of GBV being used to silence women political and social activists in the context of political and electoral process. Hence, to contribute to the creation of an inclusive and protective environment that fosters women's participation in the elections, the Government and MINUSCA co-signed the integrated plan for securitization of elections in February. The plan includes specific protection measures for women such as rehabilitating an emergency hotline to manage and respond to security threats against women voters and candidates. For example, in the 2020-2021 legislative elections, MINUSCA intervened in situations where women candidates were under threat from armed groups following alerts made through the hotline.



Congolese woman casting her vote in a polling station in Matonge, Kinshasa in December 2023.

TOWARDS THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN CANDIDATES AND VOTERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In December 2023, the Democratic Republic of the Congo held general elections against the backdrop of a heightened political tensions and a dire security and humanitarian situation in the east of the country due to escalating conflict, military operations and persistent attacks by armed groups against civilians, including in and around displacement sites. In the lead-up to the elections, MONUSCO supported dialogues with women candidates, stakeholders and civil society members, who reported challenges on women's limited resources for campaigns compared to men and a patriarchal political system that disadvantages women.

MONUSCO, in partnership with UN Women and the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children developed of a national strategy to enhance women's meaningful participation in elections. Approaches taken included capacity strengthening of women candidates and women leaders on managing a campaign, political communication and political leadership using the media, advocacy with political parties for women's inclusion in electoral lists and considering specific security concerns of women candidates and voters. To ensure intergenerational perspective, groups of young female political actors were encouraged to participate in the voter registration process. MONUSCO also supported the creation of a network of women electoral observers to monitor electoral operations and cases of violence against women.

Measures taken by the government, civil society organizations, women and youth sought to rebuild trust with local populations, advance women's rights and other human rights and facilitate greater inclusion of women on electoral lists and less violence against them. This was done through robust protection measures against gender-based violence and proactive conflict prevention efforts. Other priorities encompassed advancing women's participation in disarmament and reintegration, and sensitizing youth, security actors and ex-combatants on positive masculinity and gender equality.

On countering hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, often specifically targeting women candidates, MONUSCO established partnerships with UN entities and civil society to track, report and intervene strategically and in timely manner. This was done through strategic engagement and training of women leaders, journalists, influencers, and young academics as well as communication through community radio stations was key to prevention and countering misinformation.

MONUSCO's efforts helped improve women's meaningful participation in the elections. As a result, 51 per cent of the registered voters were women. The representation of women candidates was 17 per cent in the national legislative elections, 28 per cent in the provincial legislative elections and 43 per cent in the communal by-elections.

THE ROAD TO ELECTIONS IN SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan, the implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan was marked by delays, with elections expected to be held in December 2024. As the newest nation in the world prepares for its first-ever elections, UNMISS continued to exercise its good offices by engaging with the parties, partners and stakeholders of the Revitalized Agreement. The National Elections Act (2012), amended and adopted in 2023, incorporates provisions on the responsibility of the Government to promote the inclusion of women at least at the level of 35 per cent and guarantee protections to allow their free participation in political and electoral processes.

In 2023, UNMISS continued to promote democratic governance and peacebuilding in South Sudan. The mission engaged with the Women's Bloc in the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) to evaluate their understanding of the 2024 electoral process. To enhance communications initiatives, UNMISS collaborated with Radio Miraya and facilitated a roundtable discussion with political party representatives on strategies to end the transitional period in South Sudan and how to enhance the inclusion and full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the transition process.

Going forward, the UNMISS is planning several strategic initiatives to ensure women's meaningful participation in the expected elections: providing capacity building for women in leadership skills such as public speaking, negotiation, communications, and self-esteem; investing time to engage with women parliamentarians for them to advocate for gender responsive legislation and address the discriminatory laws; engaging the Gender Committee of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly to advocate for screening of legislations and legislative processes that limit the participation of women in civic space; and engaging with women in local government on support for women candidates at county level as they prepare to participate in elections as voters and candidates.

WOMEN'S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING

The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) continued to prioritize the implementation of its Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy (UGPS) to strengthen the meaningful participation of uniformed women in peacekeeping. Through joint efforts with Troop and Police Contributing Countries (TCCs and PCCs), the Department has increased representation of women as individually deployed personnel and in Formed Police Units, meeting the 2023 UGPS targets. Regarding military contingents, progress has continued but women are still starkly underrepresented. DPO continued targeted efforts to identify highly qualified women officers for deployment, for example through the Women Police Command Cadre courses.

Gender-balanced teams of peacekeepers have been key in supporting the delivery of peacekeeping mandates. They provide important capabilities in building trust with host communities, improving mission coverage, security and service provision and encouraging diverse and representative host-country security institutions. For example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Engagement Teams, comprised of at least 50 per cent of women, significantly enhanced situation analyses and threat mitigation through the integration of a gender perspective, conducting long-range patrols to remote areas. In the Central African Republic, the first all-women rapid intervention team in the country's prison service was established with the support of MINUSCA women corrections officers.

In addition to strengthening the deployment of uniformed women, UN Peacekeeping focused on building an enabling environment for all peacekeepers. Fourteen missions reported implementing UGPS recommendations to this end. Efforts to nuance understanding of women's deployment experience continued, for example through the launch of a mandatory exit survey for Individual Uniformed Personnel in UNMISS.

Also, in UNMISS, a new pilot network for uniformed women was launched in November. An online platform has been set up to facilitate exchanges and make resources relevant to their deployment experience available to uniformed women. Various online networking sessions and inspirational events with senior uniformed women have also been organized.

The network has been a useful mechanism to bring together peacekeepers across field locations for peer support and exchange of deployment experiences. It has equally been a useful basis for a better understanding of the needs and challenges of uniformed women: lessons collected through network activities have been discussed with mission and UNHQ leadership.

Strengthened guidance, such as the Office of Military Affairs Case Study Handbook on Gender, Peace and Security and the reviewed United Nations Police Gender Toolkit supported gender-responsive leadership, while continued communications campaigns, such as the innovative Inside Out portrait campaign raised awareness of women's contributions to peacekeeping.

Considerable progress in improving the representation of women in leadership positions has been made in the past decade. In 2021, in accordance with the Secretary-General's commitment, gender parity at the leadership level was reached for the first time across all UN missions. However, women's representation has since declined, amid a persisting gender gap in power and leadership globally. At the end of 2023, women's representation in leadership stood at 36 per cent across all our missions (DPO/DPPA and DOS-led missions). In DPO-led missions the proportion of women in head and deputy head of mission positions was 29 per cent. Although two of the largest peacekeeping missions – MINUSCA and MONUSCO – were headed by women, all five military heads of mission were men (UNDOF, UNIFIL, UNMOGIP, UNTSO, UNISFA (acting)). This highlights the need for greater representation of women in senior leadership positions of national militaries. Of all non-uniformed head and deputy head of mission positions in peacekeeping missions, women represented 38 per cent.

Progress is tenuous and easily reversible given the relatively low number of positions, complex environments, and relatively high turnover rates. Returning to gender parity while improving geographical balance is an urgent priority of the Secretary-General for 2024 and beyond. To renew our efforts towards reaching gender parity, we will launch a 4th Global Call campaign in 2024 that aims to expand and diversify the pool of potential candidates for senior leadership positions in the field.

The Secretariat also remains committed to actively recruiting and retaining more women in civilian roles within peacekeeping operations. As of September 2023, women in civilian peacekeeping roles constituted 35 per cent of the workforce in professional and higher categories, reflecting a 2 per cent increase from the previous year. Efforts to bolster the representation of women were driven by various measures, including temporary special measures on gender parity and the implementation of enabling environment initiatives, alongside targeted outreach efforts. In 2023, a revised parental leave policy with expanded leave provisions was introduced. The UN Global Talent Pool was also enhanced in 2023, to further support targeted outreach to women. Furthermore, the Senior Women Talent Pipeline (SWTP), a flagship initiative of the Department of Operational Support, remained instrumental in advancing gender parity at senior levels within peacekeeping operations. Since its establishment in 2014, the SWTP has facilitated the successful appointment of approximately 71 candidates to senior leadership positions ranging from P4 up to USG levels within peace operations.

KEY FIGURES

Military:

% of Women deployed as annual average

- Military Staff Officers and Military Observers (2023 target: 20%)
- Formed Contingents (2023 target: 10%)

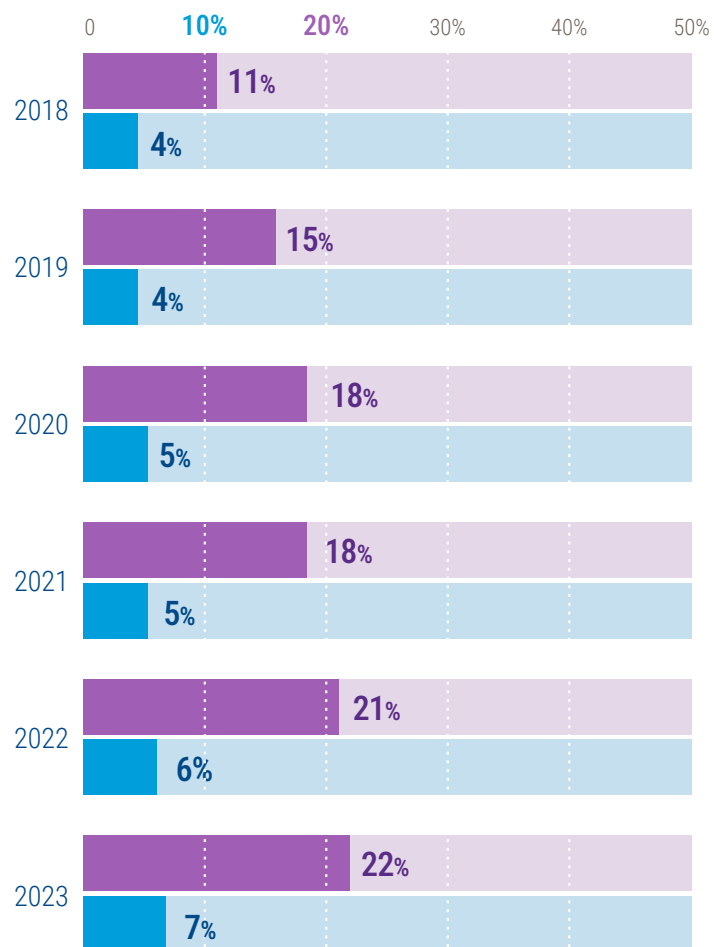


Figure 2&3

Police:

% of Women deployed as annual average

- Individual Police Officers: (2023 target: 24%)
- Formed Police Units: (2023 target: 13%)

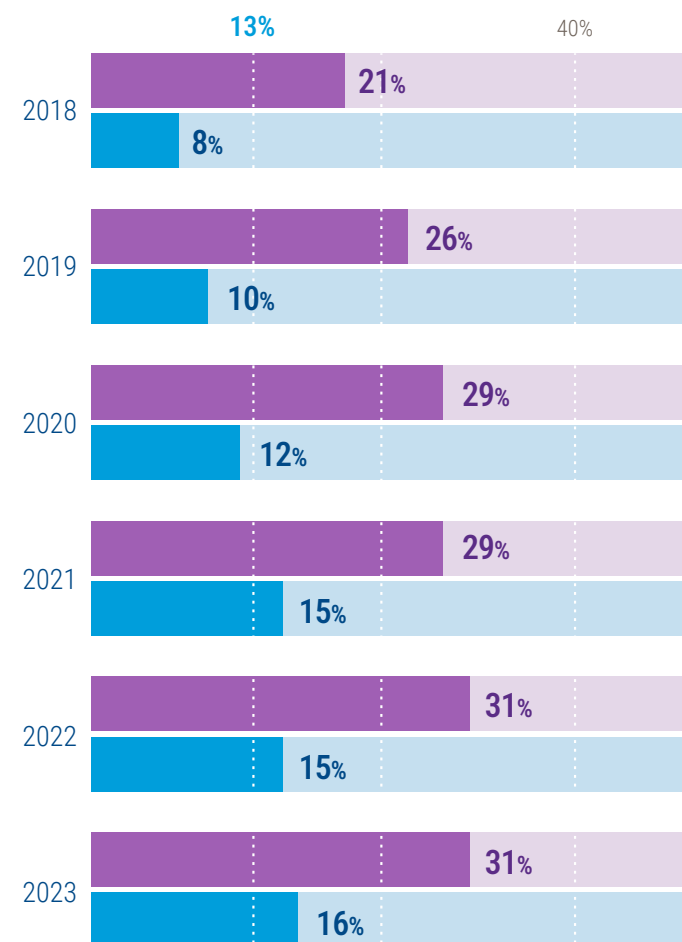


Figure 4&5

Justice and Corrections Government-Provided Personnel:
% of Women deployed as annual average

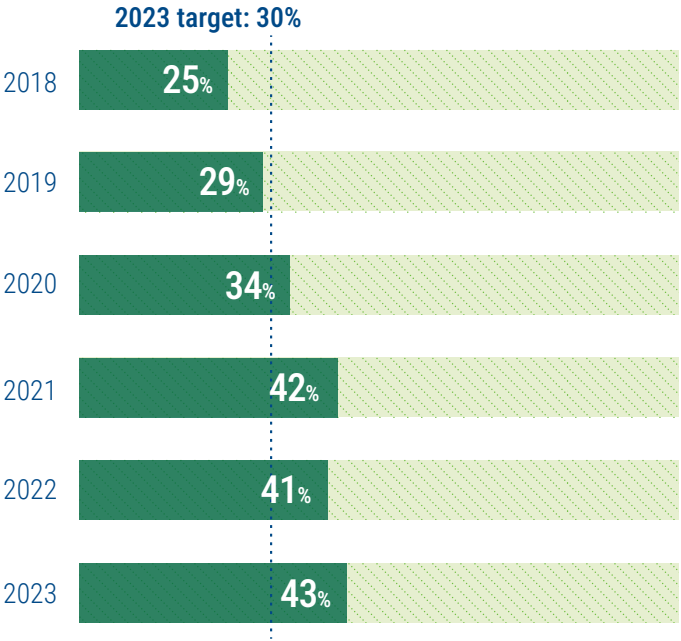


Figure 6

INNOVATIVE PLEDGES AND INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN’S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR WPS

Women, Peace and Security was highlighted as a key priority for strengthening peacekeeping operations at the [UN Peacekeeping Ministerial](#) held in Ghana in December. Ministers of Defense and Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials expressed strong support to the WPS agenda. 57 countries made pledges and 44 of the pledges were related to WPS. These pledges ranged from committing to meeting targets of the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, to deployment of engagement teams, barrier assessments to various training initiatives, including for Military Gender Advisers, and funding for WPS projects.

Gender-responsive leadership was highlighted as a an enabling factor to transformative progress in a side event hosted by the Chiefs of Defence WPS Network, chaired by Sweden, broadcasted on [UN Web TV](#). Leading by example, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix said “*without women’s full and meaningful involvement in all that we do, we are unlikely to see durable results*”. At the side event, attending Member States made a [call to action](#) to ensure women’s full and meaningful participation in peacekeeping, conflict resolution and political processes.

For the first time ever at a Peacekeeping Ministerial, a woman civil society briefer was invited to brief. Speaking at the plenary panel on conditions for success Hon. Alokiiir Diing from South Sudan stressed that UN is an important partner for peace in South Sudan. She highlighted that peacekeeping missions should conduct meaningful

engagements with civil society and communities, especially with women who are guardians of peace in community-level peace efforts. Hon. Alokiir is the only woman who signed the peace agreement in South Sudan in 2015. She paved the way for increasing that number in the process leading up to the signing of the Revitalized Agreement in 2018 and brokered the adoption of a 35 per cent quota for women's representation in decision making.



©UN Peacekeeping

For the first time ever, a woman civil society representative was invited to brief the Peacekeeping Ministerial. Hon. Alokiir Diing from South Sudan stressed that the UN is an important partner for peace.

ELEVATING WOMEN'S VOICES THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

DPO consistently invested in strategic communications to elevate and make visible the role of women in peace and political processes through political advocacy and data-driven storytelling. By centralizing women leaders and their contributions to peace and security at the heart of communication, DPO contributed to increasing the visibility of their important peacebuilding work.

In October, DPO launched a month-long communications campaign highlighting women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and political processes, as a backdrop to the annual Security Council's Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security. A related digital campaign running throughout October reached 748.4 million people globally and elicited global and local media coverage including where some of the featured women hailed from, including [Cyprus](#), [Kosovo](#), [New Zealand](#) and on the [African continent](#).

As the main activity of the campaign, DPO leveraged its ongoing WPS communications partnership with the Department of Peacebuilding and Political Affairs (DPPA), the Elsie Initiative Fund and UN Women to jointly organize a photo-driven community action in New York in October. The "[Peace Begins with Her](#)" Inside Out activation allowed over 200 members of the public to add their portraits to a mosaic of women peacebuilders and peacekeepers' portraits in front of UN Headquarters, pledging support to women's participation worldwide. The event featured in the Security Council chamber where the Secretary-General said: *"Many of you here today will have visited the exhibition on display outside the United Nations building. You will have seen the images of the women who embody the agenda we are discussing. Women who are fighting injustice, building peace, and taking their rightful place at the table."*



Over 200 members of the public, in addition to UN Senior Leadership, added their portraits to a mosaic of women peacebuilders and peacekeepers in front of UNHQ, pledging support to women's participation worldwide.

Also in October, the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), in partnership with DPO, DPPA, UN Women, the African Union – the AU Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and FemWise-Africa convened in New York for a conversation titled “African Women the Peace Table: Lessons from Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region”. The discussion focused on the regional challenges, with a focus on DRC and Sudan, to women’s equal and meaningful participation in formal peace processes, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The event brought together UN senior leadership and key peacekeeping partners such as civil society, Member States, regional organizations, academia, and think tanks.

Digital and other communications on WPS continued to share positive stories, mandate implementation challenges, critical data and to elevate women’s voices throughout the year, also at the mission level. For example, in South Sudan UNMISS supported eight radio talk shows on a range of topics, including on women’s empowerment as well as safety and security in the communities.

KEY NUMBERS ON WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE AND POLITICAL PROCESSES

Women in elections in DRC

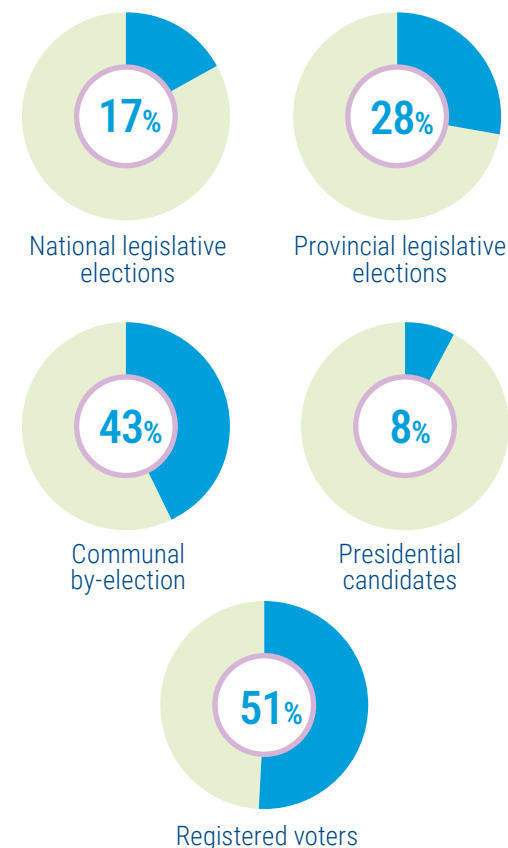


Figure 7 – Number of women candidates and registered as voters in the 2023 elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (as reported by the CENI). Source: Action 4 Peacekeeping + monitoring system/DPO GU WPS Indicators

Women in parliaments

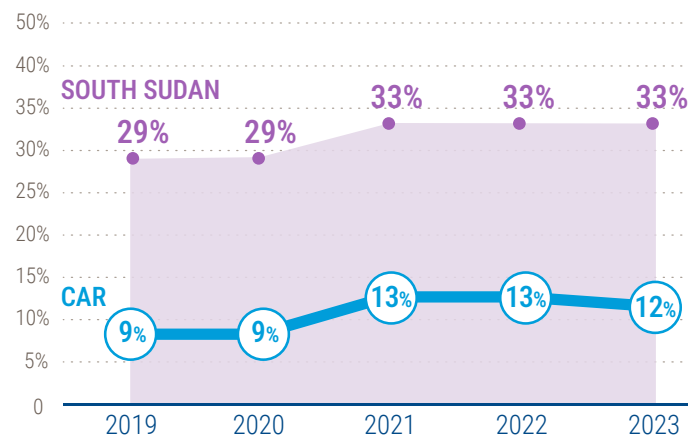


Figure 8 – Women in parliaments, including transitional assemblies.
Source: DPO GU WPS Indicators

Women in decision making structures

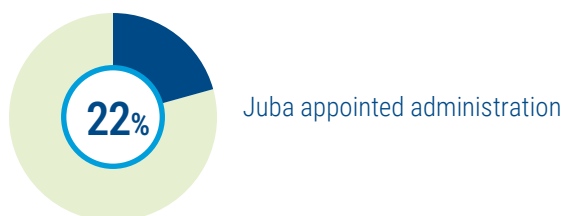


Figure 9 – Women in Juba Appointed Administration in Abyei.
Source: DPO GU WPS Indicators

Women in key peace implementation mechanisms

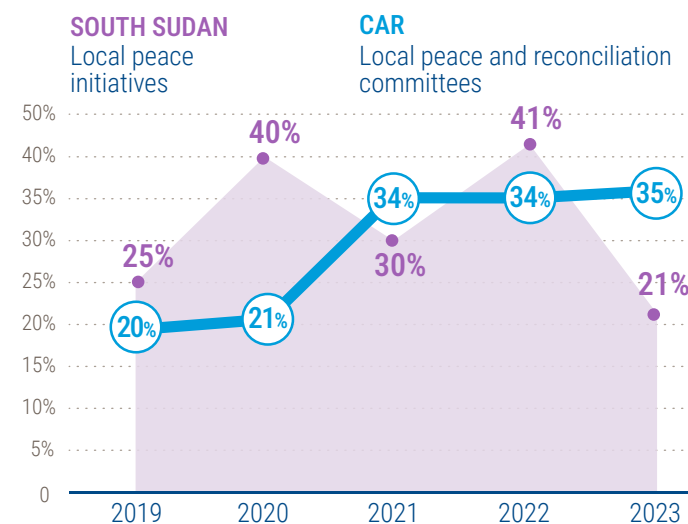


Figure 10 – Trend of women in peace implementation mechanisms at the local level. Source: DPO GU WPS Indicators

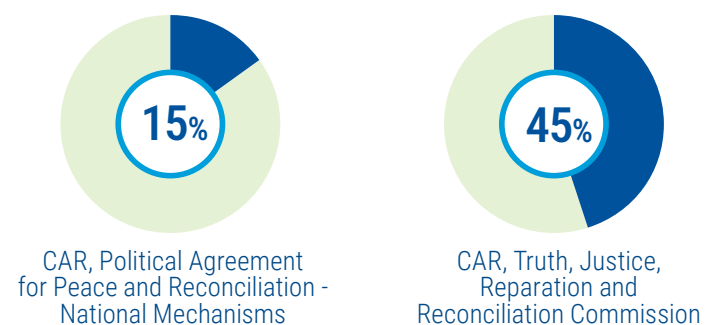


Figure 11 – Women in other peace implementation mechanisms at national level (2023). Source: DPO GU WPS Indicators

DRC, Local Community Dialogues
(Nairobi Process - Uvira and Bukabu)

30%

DRC, Local Community Dialogues
(Nairobi Process - Minembwe and Mikenge)

40%

Abyei, Community Protection Committees

25%

CAR, Political Agreement for Peace and
Reconciliation - Local Mechanisms

23%

Figure 12 – Women in other peace implementation mechanisms at local level (2023). Source: DPO GU WPS Indicators



Captain Cecilia Erzuah of Ghana received the 2022 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.

IN FOCUS: BLUE HELMETS ADVANCING THE WPS AGENDA

In May 2023, Captain Cecilia Erzuah of Ghana, who served with the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) as the Commander of the Ghana Engagement Platoon, received the 2022 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award².

An advocate for gender equality and community engagement, Captain Erzuah made sure that her 22-person-strong platoon, composed equally of men and women, conducted regular patrols and outreach to local leaders, as well as women's and youth groups, to better understand and address community concerns and needs.

². Created in 2016, the United Nations "Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award" recognizes the dedication and efforts of an individual military peacekeeper in promoting the principles of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security.

Together with civilian UN colleagues, she also hosted discussions on domestic violence, gender equality and childcare. Those conversations resulted in an increase in the number of women enlisted in Community Protection Committees, which were initially male dominated. The engagement with community members led to improved understanding about threats of violence against civilians and broader security issues.

Born in Kumasi, Ghana, in 1990, Captain Erzuah joined the Ghana Armed Forces in 2016. She served for the first time under the United Nations flag with UNIFIL in 2019-2020. In March 2022, she was deployed to the UNISFA as Commander of the Ghanaian Engagement Platoon.

“The engagements fostered confidence in the Battalion operations, and timely information collection and exchange between the local population and the Battalion so that, in turn, the mission could better support their diverse needs. Those conversations also resulted in an increase in the number of women enlisted in Community Protection Committees, which were initially male dominated”.

The monthly market walks she initiated with her battalion also contributed to build strong and enduring relationships between traders, local residents and the United Nations.

After spikes in community violence, Captain Erzuah's platoon stepped up its presence, regularly checking on the plight of displaced people in the volatile area and enabling the mission to provide necessary support.

“As the Engagement Platoon Commander of the first Ghanaian Battalion in Abyei, my regular community engagements using both the mixed and All-Female Engagement teams, helped build trust with all facets of the communities we served. Also, despite the environmental challenges, we were role models to the women, children and the entire community.”



During patrols and community engagements, Captain made it a point to involve the local leadership, women groups and the youth which provided an enabling platform for both men and women to air their views during discussions on peace and security, economic and political developments.

During patrols and community engagements, Captain made it a point to involve the local leadership, women groups and the youth. This provided an enabling platform for both men and women to air their views during discussions on peace and security, economic and political developments, among others. This also enhanced the accuracy and timeliness of information gathering and dissemination which saw to the achievements of the battalion's mandate. By this, the Battalion was able to prevent hostilities, protect lives and properties and win the hearts and minds of the people.

Community members, who had sought sanctuary from the fighting in the surrounding bush, gradually began returning to their homes in the village and women reported feeling much safer. Community leaders highlighted how mixed patrols boosted the confidence of members of the community to go about daily activities safely.

The work of Captain Erzuah and her team showcases the important work done together by military, police and civilian peacekeepers and how they can together ensure that peacekeeping responds to the needs and priorities of all the people we serve.



Ghanaian peacekeepers pictured during a patrol in the Internally Displaced Persons camp in Bentiu, South Sudan.




UNMISS, through its Women's Protection Advisory Unit, organized a workshop for the South Sudan National Police Service on strengthening national officers' capacity to prevent, respond and investigate CRSV.

CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON THE RISE

Sexual violence in conflict situations is on the rise globally. Allegations of sexual violence used as a weapon of war by armed actors continues alongside broader acts of violence against civilians.

While all UN field missions should prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), in 2023 four peacekeeping missions had specific Security Council mandates to address it: MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, and UNMISS³. Following a survivor-centered approach, the missions dedicate substantial efforts and resources to

3. After the drawdown of MINUSMA by the end of 2023, three peacekeeping operations have a mandate on CRSV.



engage on preventing and responding to CRSV, while promoting access to services and the empowerment and reintegration of survivors within society.

MINUSCA, in partnership with the Government of CAR, raised awareness among ex-combatants, local authorities, and civil society on the issue of early and forced marriages with armed elements constituting a crime under CRSV, that needed to be addressed. To this end MINUSCA encouraged “Local Peace and Reconciliation Committees” to address the situation of forced marriages by armed elements, including through mediation, and encouraged investigation and prosecution of such cases. In late 2023, in a workshop organised on the issue in Bria, Haute-Kotto prefecture, 80 participants provided recommendations on how best to address the issue through reintegration of survivors, sensitisation and awareness raising, including through local interventions like addressing the practice of dowry, among others.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO and UN agencies, together with local partners, advanced implementation of a joint project to establish one-stop centers to provide judicial, medical, psychological support and economic empowerment to women survivors in 17 conflict-affected territories in the east of the country. In response to surging sexual violence in and around displacement sites in North Kivu in 2023, MONUSCO and UN agencies supported a scale-up of protection and humanitarian efforts to prevent further sexual violence and support survivors. MONUSCO implemented quick impact projects to support key safety infrastructure and leveraged its good offices to engage national counterparts on the resources necessary to support the safety and well-being of displaced people, including through local dialogues supported by civilian and uniformed engagement teams.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP), co-chaired by DPO and UNDP, coordinates the United Nations system on rule of law assistance by drawing upon the full spectrum of expertise across GFP partner entities. It has a critical role to build national capacities and ensure that rule of law support contributes to the realization of gender equality through the implementation of the WPS agenda, fulfilment of the Action for Peacekeeping commitments and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2023, the GFP established the Gender Justice Working Group. As co-chair of the GFP and the Gender Justice Working Group, DPO stands ready to serve as a source of gender expertise, within all areas of its technical capacities, to support the integration of a gender perspective in joint rule of law programs, missions, planning, assessments and to contribute to the development of new guidance materials and tools to further progress gender-responsive GFP initiatives. To catalyze this work, the Gender Justice Working Group is prioritizing fulfilling recommendations contained in the Guidance Note [“Women, Peace and Security and the United Nations Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law: Promoting Gender Justice for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies”](#).

ENHANCING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

In South Sudan, UNMISS, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) provided 100 dignity kits to women South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) Border Police in December, in response to their request for such assistance. Innovative partnerships, such as these, in other sectoral areas between UNMISS and members of the UN Country Team and non-governmental organizations enable the UN to comprehensively address the needs of women in the security sector. Dignity kits contained basic items (such as reusable sanitary pads, underwear, solar torch light, a bar of soap, wrapper/kanga, slippers and cotton t-shirt) that women and girls need to protect themselves and maintain hygiene and respect in times of crises. Without these items, women may have been prevented from carrying out daily tasks, travelling or accessing water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

UNMISS also supported civil society organizations in training women's networks in the security sector. The topics were identified by the women in uniform to increase their capacities, advocate for their career advancement and create an enabling and conducive work environment for women in the security sector institutions. 55 women from security sector institutions and members of the executive boards of the women's networks enhanced their capacities and understanding on leadership, strategic planning, international gender standards, report writing, stress and mental management, gender, media, SGBV prevention and response, including risk mitigation, and on the peace agreement.

In the Central African Republic, the national security sector reform (SSR) process supported by MINUSCA contributed to enhance extension of state authority across the country. To improve conditions of uniformed personnel as a whole, and in particular women uniformed personnel, MINUSCA supported the creation of a medical center to provide maternal and child health care to women uniformed personnel

and families of the National Gendarmerie, thereby improving the conditions of medical care and access to medical services. Contributing to rapprochement between the national security forces and the population, the maternity clinic also served as a medical center for the surrounding civilian populations and received more than 60 pregnant women per day.

In 2022 and 2023, MONUSCO supported recruitment sensitization for women between the ages of 18-25 years to serve as non-commissioned personnel in the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC). The target of the FARDC is to reach at least 3,000 new recruits in three years. Since 2022 about 1,800 young women have been recruited with 862 of them already having completed a nine-month training and redeployed to different units. Community leaders, civil society organizations and members of the public were informed through in-person efforts and multimedia campaigns of the benefits and need to support young women to join the FARDC as part of national service, with a view to ensure diverse opportunities to build professional careers in the armed forces with equal opportunities for women and men.

UN POLICE ENSURING PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

UN Police deploys Specialized Police Teams across all missions with a specific protection mandate. In 2023, six Specialized Police Teams were on the ground in MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNMISS and UNITAMS. Capabilities deployed included expertise in forensics, community-oriented policing and sexual and gender-based violence investigation. In South Sudan, capacities of host-State police services were developed, including through 89 colocations with special protection units and GBV courts. In CAR, over 150 judicial police officers were equipped with knowledge about their role and obligations in managing cases of SGBV and over 1,800 community members, including leaders of youth associations, students and local peace committees and authorities, participated in awareness raising



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A Burkinabé prison officer demonstrated her handcuffing technique during the Corrections Officer Recruitment Exercise in November 2023.

sessions in and outside Bangui. The capacities developed translated in the development of a strategic action plan on SGBV for L'Unité Mixte d'Intervention Rapide et de Répression des violences sexuelles faites aux femmes et aux enfants (UMIRR). In DRC, the Child Protection and Sexual Violence Prevention Squad in MONUSCO contributed to more effective utilization of the protection referral pathways.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS SERVICE

Justice and Corrections Service, in cooperation with UNITAR, organized the second Corrections Officer Recruitment Exercise (CORE) in November at the Kenyan Prison Staff College in Ruiru. CORE is an innovative gender parity initiative which serves as a crucial instrument to assess and recruit qualified women corrections officers for peace operations. Out of 45 participants, 32 were rostered for deployment, doubling the number of women corrections officers who are pre-cleared for deployment and significantly contributing to the number of uniformed women corrections officers that can be deployed to peace operations in the future.

CORE not only assessed candidates' capabilities but provided participants with a unique professional development opportunity. The gender-sensitive assessment methodology of CORE enables women candidates to perform to the best of their abilities by sharing ahead of the assessment information on assessment criteria, the work of our peace operations, and deployment modalities. Strengthening participants' confidence, providing feedback, useful learning resources, and connecting candidates to a network of fellow women corrections officers are crucial elements to facilitate women's onboarding and deployment experience.

In South Sudan, UNMISS continued to enhance the capacity of the National Prisons Service of South Sudan to have a gender-sensitive prison system that takes into consideration the gendered needs of offenders and officers. In 2023, UNMISS conducted training on gender-friendly prisons for 175 officers, including 96 females, in Juba, Kuajok, Yambio, Rumbek and Bentiu. UNMISS' approach to supporting the judiciary and government to deploy mobile courts has contributed to breaking cycles of violence and revenge attacks, promoting accountability, deterring crime, promoting human rights, and enhancing peace and stability, including in remote areas affected by conflict. In May and June, UNMWISS supported the South Sudan People's Defence Forces Military Justice Directorate in deploying a General Court Martial (GCM) to Yei, Central Equatoria.

A total of 14 cases were adjudicated by the GCM, resulting in 12 convictions. Of the 14 cases, the GCM heard four cases of sexual violence in closed session. Of the four cases, three cases resulted in convictions of up to 7 years and an order to pay compensation of up to 400,000 SSP (South Sudanese pound, around 405 USD) to the victims. All victims and witnesses received psycho-social support before, during, and after trial, as well as interpretation, food, accommodation, and transport from Yei-based civil society organizations.

During the GCM's deployment, UNMISS also facilitated radio announcements and talk shows on two local radio stations in Yei to spread awareness around the GCM, and clear misconceptions among the community about the legal process. At the end of the GCM, the Reconciliation, Stabilisation, and Resilience Trust Fund (South Sudan RSRTF), led by UNMISS and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), convened a civil-military dialogue to prevent and address sexual violence in conflict.

DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION

In efforts to promote gender-responsive disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) processes, the Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR validated the revised module on Women, Gender, and DDR. Part of the United Nations Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS), the module offers system-wide guidance based on international best practices, lessons learned and innovative approaches. As a global service provider, DPO provided support to mission and non-mission settings in collaboration with UN agencies, funds, and programs.

In terms of Community Violence Reduction (CVR), UNMISS together with partners implemented a CVR pilot project in Wau with the objective of reintegrating 300 young women and men (35 per cent women) associated with armed forces and groups into civilian life. Women and men were provided with vocational training in tailoring and entrepreneurship to facilitate their effective reintegration. The women beneficiaries were also trained on self-defense and



© MINUSCA/Leonel GROTHE

With the support of MINUSCA and its CVR program, "Ouali Tamboula" women's association members excel in making shea butter, in addition to producing honey and hibiscus flower syrup.

trauma healing techniques to address SGBV. Throughout the project, significant emphasis was laid on the critical role of women in community-level conflict management initiatives. At the national level, UNMISS also conducted gender-responsive CVR workshops to sensitize the National Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Commission (NDDRC) to ensure inclusion and participation of women ex-combatants and women associated with armed groups into CVR initiatives.

In CAR, MINUSCA supported 5,500 community members (30 per cent women), including youth prone to violence and elements associated with armed groups, through CVR activities to prevent their recruitment into illegal armed activities and to mitigate tensions. In Bangui, vocational training activities included sewing, auto-mechanic, driving, livestock farming, hairdressing, construction, carpentry, basic computer skills and support to small-scale businesses. Other activities will include support to income generating activities, rehabilitation of community infrastructures with cash-for-work opportunities, and sensitization activities to promote peace and social cohesion.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN MINE ACTION

The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) continued to promote a gender-responsive approach in its mine action activities. For instance, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNMAS MONUSCO trained women staff of national non-governmental organizations in explosive ordnance disposal. In the Central African Republic, UNMAS MINUSCA provided explosive ordnance threat mitigation training for women peacekeepers of troop-contributing countries (TCCs), while post-deployment confirmatory training by UNMAS UNIFIL enabled women peacekeepers of UNIFIL TCCs to conduct demining and explosive ordnance disposal activities in Lebanon.

INTEGRATING GENDER AND WPS – ANALYSIS ON THE REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since 2022, DPO has been collecting and analyzing data concerning the integration of gender equality and the WPS agenda in the reports of the Secretary-General, which report on the situation of the areas of responsibility. This analysis aims to quantify several key statistics measuring the level of integration in these reports, including i. The presence of dedicated sections addressing WPS issues; ii. The utilization of gender-disaggregated data; and iii. The inclusion of WPS-related recommendations resulting from the report analysis.

This analysis is conducted bi-annually, and the resulting data is made publicly available through the [Peace and Security Data Hub](#).

The results of this analysis indicate a gradual decrease in the percentage of reports featuring dedicated WPS sections (see Figure 13). Similarly, Figure 14 illustrates that the percentage of reports containing WPS-related recommendations has consistently hovered around 68 per cent, with a slight decrease noted in 2023. These findings suggest a subtle correlation between the two indicators, a correlation further supported by Figure 15, which suggest that reports lacking dedicated WPS sections are less likely to include WPS-related recommendations.

Finally, the analysis also reveals that 100 per cent of the reports utilize gender-disaggregated data to assess progress in advancing WPS agenda. Gender-disaggregated data serves as a useful tool to respond to WPS priorities and support mandated tasks, especially when integrated within the framework of gender-sensitive indicators. Figure 16 provides insight into the thematic areas where gender-disaggregated data is applied within these reports.

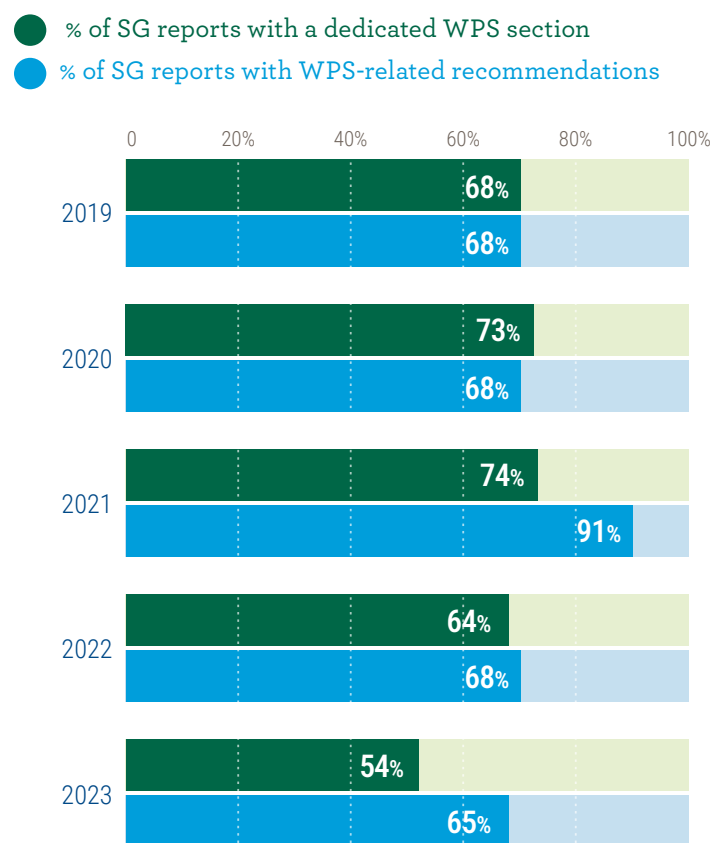


Figure 13&14

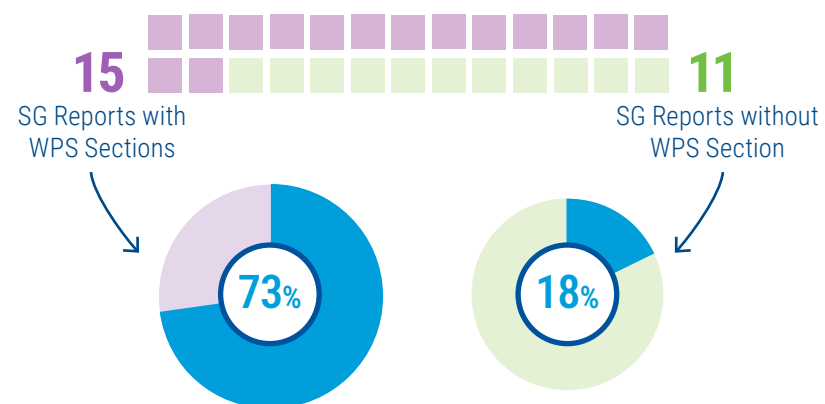


Figure 15 – 73% of reports with a WPS section includes recommendations on WPS, while only 18 per cent of reports without a WPS section include recommendations on WPS.

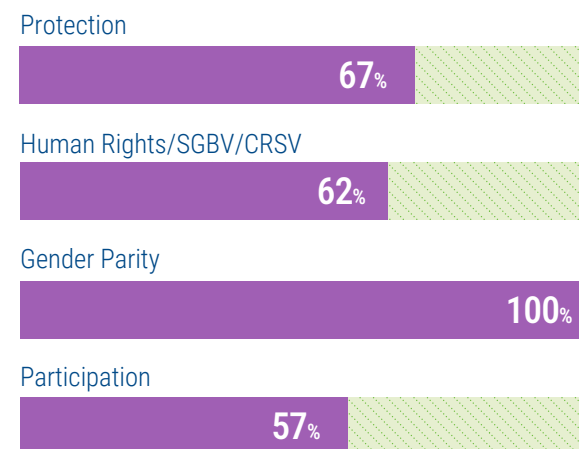


Figure 16 – % of SG reports with gender-disaggregated data by thematic area. Other thematic areas are below 50%.

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