

Transforming Equality

UN Women in Eastern and Southern Africa



With many thanks to UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa multi/country offices and ESARO thematic units for contributing content for the report

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Produced by the Knowledge Management and Research Section in Collaboration with the Communications Section

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Design: Colourprint Limited, Nairobi

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Transforming Equality

“...the results for the cost-efficiency of programs were found to be positive, and a key factor... is the ability to achieve more with limited resources.”

~ OECD's 2015 Development Effectiveness Review of UN Women



Source: UN Women¹

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created the **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women** (UN Women). In doing so, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the Organisation's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UN Women merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system: Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW); International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI); and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

¹Source of all photos is UN Women, unless otherwise stated

These past few years have been a time of intense learning as UN Women developed from a nascent organisation into a fully-fledged, global entity. UN Women's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in particular has come a long way in a very short time, since its inception in 2012.

Two external assessments of UN Women carried out in 2014 came to the same conclusion: despite being only four years old, UN Women had not only put in place the systems required for any global organisation to function; it had also successfully engaged in its core mandates and had tangible results to show for its efforts.

The **Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network** (MOPAN) assessed UN Women in 2014². MOPAN provides an assessment of four dimensions of organisational effectiveness (strategic management, operational management, relationship management, and knowledge management), and an assessment of the evidence of the organisation's relevance and development results. The results were highly positive:

“UN Women has demonstrated a results focus in operational management.”

“...rated strong for its systems for financial accountability...”



²<http://www.mopanonline.org/publications/>

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) prepared the 2015 Development Effectiveness Review³ and had this to say about UN Women:

“...the agency’s programming is highly relevant.”

“Evaluations indicated strong coverage and reported positive findings regarding UN Women’s contribution to gender equality.”

With a regional office based in the United Nations Complex, Nairobi, and country offices covering sixteen nations, with a presence in an additional ten countries, UN Women is well positioned to continue its work on gender equality in Eastern and Southern Africa.



UN Women configuration and location in Eastern and Southern Africa

The following is a glimpse into some of the activities that have had measurable impacts and that are scalable with donor support. My hope is that this overview will leave you with one key question: if UN Women’s Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office could achieve so much in the brief few years of its existence and with limited resources, what could it achieve in future given more time and more support?

Christine Musisi

Regional Director

Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

³ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/UNWOMEN-DE-Review-Final-Report-April-2015.pdf>



Map of the Eastern and Southern Africa Region

Small Beginnings, Big Potential

“As a woman who does not have collateral, how are you going to get a loan?”

~ Violet Malama, Zambia

“I used to spend a lot of time and energy shelling maize. Not only is it very tiring, but there is a lot of breakage.”

~ Defense Wakesho, Kenya

“I dropped out of school because I got pregnant. When I think about it now, I realise that getting married at such a young age (15) isn't a good thing.”

~ Bernadetta Matison, Malawi



Ms. Malama, Ms. Wakesho and Ms. Matison share at least two things in common: they contend with many of the typical challenges that women all over the African continent face; and they have at some point in their journeys engaged with UN Women's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office **(ESARO)**.

Through its regional office in Nairobi, and a number of country and multi-country offices, UN Women ESARO implements programmes tailored to individual countries, in close collaboration with governments, the UN system and civil society.

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