

# Strengthening women's political participation

A snapshot of UNDP-supported projects across the Globe



May 2023

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# Executive Summary

This report is based on an analysis of a mapping of UNDP supported interventions that promote women's political participation. The mapping tracked projects reported by country offices and other units in UNDPs' results reporting mechanism, such as the Results Oriented Annual Reporting (ROAR) system. This was supplemented by a short project information survey sent to regional office focal points.

The mapping included 73 projects in total across all five UNDP regions and was categorized into six thematic areas:

1. Women and elections (49 projects)
2. Women and parliament (21 projects)
3. Women and civic engagement (16 projects)
4. Women's participation in the public administration (8 projects)
5. Women's participation in peacebuilding and peace processes (12 projects)
6. Women in politics and the media (4 projects)

The mapping also tracked three priority intervention themes that cut across the above categories. These included:

1. Temporary special measures (TSMs) (6 projects)
2. Social norms change, including through engaging men (9 projects)
3. Violence against women in politics and public life, including online violence; hate speech, cyberviolence, and trolling (8 projects).

# Introduction

Equality of participation by women and men in politics and opportunities for women's leadership at all levels of decision-making have been globally acknowledged as vital contributors to more prosperous and stable societies. Despite the challenges and occasional setbacks, there has been progress: more women than ever before hold public office and engage in electoral processes as staff, voters, candidates, or campaigners.

Boosting women's political participation and decision-making around the world is fundamental to democracy and essential for development. Women have the right to equal participation in public decision-making and are entitled to participate in decision-making processes in government institutions at all levels and sectors. Women's political participation is not merely about adding women to existing structures but about transforming those structures to allow for women's leadership and meaningful participation. When governance systems are equal and diverse, there is accountability, diverse public interest, high-quality service delivery, and greater trust and confidence in public organizations.

Although there has been a steady gain in women's political participation in the past two decades, the lack of democratic practices and the rise of authoritarian politics in many parts of the world have negatively impacted women's rights. Discriminatory social norms and stereotypes present a significant barrier to achieving gender equality and can lead to violence against women in politics. According to the Gender and Social Norms Index (2020), about 50 percent of men and women interviewed across 75 countries think men make better political leaders than women. More worryingly, despite decades of progress in advancing women's rights, this bias against gender equality is increasing in some countries.

Gender-balanced political participation and power-sharing is an internationally agreed target in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, reaffirmed in the [UN Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda."](#) Strengthening women's political participation remains a top priority in [UNDP's Strategic Plan](#) and the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025. It is reflected in two important programming and policy development vehicles, including the gender equality global programme and the global programme on governance for People and Planet, which emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of gender inequality in women's political participation.

This report [1] and the mapping of projects that inform it aim to support learning and exchange across countries on effective women's political participation programming, support the development of potential global initiatives/projects and support improved communications and advocacy with our partners on what UNDP do globally to support women's political participation. To understand the scale, scope, and range of UNDP's support to women's political participation, the mapping considered a current/ongoing and recently closed projects and programmes.

There are 73 projects (from 54 countries) mapped and categorized by the six thematic (focus) areas (women and elections, women and parliament, women in politics and the media, women and civic engagement, Women's participation in peacebuilding and peace processes, and women's participation in the public administration). The mapping and analysis also focus on three strategic priority areas in UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy (2022-2025) and UNDP's global programme on governance – Governance for People and Planet (G4PP) to see how the existing work supports the priorities. These include violence against women in politics including online violence, quotas and temporary special measures to promote women's temporary special measures that promote women's participation in elected offer and public institutions; and projects that focus on transforming gender norms including through engaging men approaches.

This report includes sections on the importance of women's political participation, the methodology of the mapping, and analysis of thematic areas, by region. It also includes a cursory examination of UNDP partners in women's political participation projects.

## Mapping Methodology

The main data sources for mapping UNDP's support to women's political participation included online internal and externally available databases such as the ROAR, UNDP's Transparency Portal which presents detailed information on UNDP's 5,000+ development projects globally, and Country Office UNDP project pages on UNDP's intranet. A short survey was also sent to regional offices on their WPP engagements.

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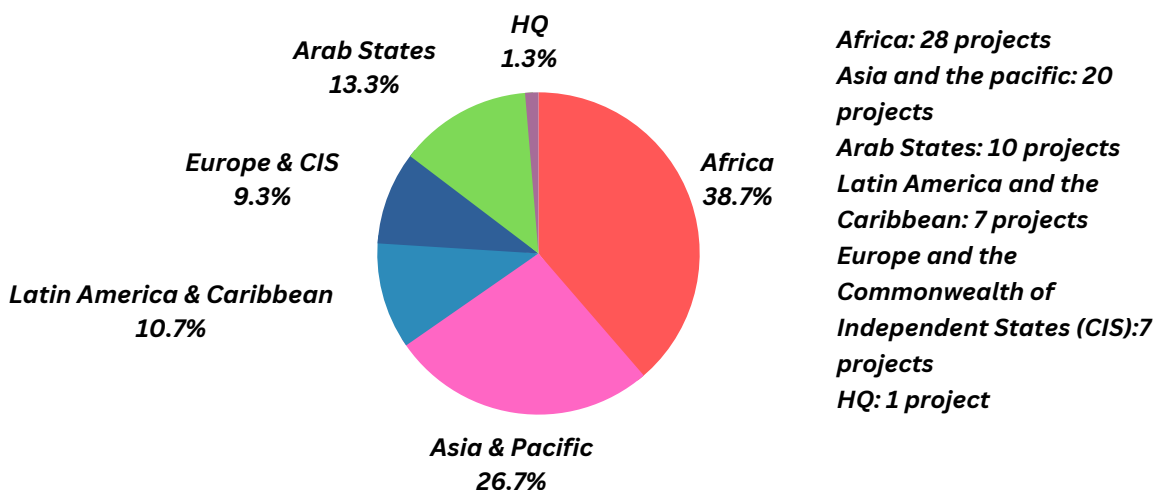
[1] This report was developed by Makeda Leikun Yeshaneh and Alexandra Wilde from UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS). For the link to the database compilation of projects included in the mapping, please write to [G4PP@undp.org](mailto:G4PP@undp.org)

The mapping includes projects in which women’s political participation is a component of another project, e.g., broader governance; parliamentary development; electoral assistance projects. However, for a project to be included in the mapping, women’s political participation must be one of the project’s key objectives. Of 73 projects, 18 have strengthened women’s political participation as the primary and most important objective. In addition, Information on donors and partners in terms of both implementing partners, including within the UN such as UN Women, UNFPA, etc., and donor partners are considered while conducting the mapping.

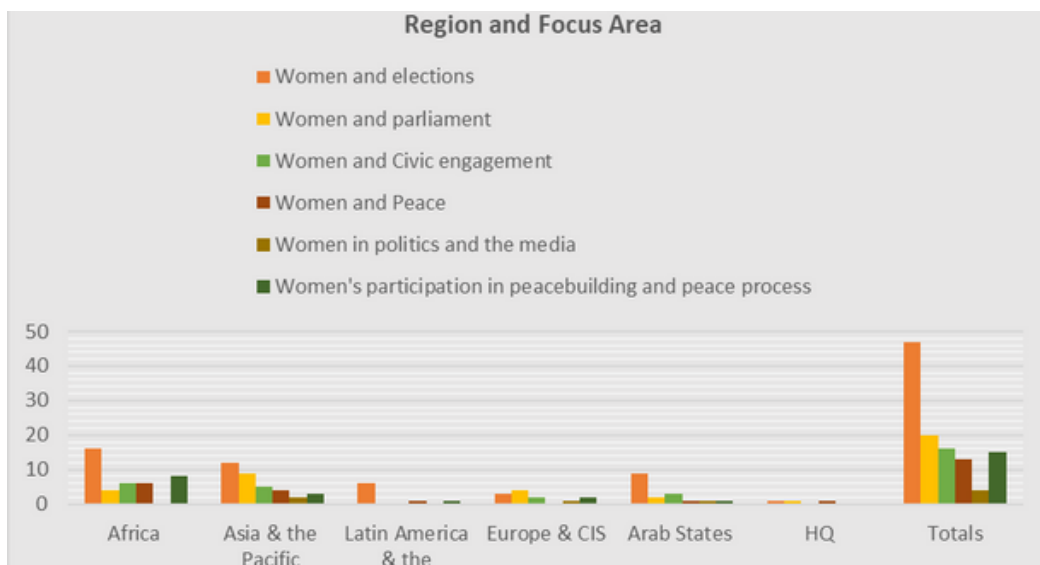
This mapping UNDP’s support for political participation has significant limitations. It is restricted to projects reported on in UNDP’s reporting systems and does not include the myriad ways that UNDP supports women’s political participation outside of a project mechanism and project reporting, including through advisory and convening support, among others.

## Supporting women’s political participation by region

The mapping included women’s political participation projects from all five UNDP regions (including one global project managed by HQ). Out of the 73 projects mapped, Africa has the most projects. Following is the breakdown:



The support area with the most projects for all regions, except Europe and CIS is strengthening the participation of women in elections systems and processes. However, the next largest support area varies by region. For Africa it is women in public administration. In Asia and the Pacific, the second largest support area is women and parliament, while in Latin America and the Caribbean it is public administration together with Women’s participation in peacebuilding and peace processes. Women and civic engagement is the second biggest focus area in the Arab States region. The number of projects that involve Women in politics and the media is the least, with two projects from Asia and the Pacific and one in the Arab States region.



## Women’s political participation by focus area

For the purpose of the mapping and this report, women’s political participation is defined by and limited to six focus areas: 1) women and elections; 2) women and parliament; 3) women in politics and the media; 4) women and civic engagement; 5) women's participation in the public administration; and 6) women’s participation in peacebuilding and peace processes.

## Women and Elections

Legislative frameworks, laws, and policies, including electoral systems reform and temporary special measures (TSMs); women voter registration, women candidates, women's access to voting; violence against women in election processes, including online violence; women in election administration (EMBs at national/subnational level); women and election observation missions (promoting women as observers, observing elections from a gender lens); women's access to electoral justice (electoral dispute resolution mechanisms); women's wings of political parties.

## Women and parliament

Parliamentary mechanisms to empower women's full and equal participation and leadership (caucuses etc.); women in parliament secretariat and administration; violence against women (including online) in parliament.

## Women in politics and the media

Coverage of women during electoral campaigns; coverage of women politicians and women in public life; violence against women in politics and role of the media.

## Women and civic engagement

Protection of women human rights defenders; establishing/supporting networks/alliances/associations for women's leadership and participation; strengthening women's CSOs and movements promoting women's political participation and their systemic partnerships with institutional actors; supporting young women's political leadership; protection of women human rights defenders.



### Women in the public administration

Women's participation: as Ministers, in public administration, in local government.

### Women's participation in peacebuilding and peace process

Women in national dialogue, negotiation, mediation processes.

## Projects with multiple focus areas

Many projects included in the mapping have more than one focus area and are examples of more comprehensive and integrated programming. For example, 12 projects have three or more focus areas.

### Women in Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina

*(Elections, media, public administration, parliament)*

There are nearly 3.2 million registered voters in BiH, of which 50.8 percent are women. Yet, women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of political and public life. This project aims to strengthen women's leadership and participation in political life with a two-pronged approach- vertically by proposing structural adjustments to accommodate more significant numbers of women in politics and horizontally by supporting the next generation of women leaders in communities through tailored networking and capacity-building initiatives. Activities have included the following:



*Image of Women in Elections project in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- Development of the Baseline Study on Barriers to Political Participation of Women;
- Conducting public debates on women leadership and political participation of women from the aspect of political party involvement, media presentation, and legislative provisions;

- Establishment of a media coalition to support gender sensitization in the media space and make it friendlier to women who want to become more politically and socially engaged.
- Support to women in political parties to become more influential and visible; and
- Support to the Gender Equality Committee of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly.

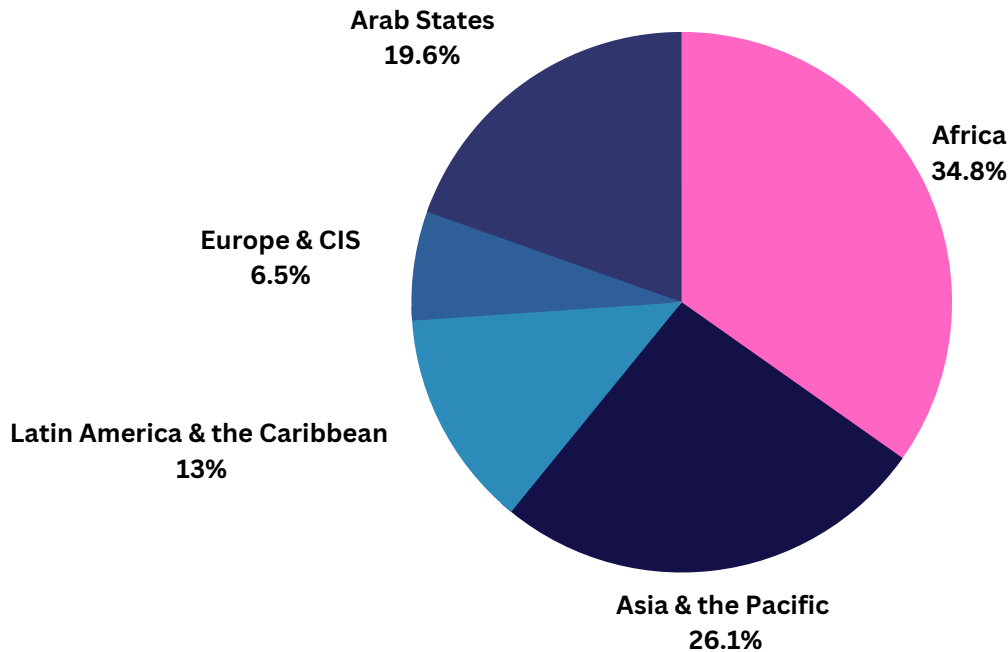
### **Women in Leadership in Samoa**

*(Elections, media, public administration, parliament, civic engagement)*

Despite significant advances made in promoting and addressing gender equality in Samoa, there remain enduring systemic, institutional, cultural, attitudinal, and financial barriers that continue to prevent women from engaging effectively in decision-making roles at the community, village, and national parliament levels, and including boards of public enterprises. Women's leadership contribution at all levels of society needs encouragement, support, and acknowledgment. Working with men and youth across different levels to address these barriers is also necessary to address gender equality issues. The Women in Leadership in Samoa Joint Programme (with UN Women) increases civic awareness of the need for inclusive women's participation and representation in public processes through partnership building, inclusive networks, advocacy and outreach, and civic awareness. The project has four main outputs (i) Enhancing the leadership capacity of women in their communities; (ii) Promoting political inclusivity and supporting women's political participation through a focus on development; (iii): Increasing public awareness of and engagement in inclusive and political participation, and (iv) sharing knowledge of Samoa's experience in promoting women's leadership.

## Women and Elections

Most projects in this mapping focused on women and elections, with 49 out of the 73 projects mapped. Sixteen projects are in Africa, twelve are from Asia and the Pacific, six are in Latin America and the Caribbean, three are in Europe and CIS, and nine are in the Arab States.



**Haiti:** this project is focused on capacity building of the Provisional Electoral Council and other institutions involved in the electoral process. It also aims to strengthen the credibility and inclusiveness of the electoral process through increased women's involvement in decision-making and electoral participation. Activities include research on women's electoral participation and dialogue between women leaders to support their involvement in politics.



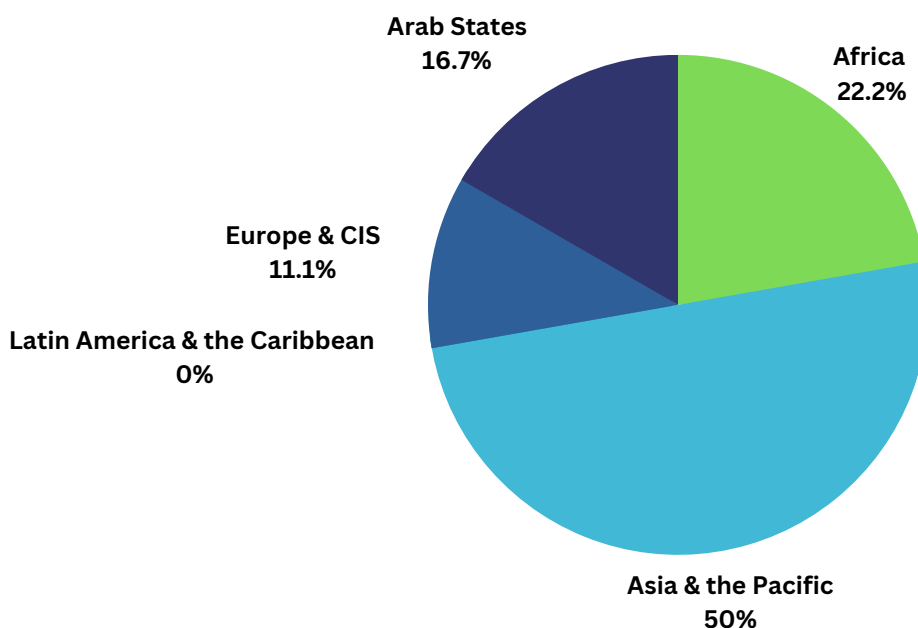
*Image from Haiti*

**Cameroon:** this project aims to establish a conducive peaceful environment before, during, and after the electoral process while ensuring that women, youth, and vulnerable groups benefit from better protection. Women and youth groups are supported to lead peace initiatives at the local and community levels to enhance understanding and engagement in the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts related to electoral tensions, and women and youth groups (with the active participation of communities) are enabled to monitor conflicts risk factors particularly associated with electoral violence.

**Kyrgyzstan:** the project assists the electoral commission (CEC) and other stakeholders (media, CSOs) in designing outreach strategies to specifically target women, young people, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities and encourage them to participate in the electoral process as voters, candidates, observers, and electoral officials. Furthermore, the project includes activities to address gender stereotypes, including amongst youth, by building on the current work done by UNICEF, including the supplemental teaching and learning materials for Civic Education (grade 5-6) that is currently being developed as well as the already developed gender and anti-discrimination methodology for the review of school textbooks.

## Women and Parliaments

Twenty-one projects focus on women and parliament, making it the second most mapped thematic area at UNDP. These include four projects in Africa, nine in Asia and the Pacific, two in Europe and the CIS, and three in the Arab States region.



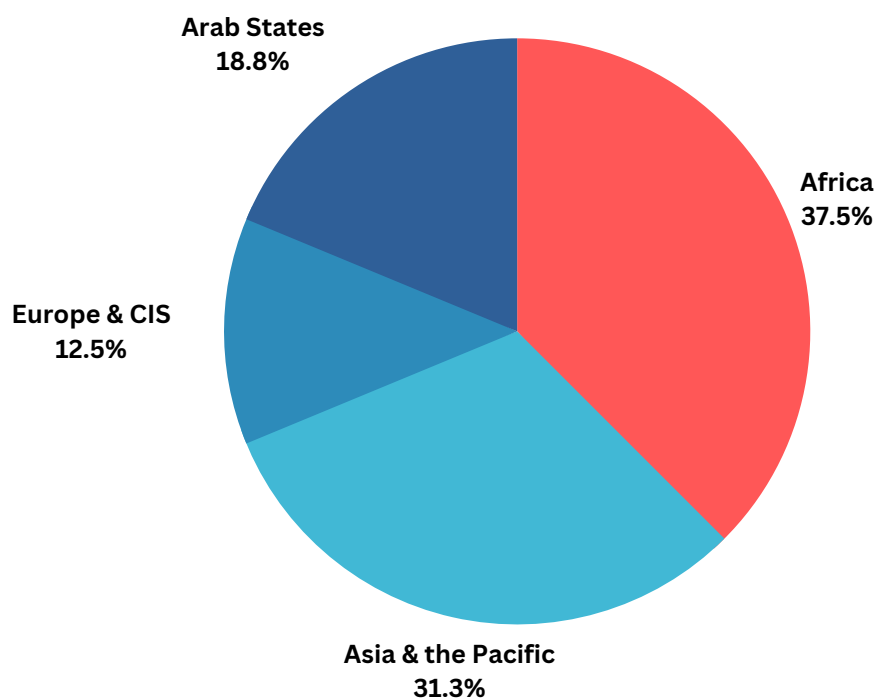
**Lao People's Democratic Republic:** this project provides strategic support to strengthening the National Assembly and Peoples Provincial provinces to be more accountable, inclusive, and responsive. A key aim is to improve the capacities of MPs to shape legislation that protects women's rights and advances gender equality. (Project timeline: Aug 2018-Dec 2022; budget 349,084 USD).

**Sierra Leone:** this project focuses on establishing a new Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) in which the different political parties in the fifth Parliament will be represented. The PSC and the new MPs will need to be capacitated in other aspects of parliamentary functioning to enable them to perform their mandated roles. A key factor is strengthening the women's caucus to advocate for gender-related issues.

**Serbia:** this project aims to bring MPs and local assembly representatives closer to their electorate, improve practices and transmit experiences from the national to the local level regarding oversight and representation tools and close the accountability circle towards citizens. The project includes a component on strengthening women's parliamentary networks country-wide to advance women's political participation, create gender-sensitive legislation, and promote women's economic empowerment at the local level.

## Women and Civic Engagement

This area includes activities that strengthen women's CSOs and movements promoting women's political participation, their systemic partnerships with institutional actors, and supporting young women's political leadership. Sixteen projects focus on supporting women's civic action and women's organizations, six projects in Africa, five in Asia and the Pacific: two in Europe and CIS, and three in the Arab States region.



**Angola:** through this project, UNDP intends to increase women's knowledge of their rights through access to information, the capacity to exercise their rights, and strengthening the capacity of women's groups and networks to advocate, influence policies, and implement and monitor efforts related to women's empowerment. This project provides grants to women's groups seeking their enablement in implementing SDG-related policies and programmes such as political participation and decision-making, social and economic empowerment, and combating violence against women. Based on the above and focusing on enhancing capacities and empowering both women led CSOs and women in general. In partnership with the Norwegian Embassy in Luanda, UNDP seeks to build implementation partnerships with eligible CSOs.

**Maldives:** this comprehensive governance portfolio programme includes key outcome areas around empowering women's leadership in local councils, governance, and decision-making, empowering civil society, and fostering safe learning spaces for the civic engagement of young people and women.

**Ukraine:** the project aims to enhance the institutional capacity of civil society actors across Ukraine, so they can have a stronger impact on the reform processes in the country in the areas of democracy and human rights and are able to contribute to more inclusive, democratic, and rights-based governance through enhanced capacity, better coordination, and networking. It includes several outcome areas focused on women's political participation, including empowering women councilors of amalgamated territorial communities in Kherson, Mykolaiv, Zakarpattia, and Khmelnytskyi regions to perform in their new public role effectively and further influence the local decision-making while addressing the needs of vulnerable groups of women.

## Women's Participation in the Public Administration

Thirteen projects that focus on women's participation in the public administration: eight are in Africa, three are in the Asia Pacific, two in Europe and CIS, and one in the Latin America and Caribbean and Asia Pacific regions, respectively.

### Strengthening Inclusion through Innovation and New Forms of Governance in Vietnam:

this project aims to align with Viet Nam's renewed commitment to innovation in socio-economic development, building a strong, firm, and pure political system and advancing comprehensive (renewal), industrialization, and modernization processes, as stated in the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress.

The project aims to broaden space for public participation in policy dialogues and strengthen responsive, strong institutions in line with the SDG16 implementation agenda. Key activities advancing gender equity and women's roles in politics, peace, and security interventions include a scoping study on gender in politics and advocacy events on women, Peace and Security.



*Image from Viet Nam*

**Zambia:** this Programme addresses the persistent gender gaps in Zambian society, which negatively affect the country's development trajectory. The programme has four primary outcomes: (i) Equitable and non-discriminatory laws and policies for increased gender equity and equality (ii) Transformed Institutions for the promotion of gender equity and equality (iii) Increased participation of women and girls in economic, social, and political development and (iv) Positive social norms and practices for addressing patriarchy and increasing rights of women and girls transformed. Women's political participation is especially advanced in outcome 3 in activities that focus on political organizations, Public and Private Service providers, and financial institutions to adopt affirmative actions to include women and girls in decision-making and access to opportunities and services.

## Women and Peacebuilding Processes

Twelve projects focus on women and peacebuilding: six are in Africa, four are in Asia and the Pacific region, and two are in the Arab States region.

**Countering hate speech through education and advocacy for improving social cohesion in Sri Lanka:** the harm posed by online hate speech to women's engagement in civic and political life is well documented. This project supports a targeted approach to generating gender-disaggregated data, identifying, and developing responses to gendered hate speech, and gender-sensitive training. The project is monitoring and assessing data and content involving hate speech linked to gender and developing alternative narratives and interventions that seek to address and prevent gender-based hate speech. A fair representation of women religious leaders (at least 20 percent) in the interventions targeting religious leaders will also be included. Additionally, the project will actively engage and develop the capacities of networking within women's and youth organizations.



Image Sri Lanka



**Côte d'Ivoire:** this project contributes to the creation of a national dialogue platform implementing actions at both central and decentralized levels, as well as to a peaceful, inclusive, and secure pre- and post-electoral environment to strengthen citizen participation, increase the vote and the representativeness of women in elected positions and consolidate the achievements of democracy and peace in Côte d'Ivoire. The project includes a component to support women's political empowerment, including support for women candidates, awareness of women's political rights, and support for women mediators.

**Support to Emerging Federal States (StEFS) in Somalia :** this project was developed in response to the New Deal. Aligned with the priorities and principles in the Somali Compact, the StEFS Project aims to support the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Emerging Federal States in achieving the Peacebuilding and State-building Goal (PSG) 1. Inclusive Politics Strategic Objective is to “achieve a stable and peaceful federal Somalia through inclusive political processes. StEFS actively promotes women as peacemakers and government leaders through all project activities. For example, women are given prominent voices during reconciliation activities, drawing upon individual women of influence and engaging CSOs led by women or focusing on women’s empowerment. Women in government will also benefit from targeted mentoring from the UN’s gender unit and their participation in government functions training. The project also provides technical assistance and other support to increase the capacity of CSOs/women’s groups in the areas of governance and government and community engagement.

## Women in politics and the Media

The area with the least projects is Women in politics and the media. Two projects are from Asia Pacific region ([Samoa and Sri Lanka](#)). Africa ([Rwanda](#)), Arab States ([Somalia](#)), and Europe and CIS regions ([Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)) each have one project. The [Women in Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) project is provided under the Projects with multiple focus areas section of this report. The [Countering hate speech through education and advocacy for improving social cohesion in Sri Lanka](#) project is found under the sub-section of Women and Peacebuilding Processes of this report. The remaining projects are provided below.

### Deepening Democracy and Accountable governance in Rwanda:

this joint UN flagship programme aims to deepen democracy and strengthen inclusive citizen participation and accountability in governance. It focuses on three main areas: evidence-based governance, reinforcing inclusive participation, and strengthening accountability structures. It places particular emphasis on media-sector reforms to enhance accountability and gender and human rights as tools to support citizen participation. The National Electoral Commission has enhanced its capacity to ensure gender accountability through gender mainstreaming in elections. A key strategy of the project is to focus on women and youth and train women candidates on effective electoral campaigns.



*Image from Rwanada project*

Support for Mechanisms to Prevent Conflict in Elections In Somalia: the project includes a component on violence against women in politics, state formation, peacebuilding, and elections. Activities and outputs include reviewing protocols, rules, and laws around violence against women in elections; training of CSOs, including women's organizations, to monitor and report political violence; training security forces to prevent and respond to VAW in politics and establishing partnerships with media to raise awareness through campaigns.

## Cross-cutting Priority Areas

The project identifies three priority interventions or focus areas that cut across the above categories. These include:

1. Temporary special measures (TSMs) (6 projects)
2. Social norms change, including through engaging men (9 projects)
3. Violence against women in politics (8 projects)

## Temporary special measures

The UN Secretary-General's Call-to-Action for Human Rights outlines seven thematic areas to accelerate action on human rights, including one on achieving Gender Equality and Equal Rights for Women. Dismantling discriminatory laws and increasing the use of Temporary Special Measures (TSMs) have been identified as two strategic interventions for achieving the gender equality objective. Task teams have been created in both priority areas to strengthen the UN's systematic advocacy for and support of efforts toward the equal rights of women and girls.

## Social norms change, including through engaging men

Social norms programming is a critical priority in UNDP's gender equality strategy and global programme. This is because the political empowerment of women will not be sustained unless there is a fundamental shift in social norms around women entering and staying in politics. Expanding women's capacity alone cannot foster meaningful change to political institutions, processes, or socio-cultural norms more broadly. In many societies, it is still the case that power, especially political power, is associated with men and masculinity. Such patriarchal ideas and stereotypes of masculinity foster a natural expectation that men should dominate political power and positions of authority while women should remain subordinate. Change in social norms remains a relatively under-analyzed, under-developed, and under-measured area of programming and the strategy and global programme. This is a priority area for the mapping of projects to see to what extent interventions include approaches and tools that expose the impacts of patriarchal norms on political processes and that build men's commitment and capacity to challenge them in alliance with women's struggles for equal voice, visibility, and power in politics.

## Violence against women in politics (VAWP)

VAWP is a form of discrimination, a human rights violation, and a challenge to democracy. VAWP affects women engaged in formal politics and women across public life, including women activists, journalists, and human rights defenders. VAWP includes cyberviolence, gendered disinformation, hate speech, and trolling and is often used to delegitimize the assertion of women's rights. Violence, as both threat and lived experience, deters women, especially young women, from participating in politics and is a formidable obstacle to advancing women's political participation.

## Temporary Special Measures (TSMs)

Out of the 73 projects mapped, six projects focus on gender quotas and TSMs.

**Burkina Faso:** The project training is solely dedicated to women so that women candidates can compete on an equal footing with men. The capacity building focuses on public speaking, developing political agenda, interacting with the media and voters, and accessing resources. The project also promotes women in peace. This project focuses on young women from the age of 15-22.

**Lebanon:** The project is designed to build election management ahead of the 2022 elections in Lebanon. It seeks to address the issue of women's weak participation in the election and aims to have a consultative workshop on TSM options and support women candidates.

**Fiji:** the project aims to increase the voice of women, youth, and marginalized groups and inclusive participation in national and Sub-national decision-making bodies; expand parliamentary outreach and citizen engagement to include traditionally excluded groups, such as women and youth, and reach remote areas; increase the capacity of potential women candidates through training and learning activities and increase the number of women candidates selected by political parties.

## Social norms change, including through engaging men

Nine projects focus on change in social norms, including through engaging men.

**Papua New Guinea:** The project aims for male advocacy to further sensitize men within the various hierarchy levels in the societal structure to address gender-based violence and promote gender equality, inclusive decision-making, and a culture of respect and peace.



*Image from New Guinea project*

**Kyrgyzstan:** the project supports an awareness-raising campaign on violence against women through positive messaging around women and men champions to showcase the achievements of women parliamentarians and examples of men supporting women's participation.

**Moldova:** the project assists women MPs in establishing and strengthening the mechanisms for collaboration with civil society organizations and with men, women, and youth constituencies for better addressing their needs through the decision-making and oversight process.

## Violence against women in politics

Out of the 73 mapped projects, eight focus on ending violence against women in politics.

**Bolivia:** the project supports the promotion of effective gender equality in political participation and representation beyond quotas and the prevention of violence against women, particularly in political and electoral processes.



Image from Bolivia

**Liberia:** the project seeks to achieve more effective prevention and response to Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics by building a peaceful and enabling environment for women's increased participation.

**Tunisia:** The project focuses on increasing women's political participation by providing comprehensive support to Electoral Authorities in setting up and monitoring gender-based electoral violence.

## Strengthening women's political participation in crisis and conflict-affected countries

The mapping tracked current projects from 54 countries, of which 29 countries are from crisis and conflict-affected countries. Recent projects from these countries in crisis are listed below.

Country	# of Projects	Project Title
Afghanistan	1	<a href="#"><u>Support to Peace and Reconciliation in Afghanistan</u></a>
Angola	2	<a href="#"><u>Promoting the Empowerment of Angolan Women Through CSOs</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Support for Angola's Election</u></a>
Benin	1	<a href="#"><u>Capacity Building of the Parliament</u></a>
Burkinafaso	2	<a href="#"><u>Citizen participation and social cohesion</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Appui aux processus électoraux (Electoral support)</u></a>
Cameroon	1	<a href="#"><u>Strengthening capacities in support of peaceful electoral processes and social cohesion in Cameroon</u></a>
Central African Republic	3	<a href="#"><u>Support to the electoral process in the Central African Republic</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Promotion of women's political participation and leadership in the consolidation of peace</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Political inclusion of persons with disability</u></a>

Côte d'Ivoire	2	<a href="#"><u>Support for the democratic process</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Appui aux Elections en Côte d'Ivoire (Election Support in Côte d'Ivoire)</u></a>
Democratic Republic of Congo	1	<a href="#"><u>Appropriation nationale processus électoral</u></a>
Gambia	1	<a href="#"><u>Support Project to the Elections in the Gambia</u></a>
Haiti	1	<a href="#"><u>Appui au Processus Électoral en Haïti (PAPEH)</u></a>
Iraq	1	<a href="#"><u>Support to Iraq's Electoral Process - Support to Early Election 2021 and Capacity Development</u></a>
Kenya	2	<a href="#"><u>2KEN DEVOLUTION JOINT PROJECT</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>2KEN014/235 Electoral process strengthened</u></a>
Lesotho	1	<a href="#"><u>PREGA-Programme Renewal &amp; Enhancement of Governance Architecture</u></a>
Liberia	1	<a href="#"><u>Inclusive Political Participation</u></a>
Mali	1	<a href="#"><u>Support for the strengthening of social cohesion and the promotion of a national dialogue in Mali</u></a>

Country	# of Projects	Project Title
Mozambique	1	<a href="#"><u>Enhancing Democracy &amp; Electoral Processes</u></a>
Myanmar	1	<a href="#"><u>Support to Effective and Responsive Institutions Project (SERIP)</u></a>
Nigeria	1	<a href="#"><u>Enhancing Democracy &amp; Electoral Processes</u></a>
Pakistan	1	<a href="#"><u>Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes (SELP)</u></a>
Papua New Guinea	1	<a href="#"><u>Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes (SELP)</u></a>
Sierra Leone	1	<a href="#"><u>Strengthening Democratic Institutions</u></a>
Solomon Islands	1	<a href="#"><u>Strengthening the Electoral Cycle Project Phase 3</u></a>
Somalia		<a href="#"><u>Electoral Support to Somalia</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Support to the Federal State Formation Process/StEFS</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Support to Mechanisms to Prevent Conflict in Elections</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Haweenka iyo Hadda - Women Now</u></a>



Country	No. of Projects	Project Title
State of Palestine	1	<a href="#"><u>Support to Inclusive Electoral Support</u></a>
Timor-Leste	2	<a href="#"><u>COVID-Resilient Elections in Timor Leste</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>LEARN PROJECT</u></a>
Uganda	1	<a href="#"><u>Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes (SELP)</u></a>
Ukraine	1	<a href="#"><u>Civil Society for Enhanced Democracy and Human Rights</u></a>
Zambia	2	<a href="#"><u>Democracy Strengthening in Zambia</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Programme for the Advancement of Gender Equity &amp; Equality in Zambia</u></a>
Zimbabwe	1	<a href="#"><u>National Gender Machinery</u></a>

### Haweenka Iyo Hadda - Women Now in Somalia:

Women's political participation in Somalia has always been an elusive concept since Somalia's independence in 1960. Since the handover from the Transitional Federal Government to the Federal Government of Somalia in 2012, the (at first) unwritten principle of a 30 percent women quota in Parliament has been discussed and agreed upon. However, this target was not met in 2012 and 2016, although the latter campaign came close with 25 percent of seats allocated to women. The project has two main objectives, including advocacy and raising awareness to achieve the 30 percent women quota in the Somali parliament.



*Image from Somalia project*

Attaining the 30 percent women quota in parliament will strongly depend on the (political) will of the different key stakeholders, such as the Council of Presidents, National Consultative Council, clan elders, and the delegates that will be elected among the candidates running for a seat. To positively influence these key stakeholders, 'Goodwill Ambassadors' [2] conduct intensive advocacy, awareness raising, and lobby work.

In addition to advocacy and lobbying efforts, the project supports new women Members of Parliament to strengthen their capacity to carry out their legislative work and advance gender equality and women's empowerment through legislation and advocacy in and outside the parliament and in their respective constituencies. The capacity development involves two stages of activities, support to aspirants, which will be held during the electoral process in the form of briefings and working sessions, and immediately after the inauguration to support the newly elected women members in parliament in the form of training, exchange, experience sharing with women parliamentarians in other countries, to take on and fulfil their constitutional mandate swiftly and competently as parliamentarians.

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[2] On 25 July 2021, the Prime Minister of Somalia issued a decree establishing the Goodwill Ambassadors (GwA) for the 30 percent women quota. The GwA consists of 13 prominent members (12 women and 1 man) of society and from all the regions of Somalia. The focus of the GwA is to amplify and strengthen the different ongoing efforts for the realization of the 30 percent women quota in the ongoing parliamentary elections in Somalia. The mandate of the GwA includes conducting advocacy for the 30 percent women quota and Somali women's meaningful participation in the electoral process.

The project also has a component focused on security and protection. Safety and security are a precondition for women’s participation —as campaigners, advocates, candidates, and supporters—in the electoral process. This is more pertinent for women candidates. Female candidates are only able to run a political campaign if they are safe and feel secure. Lessons learned from the 2016-2017 electoral campaigns in Somalia indicate that women candidates are more likely to be intimidated, harassed, and even attacked before, during, and after their election campaigns. The project focuses on establishing a dedicated protection system for women candidates, delegates, and their supporters and strengthening the coordination of security and protection efforts.

### Inclusive and COVID Resilient

**Elections in Timor-Leste:** Timor-Leste faces several development challenges despite noticeable progress since its independence in 2002. These challenges have been further exacerbated by the outbreak of COVID, which resulted in a national State of Emergency in 2020 and extended into 2022, resulting in substantial negative socio-economic consequences for the Timorese people.



*Image from Timor-Leste*

Moreover, Timor-Leste expects a series of elections at the national and municipal levels in the next three years. This not only presents a risk for the spread of the virus as people gather for the election but equally would hinder and undermine the continued practice of democracy if not conducted. This project aims to support the country in conducting COVID-resilient, informed, and inclusive national and municipal elections and strengthen accessible, accountable, and gender-responsive governance systems, institutions, and services. The project also aims to improve the participation and representation of youth, women, and persons with disabilities in politics. Outside the legal framework, women still face many challenges in attaining political equality in Timor-Leste. Factors such as a lack of family support, limited confidence, geographical isolation, inability to finance campaigns, and limited information all create political barriers for women. Therefore, targeted support is required to ensure that the national and municipal elections of the coming years are inclusive and participatory for women in the capacity of voters, candidates, party agents, observers, and polling staff. Key activities include with UN Women and women CSOs to provide election and leadership training and support to women staff, voters, and candidates.