

SUSTAINING THE PATH OF GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA

2022 Report of Solemn Declaration Index
and GIMAC Response to COVID-19 Pandemic



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**2022 Report of Solemn Declaration
Index and GIMAC Response to
COVID-19 Pandemic**

Olumide Abimbola Ajayi, Ph.D.

FOREWORD

This is the 3rd Solemn Declaration Index report and I am very happy that GIMAC continues to play a prominent role in the monitoring of gender mainstreaming in the Africa union for the past 20 years. The last two years has been very remarkable and eventful as year 2020 marked the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; the 5-year milestone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs; the 10th anniversary of the creation of UN Women and the beginning of the African Union Decade of African Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion (2018–2028).

I am also very happy that many Member States of the African Union are now submitting their report on the implementation of SDGEA. As the report has shown there has been tremendous improvement in the implementation of the SDGEA since 2005. Giant strides have been recorded in the fights against HIV/AIDS especially among women, even though there is a marginal increase of about 1% in the proportion of WLWHA among the total population of PLWHA, this report revealed that there is increase in the proportion of WLWHA with access to ARV in Africa.

In terms of Girls' Education, enrollment and progression to secondary level has increased. The number of Countries that acceded to the Maputo Protocol also increased to 42 countries while Gender Parity Index increased by 8% from 2015 to date, although the impact of COVID-19 was noticeable between 2019 and 2022 figures.

One major disruption to these gains is the COVID-19 pandemic which necessitated actions from several GEWE stakeholders. GIMAC members also responded positively and provided support to various communities within the Continent. The outcome of GIMAC's interventions and contributions during COVID-19 is captured in chapter 2 of this book titled "Helping Hands in time of Crisis".

However, the real pandemic within the COVID-19 pandemic is the increase in Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). I am very happy that the Head of States of the AU responded to this through the African Union Men's Conference on African Men Leaders Engage Positive Masculinity to End the Scourge of Violence against Women and Girls in Africa which was held on the 25th of November, year 2021.

I hope that by the time the Continental Convention on VWAG is adopted, the Continent will move back to the path of sustaining Gender equality and Promotion of women's rights in Africa.

BINETA DIOP

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Coordinator, Gender is My Agenda (GIMAC) Network,
AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AfDB	Africa Development Bank
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
ALPC	African Land Policy Centre
ART	Anti-Retroviral Treatment
AU	Africa Union
AU/CIEFFA	African Union International Centre for Girls and Women Education in Africa
AUC	Africa Union Commission
AWLN	African Women Leaders Network
CEDAW	Convention and Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Child
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DD	Demographic Dividend
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DRC	Demographic Republic of Congo
EMTCT	Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission
FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationists
GADIA	Gender and Development Initiative for Africa
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEI	Girls' Education Index
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GIMAC	Gender is my Agenda Campaign
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HI	HIV Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLP	Housing, Land and Properties
HoS	Head of States
HR	Human Rights
HT	Human Trafficking
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally Displaced Person
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union

LR	Land Rights
MS	Member State
NAP	National Action Plan
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PLWHAs	People Living with HIV/AIDS
REC	Regional Economic Communities
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SDI	Solemn Declaration Index
SDSC	Solemn Declaration Score Card
STEM	Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNMONUSCO	United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
WGYDD	Women Gender and Youth Development Directorate
WHO	World Health Organisation
WLWHAs	Women Living with HIV/AIDS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Solemn Declaration Index (SDI) was developed in 2012, by the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) with the support of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to measure progress being made in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). This was in response to the fact that the AU's reporting guidelines are weak and needs to be strengthened with clear indicators that will make evaluation of both quantitative and qualitative performance possible. Also, the difficult computation process, paucity of data and questionable data sources make it difficult for CSO's to use many of the indices whose variables are not within the context of SDGEA.

This SDI has been used to analyse the performance of Member States twice in the past which has generated two reports, one in 2016 and another in 2019. This 2022 SDI Report titled **"SUSTAINING THE PATH OF GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA"** is the 3rd Report on Solemn Declaration Index produced by Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) network.

Just as it was in the previous reports, the 2022 report focused on the generation of three thematic indices on HIV/AIDs, Gender Parity and Girls Education as it was in the first report. The complimentary Solemn Declaration Score Card (SDSC) was used to assess the SDGEA report of 37 Member States whose reports were available to GIMAC. Twenty (20) of these reports were 2019/2020 SDGEA report while 17 were 2017/2018 reports. Compared to previous report, it was observed that the 2019/2020 SDGEA reports of member states were compact, concise and easy to analyse due to the adoption the new SDGEA reporting template introduced by the African Union Commission. In fact, 85% (17 of 20) of reporting Countries used the new reporting template.

The Grand Solemn Declaration Index (GSDI) which is the geometric mean of SDI and SDSC assisted in throwing up the current high performing countries to include Namibia, Kenya, Senegal, Rwanda, Uganda, and Sierra Leone.

One of the major highlights of this report is the introduction of two new chapters that demonstrated the role of GIMAC members in the implementation of GEWE agenda in Africa. The 2nd Chapter of this report titled "Helping hand in time of Crisis" documents GIMAC network members' responses and recovery efforts to COVID19. It also assesses how GIMAC's efforts support the objectives of the African Union Guidelines on gender sensitive response to COVID19 in the Africa. Similarly, Chapter five contains GIMAC's thematic activity reports on Health, Girls' Education, Peace and Security, Governance and Women's Rights.

Another innovation in this report is the introduction of intertemporal comparison of the performance of Member States between 2019 and 2022. This comparison showed that progress is being recorded in some areas, however concerted efforts are required in protecting women against the upsurge in Gender Based Violence (GBV), right to housing, Human Trafficking, Slavery and lack of access to productive resources. A major improvement was recorded in primary school enrollment rate where about five countries had more than 100% female enrollment.

Our analysis showed that 18 AU States experience decline in HIV prevalence which ranges from 0.02% as found in Burkina Faso and Chad to 2.87% recorded in Benin Republic. Six (6) countries Liberia, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland, Zambia, Mozambique topped their 2019 report prevalence rates by more than 1%. Generally, increase in prevalence rate ranges from 0.01% increase in Madagascar to 6.36%

in Liberia. our analyses shows that Countries that recorded increase in HIV prevalence rate had also recorded increase in access to Anti-Retroviral Viral (ARV), ARV coverage among women living with HIV decreased from 69.60% in 2018 to 68.98% in 2020. This can be attributed to the effect of COVID-19 and the movement restrictions/locked down measures deployed to combat the pandemic.

There seems to be no change in the political participation of Women among the 55 MS of the Union as the Gender parity index (GPI), moved from 47% in the 2019 report to 46% in the 2022 report indicating a 1% decrease. The effect of COVID 19 is very obvious in this regard. Overall, our SDI showed that many countries are making progress in the 3 thematic areas of health, education, and Gender Parity.

The report generated various recommendations among which the following are key:

1. AU-WGYDD should enhance their engagement with the Member States through the specialized Technical Committee (STC) on GEWE to ensure that MS submit their SDGEA report at least once in 3 years if they cannot meet the annual obligation. In this way, analysis and evidence-based policy direction can be generated using up to date report and data;
2. The AU should use the African Women's' Decade (AWD) on Financial and Economic inclusion to advocate with MS to develop the Special Women Socio-Economic Empowerment Act with 20-year sunset clause that will cover: Affirmative Public Procurement, Social Protection, discriminatory tax regime, interest rate for women entrepreneurs, farm input pricing and conditional cash transfer to female household heads. This way, the impact of COVID-19 on the socio-economic well-being of the women can be eliminated;
3. The WYGDD should work with GIMAC to develop appropriate windows within the new Gender Observatory platform with the new reporting SDGEA template for Member States to generate their reports;
4. Related to (3) above is the need for Member State to set up an Inter-Ministerial Report Generation Group for all Instruments relating to the Right of Women and populate the group with experts that are familiar with development, efforts, achievements and impact that the Government is making in the promotion and protection of rights of women in the country;
5. To maintain the success so far recorded in GEI, GIMAC and other Gender advocates should increase the tempo of their advocacy in the area of education to ensure that we do not lose this gain so far made in education and ensure that girls are retained from the beginning to the end. Girls drop out in school due to issues of early pregnancy etc should be tackled with the appropriate framework especially for those who dropped out due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
6. Member States should focus more on improving the quality of life of women living with HIV/AIDS and ensuring that the current ARV access level for women does not decline.
7. Countries that are yet to develop National Legislation and Plan of Action for promotion of and participation of women in conflict resolution and peace building (UNSCR 1325+1820) should do so immediately while Member States and the office of the African Union Chairperson should continue to support the Office of the Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security to effectively perform its mandate;
8. Convening of a Special Session of the Heads of State of the African Union (AU) on Acceleration of Political Participation of Women through Affirmative Action Gender Parity laws that compels political parties and Electoral Commissions across the continent to give room and ensure women are encouraged and well-resourced to be part and parcel of the electoral system from the national to local government level;

9. In the light of the development and adoption of the MPSI by the Heads of States of the Africa Union we recommend the creation of a separate Women's Rights Commission as distinct from the existing Human Rights Commission to ensure the promotion and protection of women's right at all levels;
10. In preparation for future pandemic, donors should provide direct financial and technical support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working at the community level instead of the national governments. This is to ensure community's easy access to palliatives, efficient utilization of funds and support CSOs and CBOs awareness creation at the community levels.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTORY BACKGROUND

The 2022 SDI Report **“SUSTAINING THE PATH OF GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA”** is the 3rd Report on Solemn Declaration Index produced by Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) network. The 1st report titled “From Adoption to Measurement” was produced in 2016, while the 2nd report “Pushing the Frontier of Gender Equality in Africa” was produced in 2019.

The SDI report has been a good instrument in assessing the performance of the MS. The 2019 report gave a number of recommendations. These recommendations are:

- i. The Member States should be encouraged to start using the new AUWGDD reporting format because it provides opportunity for a greater display and evaluation of the activities of the MS in the implementation of SDGEA, including access to authentic data generated at National level;
- ii. In line with (i) above, MS should also update and ensure that appropriate data concerning their countries are published by the United Nations Agencies and other Inter-Governmental Organisations;
- iii. In order to improve the quality of SDGEA report, a better inter-agency coordination will be required in some countries to give a good account of their activities as well encourage the engagement of skillful and professional writers;
- iv. A joint GIMAC-AUWGDD Advocacy Mission should be raised to:
 - a. Undertake a visit to countries whose response to the commitments made under the SDGEA has been very weak; to build their capacity and persuade them to develop appropriate strategies, policies and laws required for the implementation of the SDGEA;
 - b. Engage government and stakeholders of countries serving as source, route and recipients of trafficked women with the aim of developing a legal framework for the rights protection and rehabilitation of victims;
- v. In order for women to enjoy their full rights and be in a position to pursue these rights, it might be necessary to establish a separate Women’s Rights Commission as distinct from the existing Human Rights Commission in many countries, which does not focus much on the rights of women;
- vi. Convening of a Special Session of the Heads of State of the African Union (AU) on Acceleration of Political Participation of Women through active interventions that compel political parties and Electoral Commissions across the continent to give room and ensure women are encouraged and well-resourced to be part and parcel of the electoral system from the national to local government level.

Unlike the 2016 report, most of the recommendations could not be implemented due to the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic.

1.1 COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IT’S IMPACT ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA

One major revelation of COVID-19 pandemic is that the vulnerability of African women is as strong as it was many years ago. The slow pace of integrating gender equality and women’s concerns to development became very necessary in this pandemic.

Despite some concrete affirmative action measures and the considerable progress that Africa has made in raising women’s representation in leadership, African women are still under-represented in top decision-making roles in the continent. Getting more women to take up more roles in the public or private careers and businesses is not only critical for equality but also for national and global development. The lack of

reliable gender-sensitive data and information has been identified as a major obstacle to the development of sound policy formulation and decision making with respect to gender inequalities and the empowerment of women.

The number and complexity of hazards and disasters are increasing rapidly; and there is ample evidence that women and girls are often more vulnerable to disasters than men and boys.

‘The gendered impacts of disasters are now widely acknowledged, if not fully understood, and most organizations involved in humanitarian responses, as well as in disaster risk reduction, now recognise their obligation to support women’s rights and promote gender equality through their interventions’¹

Gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts and vulnerability such as COVID-19 pandemic refers to methodologies and practices applied to ensure that both men’s and women’s concerns, aspirations, opportunities and capacities are taken into account. Humanitarian crises, including health emergencies affect men and women differently.

As COVID-19 continues to spread in Africa, there are concerns over its impact on women and girls, with vulnerabilities feared to worsen as the pandemic overwhelms health systems. Although, there is a general loss of data to ascertain this fact, women are more disproportionately affected by lockdowns and this is resulting in a reduced access to health services and sources of livelihood. While COVID-19 does not discriminate, there is a need to critically probe a whole-society approach to understand its differential impact on women and men in order to respond effectively to the crisis. Supporting gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data is an integral part of a strong COVID-19 response and future humanitarian crises preparedness.

Despite the destruction and tragedy that they cause, in some instances natural disasters and situations of conflict open up opportunities for positive change, enabling women and men to take on new and more progressive gender roles: for example, when men have to share caring responsibilities, or when women assume prominent roles in peace building and mediation. This seems to be the case even for some of the most intractable problems, such as gender-based violence (GBV), if they are approached with sensitivity and determination. Seizing opportunities that crises offer requires one key change in mind-sets: the recognition that women and girls – like men and boys – possess great skills (and can put them to use) to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The widespread recognition of their vulnerability has perhaps tended to prevent policy makers and practitioners from valuing and employing women’s skills and readiness to act.

With recognition of women comes the development, the implementation and use of policies and strategies. The gender mainstreaming tool below focuses on strengthening governance and accountability for gender equality as a means to improving the gender-responsiveness of public policy. It also identifies measures to increase gender equality in state institutions. It highlights a range of possible actions to take and pitfalls to avoid in: institutionalizing gender equality and gender mainstreaming; supporting gender balance in all state institutions (executive, legislative, and judiciary) and structures, and at all levels; developing and sustaining gender mainstreaming capacity; and establishing inclusive accountability structures.

1 J. Hoare, I. Smyth, and C. Sweetman (2012) ‘Introduction: post disaster humanitarian work’, Gender and Development, vol. 20, July 2012.

The importance of strategy comes from the fact that it recognises that effective policy making, and oversight do not occur in a vacuum. Likewise, sustainable gender mainstreaming efforts engage a broad range of core political and public actors. These stakeholders not only play a role in supporting gender mainstreaming, but also serve as sounding boards and accountability mechanisms in their own right. The promising practices outlined in the forthcoming chapter will inform policy makers and decision makers as well as development and humanitarian actors in AU Member States to continuously develop innovative ways to promote gender equality in the management and response to COVID 19 in AU Member States.

This impact of COVID-19 on GEWE gains is one of the things that makes this report unique and a whole chapter is dedicated to this which is the chapter 2 and the fact that we are including the status report of GIMAC activities in the 7 thematic areas.

One major intervention that came up during the COVID 19 was the development of Maputo Protocol Score Card Index (MPSI) by the African Leadership Forum (ALF), plan International and the Women Youth and Development Directorate (AUC-WGYDD) as a way to reverse the negative impact of covid-19 on GEWE gains. And since the launch of the MPSI it has been adopted by the MS.

1.2. METHODOLOGY

The Solemn Declaration Index (SDI) was developed in 2012, by the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) with the support of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to measure progress being made in the implementation of the SDGEA. This was in response to the fact that the AU's reporting guidelines are weak and needs to be strengthened with clear indicators that will make evaluation of both quantitative and qualitative performance possible. Also, the difficult computation process, paucity of data and questionable data source makes it difficult for CSO's to use many of the indices whose variables are not within the context of SDGEA. As observed in the In the SDI framework²:

“No number of existing targets and indicators can capture the rich diversity and complexity of the issues underpinning the SDGEA. Having a specialized and specific index focusing on this will help both government and other stakeholders to monitor the fulfillment of the commitments, as well as mobilize support for stronger efforts in this regard. A Solemn Declaration Index is also needed as a tool to enable better planning and actions”.

Since the launch of the SDI Framework, the Assembly of Heads of State had formally adopted Solemn Declaration Index (SDI), as a monitoring tool through a declaration made during their 25th Ordinary Session, 14–15 June, 2015, Johannesburg, South Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXV, Page 6). The Declaration states inter-alia:

“We commit to systematic data gathering, regular review and progress monitoring of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its 10-year Action Plan using the Solemn Declaration Index (SDI) developed by GIMAC and United Nations Economic Commission (UNECA).”

2 The Solemn Declaration Index: Framework of the performance Monitoring Index for the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)

The construction of the SDI was originally based on three thematic dimensions of Health, Education and Gender Parity. The solemn declaration index is a composite index that measures progress made in the implementation of the SDGEA. Other basic features of the SDI methodology are summarised below:

1. An index was generated for each of the three thematic dimensions based on the values of the operative indicators in relation to the obligations and commitments made under each operative article of the SDGEA. The dimension index is calculated and rescaled as the geometric mean of the indicators with a value ranging from 0 (lowest ratio) and 1(highest ratio).
2. Geometric mean was used as against arithmetic mean because different items constitute the components (indicators) being used for the calculations of the dimension index. Same treatment was extended to the computation of the composite index (SDI). The higher the level of implementation of the SDGEA at country level, the higher the dimension index, and the higher the level of implementation as it relates to the thematic focus. It is important to mention that not all the operative articles can be subjected to quantitative estimation although the new reporting format developed by AUWGDD may create room for the use of more quantitative indicators in the nearest future.
3. The indicators selected for the computation of the SDI were based first on the thematic index with high advocacy utility value and opportunity for effective engagement of the MS by the civil society. The second is dearth of data which can be resolved when countries provide their own data.
4. The mathematical expression of the SDI as used in the framework is as shown below:

$$SDI = \sqrt[3]{D1 \times D2 \times D3} \dots\dots\dots \text{(Equation 1)}$$

Where:

- D1=HIV Index
- D2=Education Index
- D3=Gender Parity Index

$$Di = \sqrt[n]{P1 \times P2 \times \dots \times Pn} \dots\dots\dots \text{(Equation 2)}$$

Where:

- i=1, 2, 3;
- n ≤3

P=Operative Indicators

1. Complimentary to the Solemn Declaration Index is the Solemn Declaration Score Card (SDSC) which deals with qualitative aspect of the SDGEA and captures the legislative, policy and institutional commitments made by the Heads of State of the AU within the solemn declaration. The SDSC, unlike the index, covers all the 10 country level operative articles as shown in Table 3.
2. The SDSC will be generated as a table showing the performance of Member States in the implementation of the SDGEA. The columns and rows of the score card will carry either 0 Or 1 depending on whether the required action has been undertaken or not as indicated in each of the operative articles of the SDGEA. The score for each country will then be converted into an index based on the expected total score which in this case is 12 as shown below:

Table 1: Template for Solemn Declaration Score Card

Thematic Focus	HIV/AIDS	SCR 1325	CHILD SOLDIERS	GBV	HUM TRAF	GENDER PARITY	HUMAN RIGHTS	LAND RIGHTS	HOUSING RIGHTS	EDUCATION	PROTOCOL	Report	Total Score	Score Card Index
	1	2	3	4 (GBV)	4 (HT)	5	6	7(LR)	7 (HR)	8	9	12	12	1

Code: GBV=Gender Based Violence, HT=Human Trafficking, LR=Land Rights, HR=Housing Rights.

The breakdown and definitions of indicators used in the SDSC and SDI framework are as follows:

Table 2: Definition of Indicators Used for the Computation of SDSC and SDI Framework

S/N	THEMATIC FOCUS	INDICATORS
1	Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Proportion of Women living with HIV/AIDS (WLWHAs) with access to ARV in the population of women who are living with HIV/AIDs (WLWHAs) (SDI). The proportion of women living with HIV/AIDS (WLWHAs) with access to ARV in the population of people living with HIV/ AIDS (PLWHAs) with access to ARV(SDI) Existence of law that criminalizes the stigmatization of PLWHAs (SDSC)
2	Peace and Security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of National Legislation and Plan of Action for the promotion of and participation of women in conflict resolution and peace building (UNSCR 1325+1820) (SDSC)
3	Peace and Security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Ratification and domestication of the Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of Child and/or Domestic Laws on Protection and Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts (SDSC)
4	Women's rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of laws to protect women and girls from rape and all forms of Gender-Based Violence (SDSC) Existence of Law or Legal Instruments Against Trafficking of Women and Girls (SDSC)
5	Gender Parity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of laws that promote Affirmative Action/Parity in decision making structures of government (SDSC) Proportion of women in the parliament (SDI) Percentage of women in ministerial positions (SDI)
6	Women's Rights	Existence of functional national mechanisms for the protection of all human rights of women and girls (Legislations, Policies, Programs, access to court and legal services etc. (SDSC)

7	Land and Housing Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existence of functional National legislation that guarantee the rights of women to land, property ownership and inheritance (SDSC) 2. Existence of National housing law or policy and programs that promote gender equality in terms of access to housing facilities (SDSC)
8	Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existence of national legislation/policy that guarantee the equal access to education by girls and women (SDSC) 2. Girls Progression Ratio from primary to Secondary School (SDI) 3. Young Female (15–24) Literacy Rate (SDI) 4. Female enrolment ratio (SDI)
9	Women's Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratification and Domestication of the Protocol (SDSC)
10	Reporting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission of Report Since Inception (SDSC)

Source: *The Solemn Declaration Index: Framework of the performance Monitoring Index for the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) with slight modification*

1.3. REPORT OVERVIEW

This 2022 SDI will be divided into six (6) chapters as follows:

Chapter One – INTRODUCTORY BACKGROUND

This chapter will provide background information on the SDI methodology as well as a definition of all indicators used in its computation. The chapter entails the following:

- i. Introduction
- ii. The SDI Concept
- iii. The COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on Gender Equality in Africa
- iv. Methodology
- v. Report Overview

Chapter Two – Helping Hands in Time of Crises: GIMAC's Response to COVID-19

This Chapter documents GIMAC network members' responses and recovery efforts to COVID19 using a reporting tool developed for this purpose. It also assesses how GIMAC's efforts support the objectives of the African Union Guidelines on Gender Responsive Responses to COVID19 on the continent. The chapter includes:

- i. Background
- ii. GIMAC's Response Strategy and Interventions on COVID-19 Pandemic
- iii. Recommendations, Follow-up Actions
- iv. Advocacy Opportunities

Chapter Three – Analysis of Performance Score Card of Member States of the African Union on SDGEA

Shows the various performances of the Member States using the Score Card and it also gives a summary of various activities embarked upon by the AUC in the year 2019–2021

- i. Report on implementation of SDGEA by AUC
- ii. Status of African Women based on MS Implementation of SDGEA
- iii. Analysis of Solemn Declaration Score Card

Chapter Four – Solemn Declaration Index Performances of Member State of the Union on SDGEA

Analyses three thematic indices that constitute the SDI which are HIV/AIDS Index, Gender Parity Index and Girls' Education Index. It also focuses on the composite SDI and the grand solemn declaration index which is the geometric mean of the SDSC and the SDI.

- i. Indicators used for Index Calculations
- ii. Thematic Index: Health, Gender Parity, and Girls' Education,
- iii. Grand Index

Chapter Five - GIMAC Thematic Activity Report:

This chapter reports on all the activities carried out by GIMAC members in relation to its 7 thematic area in the last 3 years. This report was compiled from reports submitted by various organizations representing GIMAC in each of the areas listed below.

- i. Governance and Status of Women in Leadership in Africa;
- ii. Status Report on the Implementation of Women Peace and Security programs in Africa;
- iii. Status Report on Women's Right in Africa;
- iv. Status Report on Women's Health in Africa;
- v. Status Report on Girls' Education in Africa;

Chapter Six – Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations

This details the summary of the outcomes of this study, various recommendations for the stakeholders and a conclusion.

CHAPTER TWO

HELPING HANDS IN TIME OF CRISES: GIMAC's Response to COVID-19

2.0 BACKGROUND

As the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) spread from a regional crisis in China's Hubei Province to a global pandemic, it has by now become clear that the pandemic is not only a global health emergency, but is also leading to a major global economic downturn³.

As of 6 May 2020, only 40% globally reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 to WHO with age and sex disaggregation. A preliminary analysis of the data shows a relatively even distribution of infections between women and men (47% versus 51%, respectively), with some variations across age groups⁴.

Despite the lack of global sex disaggregated data on the impact of COVID-19, it is generally known that disease outbreaks affect girls and boys, women and men differently. While children's health appears less impacted by COVID-19 than older adults, children's education will be interrupted, protective structures disrupted and their families and communities placed under stress by health and economic burdens⁵.

As a result of this pandemic, women and gender equality have been deeply impaired. Some 243 million women are thought to have experienced sexual or physical abuse at the hands of an intimate partner at some point over the last 12 months. Many of these women have been trapped with their abuser. The lockdown and school closures mean that just as their access to paid work diminishes, women face an increase in their unpaid labour, particularly vulnerable groups (women with disabilities, refugees, rural women etc.) are even more at risk. With domestic duties like childcare, preparing food for the extra youngsters who would normally be at school, and looking after sick family members, these responsibilities fall disproportionately on women⁶.

In the light of this global challenge, GIMAC members implemented a range of gender responsive interventions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls across Africa. The network and its members continue to promote African Union Commission (AUC) Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD), guidelines on gender-responsive interventions to COVID-19. These guidelines complement the existing AU responses under the coordination and leadership of the Africa Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (Africa CDC) therefore it is critical that responses towards the prevention, containment, management and eradication of COVID-19, take into account gender equality and women's empowerment, so that women and girls are not left behind.

This Chapter documents GIMAC network members' responses and recovery efforts to COVID-19 using a reporting tool developed for this purpose. It also assesses how GIMAC's efforts support the objectives of the African Union Guidelines on Gender Responsive Responses to COVID-19 on the continent.

3 https://www.genderportal.eu/sites/default/files/resource_pool/w26947.pdf

4 https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332080/WHO-2019-nCoV-Advocacy_brief-Gender-2020.1-eng.pdf?ua=1

5 <https://plan-international.org/emergencies/covid-19-faqs-girls-women#:~:text=Gender%2Dbased%20violence%20and%20coronavirus,by%20support%20for%20affected%20households>

6 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30568-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30568-5/fulltext)

2.1. RESPONSE STRATEGY AND INTERVENTIONS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

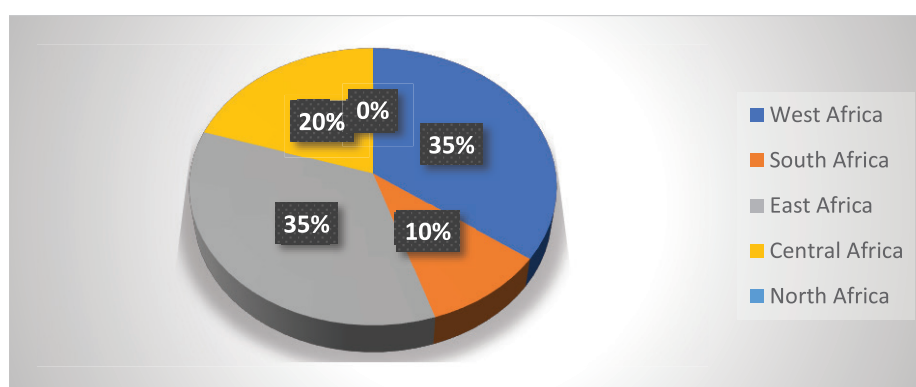
This chapter presents the key analysis of the research carried out on the responses of GIMAC members to Covid-19 pandemic across the continent. It is meant to demonstrate that Women's Movement and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) remained an important and integral part of Africa's development efforts at all times especially in times of crisis.

In generating this chapter, a documentation guide for the activities of GIMAC members during the pandemic was developed⁷. The template was designed to capture the Organization's profile, thematic focus, activities carried out as response to COVID-19, outcome of the activities, challenges encountered and options for future engagements. The reporting guideline was shared with all network members, responses were collated, processed and analysed. The out of research is presented below.

2.1.1 Organisational Profile

Twenty 20 (20.6%) organizations out of 97 GIMAC member organizations documented their activities for the purpose of this study. Each of west Africa and East Africa produced 35% (7), Central Africa was 20% (4), while Southern Africa region has the least representing 10% or 2 organisations (See figure 1). No organization responded from North Africa. In all 19 organisations responded to Covid-19 pandemic in fifteen (15) African countries in addition to FAWE whose activities covered thirty-three (33) African countries.

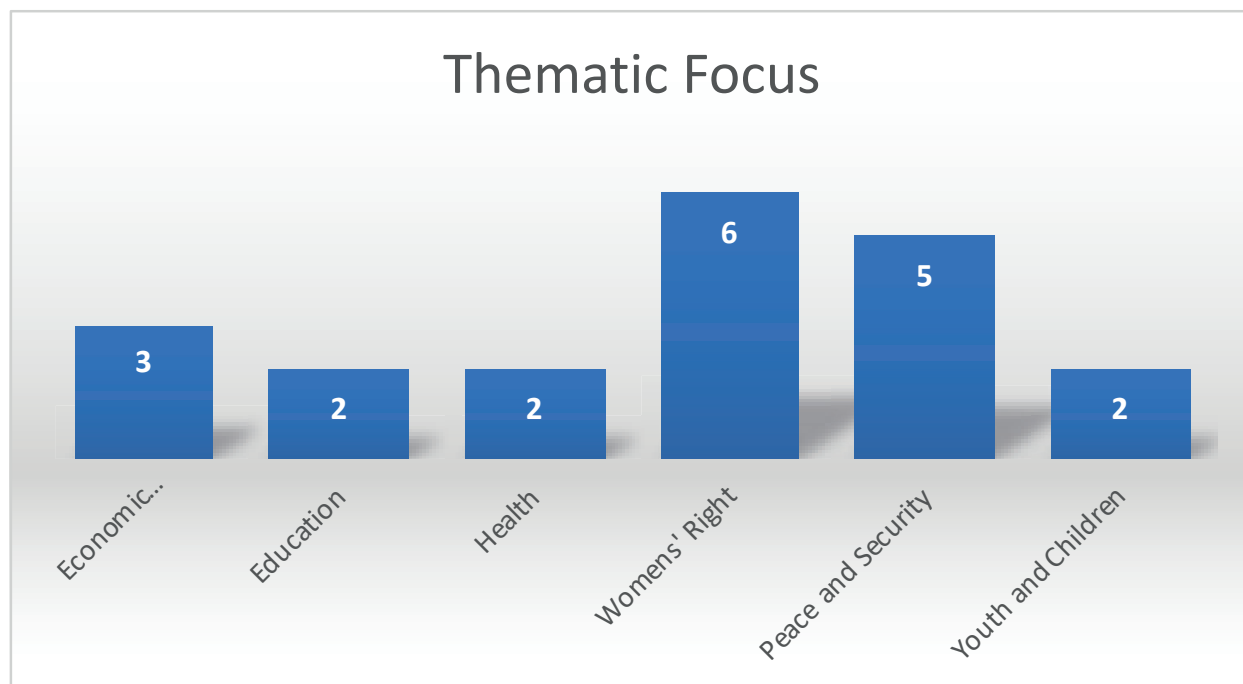
Figure 1: Regional Representation of reporting Organizations



Six (6) organizations which include FAS, FAWE, ACCORD, the ALF and Center for 21st Century Issues have operational coverages up to continental level, others (13) operate within community to regional level.

The thematic focus of most organizations in the East is mainly women's right (3) and Education (2), the two others are focused on peace and security, Youth and children as seen in Fig 2. Three (42.8%) organizations in West African are focused on peace and security, others are focused on economic empowerment, governance, youth and children, Women's right. All the four organizations from Central Africa are focused on different thematic areas which include Health, Peace and Security, Women's Right and Economic Empowerment while the two organizations in Southern Africa focused on health, peace and security as seen in table 3 below.

7 See Appendix VIII

Figure 2: Thematic Focus of reporting Organizations**Table 3: Organizational profile of the 20 reporting Organizations**

S/N	Name of Organization	Country of Operation	Region	Operational Coverage	Thematic Focus
1	Africa Leadership Foundation (ALF)	Nigeria	West Africa	Continental	Leadership, Governance and Economic Empowerment
2	Women Action for and with Society (WAS)	South Sudan	East Africa	National	Peace and Security
3	African Kilimanjaro Women Farmers Forum (Akiwoff)	Nigeria	West Africa	Regional	Economic Empowerment
4	YOUTH HORIZONS	KENYA	East Africa	Community Level	Youth and Children
5	Light Ethiopia	Ethiopia	East Africa	Community Level, National	Educational
6	Association Centrafricaine pour Ile Bien Etre Familial (ACABEF)	République Centrafricaine	Central Africa	Community Level, National	Health
7	Rozaria Memorial Trust	Zimbabwe	Southern Africa	Community Level	Health

8	Centre for 21 st Century Issues	Nigeria	West Africa	Community Level, Continental, National	Women's Right
9	Collaboration of Women In Development CWID	Kenya	East Africa	National	Women's Right
10	PRO-FEMMES/ TWESE HAMWE	RWANANDA	East Africa	National	Women's Right
11	FONDS POUR LES FEMMES CONGOLAISES	DRC	Central Africa	Community Level, National, Regional	Peace and Security
12	Mano River Women Peace Network	Sierra Leone	West Africa	Community Level, Regional	Peace and Security
13	WiLDAF-AO	Niger, Burkina-Faso, Sénégal et Mali	West Africa	Regional	Youth and Children
14	Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Integral "SOFEPADI"	DR Congo	Central Africa	Community Level, Provincial	Women's Right
15	ACCORD	South Africa	Southern Africa	Continental	Peace and Security
16	ACPDH-The Human Rights Defenders Network	Burundi	East Africa	National	Human rights
17	Ligue pour la solidarité congolaise	REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO	Central Africa	National	Economic Empowerment
18	Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE)	Thirty-three African countries	East Africa	Continental	Educational
19	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies	Africa	West Africa	Continental, National, Regional	Peace and Security, Women's Rights,
20	Femmes Africa Solidarité	Senegal	West Africa	Continental	Peace and Security

2.1.2 Typology of intervention

Since COVID 19 affected all the 55 countries in Africa, all the twenty (20) organizations reported on their level of intervention. Two (10%) of the organization focused on community-based interventions only while the other eighteen (90%) engaged in activities at national, regional, continental and international levels.

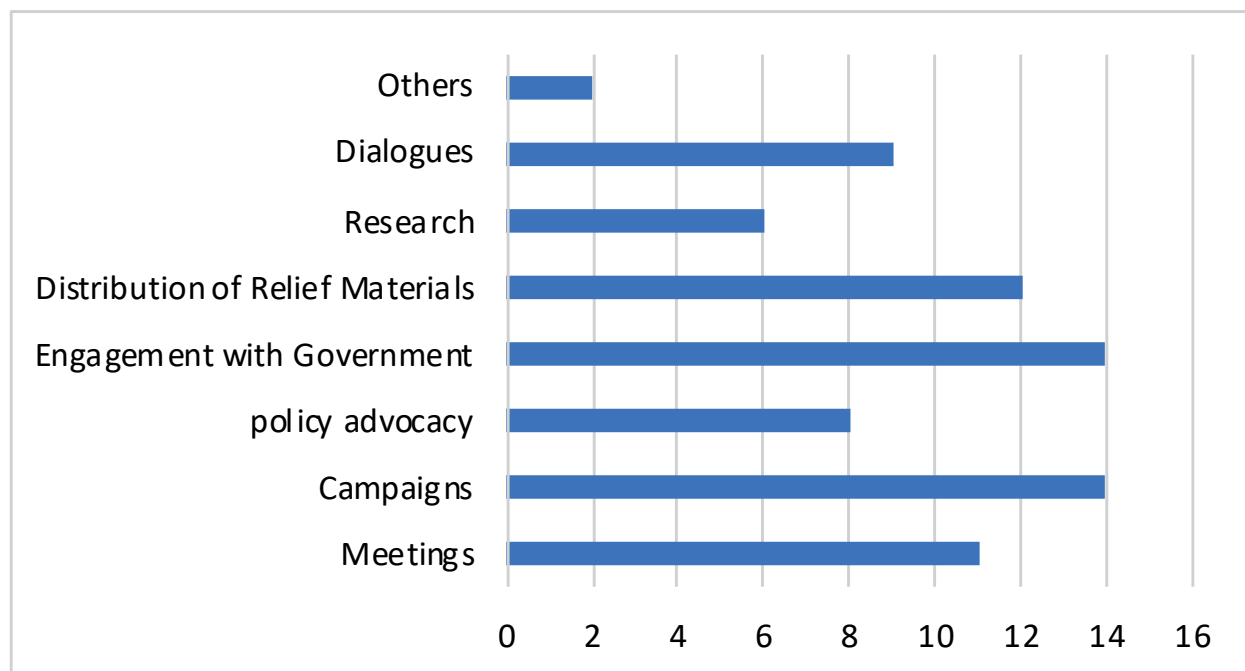
For instance, FAWE rolled out interventions in countries where it operates in terms of offering policy advise and running response programs. Akiwoff intervention during this pandemic went from grassroots to the National level in Nigeria while ACPDH-The Human Rights Defenders Network targeted IDPs living in different camps in Mutimbuzi, Bujumbura of Burundi.

In Kenya, Youth Horizons targeted the worst hit settlements like Kibera, Kawangware, Njenga Kwa Reuben in Nairobi County and Langas in Uasin-Gishu county which are areas where government’s prevention and management infrastructural facilities has been overstretched.

At the Sub national, RMT took part in the launching Provincial preparation for opening of schools and contributed by providing refreshments to the meetings and supplied liquid soap to the school children.

The ALF focused more on development of monitoring tool at the continental level to ensure that systemic inequalities are addressed and effective solutions, either in law and policy development or institution strengthening are provided to protect women against future pandemics. Mano River Women Peace Network worked more around border station at Guinea /Sierra Leone to minimize the spread of the virus by providing hand washing facility. These interventions revolved around Online Campaigns, Policy Advocacy, Meetings, Dialogues, Distribution of Relief Materials, Research, Engagement with Government and other activities such as data updates on social media pages of ACPDH (Twitter &Face Book), engagement with non-states actor’s taskforce member on COVID19 response. The graph below shows a representation of the COVID-19 activities.

Figure 3: COVID-19 Activity Type



2.1.3 Resource Utilization

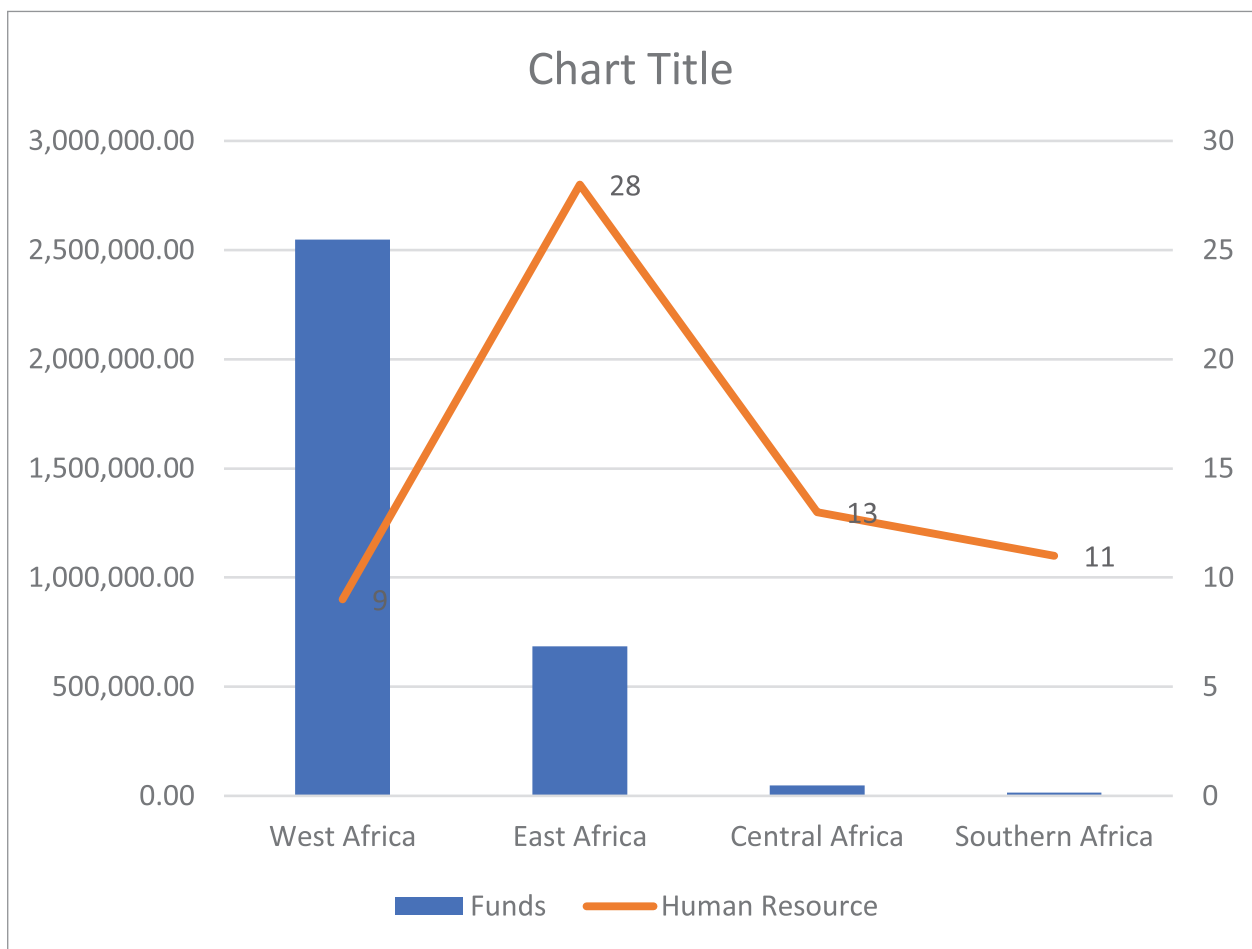
Outcome of this study analysis revealed that a total of \$1,008,242.81 with an average of \$50,421.14 was expended by 19 organization on COVID-19 related activities. The actual funds utilized by ACCORD was not available as at the time of this analysis.

FAWE in East Africa spent the largest amount of \$584,000.00 while ACABEF spent the least amount of \$266.00.

The seven organizations located in the west Africa utilized a total on \$64,476.81 with an average of \$10,746.131, East Africa \$712,000.00 with an average of \$101,714.29, Central Africa \$186,766.00 with an average of \$46,691.00, Southern Africa \$30,000.00 with an average of \$15,000.00. The sources of these funds were mostly supports from international donors, Philanthropists and operational funds of these organisations.

In terms of human resource, a total of 305 staff with an average of 15 were reported to have contributed to these activities while the accurate number of volunteers is yet to be determined as at the time of study. The chart below shows the average number of staff and the average number of funds utilized.

Figure 4: Resource Utilization



These graphs showed that there is a direct relationship between fund availability and staff engagement. With more support from donors, CSOs can recruit more staff and effectively use such resources to support government and make more impact from time to time.

2.1.4 Thematic Response and Interventions

1. Peace and Security

With the announcement of the outbreak of COVID-19 in DR Congo at the beginning of March; SOFEPADI put in a response plan to cushion the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls. Four main localities were identified and taken as priorities during the period of COVID-19 crisis in the City of Beni, the Province of Ituri and the City of Kinshasa. These priority areas were:

- The protection of women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence
- Communication and community prevention against covid-19
- Social solidarity action
- Support for the functioning of SOFEPADI and the protection of agents.

More than 25,000 women and girls benefited from this intervention which was implemented by awareness Campaigns, Meetings with community leaders and Distribution of Relief Materials in the affected communities.

Meanwhile in South Africa, ACCORD was actively involved in Conflict Monitoring related to COVID-19, online dialogues on Peacebuilding, with focus on women, youth, Peace and Security. Dialogues and Meetings of over 400 participants/stakeholders were held during this period with the support of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Government and International Agencies such as the UN.

Also in Senegal, a Women Platform for Peace and Security “Ettu Jamm” of more than fifty women’s organizations from Senegalese civil society, and coordinated by the Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) launched a Campaign “AAR JIGEEN AAR SA REW, TAKAL SA MASK” (Protect Women, Protect Your country, Wear Your MASK), as a contribution to the national response against Covid-19. The promotion of female leadership as a response to breaking the community chain of transmission was also integrated to this campaign.

2. Youth and Children

Beyond doubt, the effect of COVID-19 cuts across all gender and sector. To this effect, WILD AF-AO produced a film on child marriage. The film an advocacy to decision-makers and other stakeholders to work towards the eradication of the practice. A comic book “Married Too Early” which informs, educates and raises awareness about the consequences of child marriage was also produced by WILD AF-AO. COVID-19 cuts across the subject narrated in the comic book and shows how young girls are more vulnerable during pandemic. A virtual reading clubs was created to facilitate reading and to encourage the school community to become actively involved in the activity. Although it is too soon to measure the impact of this intervention, it is believed that thousands of girls within West Africa will benefit from it.

In the same vein, since Burundi recorded its first case of COVID-19 in April, ACPDH as a human rights organization, started launching a social media campaign by sharing update on Facebook and twitter. The Project initiative on pandemic is “the CovidRights” a monitoring and awareness raising campaign that aims to follow up, sensitize, advocate and share information and strategies with all stakeholders and to influence policies and measures to be respected by people. About 80% of the project beneficiaries were women and girls.

With the aim of amplifying women voices during COVID-19 pandemic, FAWE in partnership with AU Youth Envoy office developed a digital publication of the AU feminist blog 'sauti' to draw attention to Young African Women's struggles, advocacy and achievements in fighting the global pandemic COVID19 and amplify their voices and actions.

3. **Health**

In Central African Republic, ACABEF embarked on various response activities such as policy advocacy, dialogues, distribution of relief materials, research, and engagement with government at various levels in order to promote community-based intervention with particular emphasis on COVID-19 preventive measures and also facilitate several mobile clinics to reach vulnerable and needy women during the crisis. ACABEF integrated family planning demand generation into its COVID-19 prevention awareness campaigns.

Also, ACABEF ran several outreach campaigns on women's rights during the COVID-19 era. All these activities were in collaboration with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Government, International Agencies. 1,892 women including 563 girls benefited from this intervention. For the first half of 2020, the association registered 1,982 women who took an active part in the clinic and in advanced strategy for sexual and reproductive health activities.

4. **Governance**

The ALF in collaboration with PLAN International and the AU-WGDD developed the Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index (MPSI) which is an innovative contribution to the body of tools that seek to assess progress in the implementation of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment especially during a period of crises like the COVID-19. It is both a monitoring and an implementation tool that monitors compliance, identifies the gaps and shapes implementation strategies to strengthen gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights during the emergency responses and the long-term recovery plans. The project involved meetings and stakeholders' dialogues of over 50 participants.

5. **Education**

Considering the effect of the pandemic on Girls' education, FAWE in its usual self, held dialogues with key education stakeholders on the detrimental impact of lack of girls' access to education during this pandemic. This was done in collaboration with various international agencies which included; the AU goodwill ambassador on ending child marriage, Plan International, GPE, and Girls Not Brides.

FAWE also held a series of webinars and twitter chats with GAA partners, AU CIEFFA, AfDB and other CSOs networks to address emerging issues from the pandemic situation such as increased cases of GBV, child marriage and limited access to basic needs such as food, sanitary pads and internet by learners.

To foster Learning during crisis, FAWE joined MOE pandemic response committees to support the government in developing guidelines responding to closure of schools and measures to undertake whilst considering their reopening. FAWE scholars were also offered psychosocial support especially those experiencing family feuds. The scholars were given smartphones, laptops and internet incentives to participate in online learning. In addition, FAWE recruited new teachers in Ethiopia to meet the demand of the online learning activities. Thousands of African girls have benefited and will still continue to benefit from these various interventions.

6. **Economic Empowerment**

AKIWOFF in collaboration with Community Based Organization (CBO) provided support to women Farmers by increasing budgetary allocation and agricultural palliative for women farmers. 100 meetings and 60 cooperative groups were formed to achieve this objective. This project activities were majorly meetings and engagement with Government.

In Senegal, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) joined the Government in their quest for resources for rapid response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, basic foodstuffs, cleaning, and sanitary protection products were handed over to the Minister of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection as donations. This contribution was in support of the preparedness called, "Force COVID-19" which the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Macky Sall, initiated as the response program that will mainly support households, among others. Over a thousand women in communities and across the country benefited from this initiative.

7. **Women's Rights**

In South Sudan people do not believe that COVID-19 is real. The government is also resource constrained which resulted in lack of protection for its own people both in Juba and other states of South Sudan. Aside the economically effect of COVID-19, South Sudan women and schoolgirls also face issues of SGBV.

WAS collaborated with the government, international agencies to hold dialogues and policy advocacy activities on how best to protect the citizens of South Sudan during the pandemic. WAS engaged Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith Based Organization (FBO), for, Distribution of Relief Materials to affected citizens.

In Kenya, CWID engaged in rapid response programs in collaboration with the CSOs network in coordinating GBV/DV cases, organizing meetings with government officials to monitor and evaluate level of access by communities to essential services and other health services. 21000 women and girls benefited from this intervention.

Rozaria Memorial Trust (RMT) provided emergency shelter to survivors of Gender based Violence and housed women and children during the lockdown period and also provided counseling to over 200 young women and girls who had experienced child marriage and incest during the lockdown period. In addition to this, RMT also offered its Rozaria Memorial Trust Education and Counseling Centre for women and children as an isolation center for COVID 19 patients.

2.2. CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 Pandemic came with its own disruption which has revealed how strikingly unprepared the world is for a pandemic. Schools, offices, factories, religious houses and lots more were under lock and keys when the pandemic arrives.

Coupled with the existing poverty, general underdevelopment, poor infrastructure, corruption, under financed and poorly maintained healthcare systems, the impact of the outbreak in Africa has been critical. Africa in its fight against COVID-19 has been faced with inadequate capability of health care facilities to cater for the number of cases, shortage of personal protective equipment and low testing capacity.

In a bid to support the effort of the Government and join in the fight against COVID-19, GIMAC network members were faced with the following challenges:

- 1. Lack of security:** Due to the on-going conflicts in some countries such as South Sudan as at the time of the pandemic, it was very difficult for CSOs to work freely because of insecurity. Insecurity in the intervention areas, lockdowns and curfews limited FAWE's efforts in reaching out to the most vulnerable scholars during the pandemic period as staff could not conduct field missions.
- 2. Limited funding:** The issue of funding has been a major challenge faced by interventions and projects targeted at fighting COVID-19. The fact that the pandemic was unexpected and the poverty rate in Africa contributed to this challenge. WAS in its response explained that this was the situation in South Sudan same was the experience of Light Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. There is lack of funds to meet the immediate needs of affected women and girls at the same time it is such a struggle to access resources/funding for the projects. The need for palliatives, sanitizers and masks by Community members in Nigeria could not be met because of insufficient fund. In addition, the lockdown measures have increased operating costs, travel and communication. There are also insufficient communication funds to disseminate the products even when they were available as reported by WILDAF-AO. For ACPDH, getting funding/grants to implement effectively the "CovidRights" Monitoring and Awareness raising Campaign in Burundi was a major challenge.
- 3. Lack of Infrastructure:** Poor infrastructure in African countries has been of great concern as it has been labeled a major hinderance to economic development. This posed a totally different challenge to NGOs/CSOs working to fight COVID-19 in Africa as getting to affected communities with palliatives was difficult due to bad road. This was the experience of Mano River Women Peace Network in Sierra Leone. Lack of Electricity and means of communication were also not exempted.
- 4. Lack of internet access:** According to Rozaria Memorial Trust, access to technology and internet in rural areas of Zimbabwe was a major challenge for effective participation in webinar and virtual meetings, since RMT is a rural based Organization. WILDAF-AO had a similar problem with the stability of the internet connection. Webinar fatigue and poor internet connectivity were also documented as critical challenges by ACCORD. There is therefore need for Technology improvement and timely delivery at community level.
- 5. Lack of Protective Gears:** The use of PPE is very important and a must have during this pandemic. Youth Horizon indicated that they were not equipped for this pandemic, in Kenya. There was no access to safety & preventive measures in remote villages, slums and villages. ACABEF had a similar experience in Central Africa Republic where there was lack of resources for PPE during interventions activities thereby exposing both the Staff of the organization and the community members to the virus. RMT in Southern Africa this as part of their challenges in their various intervention activities in Zimbabwe.
- 6. Lack of Political Will:** CWID reported that lack of political will on the government side to support CSO initiative and slow response by government officials/offices had a negative impact on the success recorded on their project. Governments need to see CSOs more as partners and not as antagonists.
- 7. Unavailability of Gender-disaggregated data:** Lack of gender disaggregated data of persons affected with the Corona virus made it very difficult to plan and make sufficient budget allocation

for the need of girls and women within the cohort. As reported by PRO-FEMMES/TWESE HAMWE, there was a major challenge to mainstream gender equality in recovery efforts as there were no data to back up the intervention projects put in place in Kenya.

2.2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS, FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Based on the response analysis of GIMAC members, the following are the important actionable advice and recommendations to public and private stakeholders directed at improving and amplifying the impact the impact of response to future pandemic:

1. It is very important to include women and gender experts in the coordination mechanisms at all levels and include them in key decision-making processes on COVID 19 response and mitigation;
2. The AU should develop scorecard and Index for all its protocols just like Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index (MPSI) and Solemn Declaration Index (SDI) to ensure effective monitoring of implementation performance of these protocols to foster gender mainstreaming in the response and recovery plan of future pandemic;
3. The Government should put in place financial safety measures such as social protection programme for the most vulnerable groups, which will support them to recover and build resilience for future shocks. Grants and low interest loans should also be available to local women whose businesses have been disrupted by the pandemic;
4. There is need for more funds for awareness creation and mobilization of additional resources for the various interventions, make communication funds available to facilitate information sharing and communicate sufficiently;
5. Constant advocacy and engagement with government officials is imperative. The government should therefore at such a time be transparent and ensure that advocacy translates to prompt policy development and implementation;
6. The scope of AU Campaign on ending child marriage should be enlarged, funded and speed up to rescue more girls post-Covid-19 pandemic;
7. Humanitarian support should be coordinated with local women's groups to ensure it reaches women in remote and conflict-affected areas;
8. Public and private sector should invest sufficiently on information and communication technologies education for young entrepreneurs to digitalize their businesses;
9. The participation of women must be an ongoing priority in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and including the call for a ceasefire during and after the pandemic;
10. Data related to outbreaks and the implementation of the emergency response must be disaggregated by sex, age, disability and analyzed accordingly in order to understand the gendered differences in exposure and treatment and to design differential preventive measures and interventions;
11. Community Stakeholders should take responsibility to develop bye-laws and regulations that could make room for safety and peaceful co-existence during crisis and at all times;
12. In preparation for future pandemic, donors should provide direct financial and technical support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working at the community level instead of the national governments. This is to ensure community's easy access to palliatives, efficient utilization of funds and support CSOs and CBOs awareness creation at the community levels;
13. It is crucial for government to prioritise resources for provision of PPE to front line workers especially in health sector;
14. The Government should embrace the use of ICT at all level of education which could serve as alternatives for schools in both urban and rural areas during pandemic;
15. Prioritize women and girls in COVID-19 response and recovery plans, consider economic recovery packages that include women in the informal sector, smallholder farmers, women in informal cross border trade, etc.

16. Enhance local and national actors' capacity to respond to local stresses/conflicts and challenges.
17. The financial organs of government are advised to explore possibilities of reviewing existing loan repayment plans including waiving loan interests and penalties during COVID and post-COVID to allow women's savings groups, cooperatives, etc. to pay back once the financial situation stabilizes.
18. In the economic recovery process, the government should put more effort in supporting women, girls and other vulnerable people to access digital platforms as more online engagements is required for them to contribute to policy development. This pandemic has been an eye opener on the importance for the need for digital literacy and ICT support facilities especially in the rural communities.

2.2.2 ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Below are the identified advocacy steps required to cushion the negative impact of COVID-19 and beneficial programs and projects that require actions and funding;

1. Advocacy on resilient health infrastructure and creation of special reserve fund in preparedness for future epidemics;
2. Timely notice and documentations of key advocacy messages and follow up;
3. Lobby the government to mobilize resources for organizations that continue to seek the protection of women's rights during such pandemics;
4. Capacity building for stakeholders on infection prevention and control at household levels to break the chain of infection;
5. Gender budgeting that focuses on reproductive health and women participation at the decision-making level should be vigorously pursued with strong advocacy by the GIMAC Network;
6. CSOs should use opportunities like International Rural Women's Day as a key moment for advocacy and engagement and collaboration between CSOs and the Government in COVID-19 recovery efforts;
7. Funding and partnership support to research on the impact of Covid-19 on women and girls with emphasis on gender-based violence and economic hardship during the pandemic;
8. Continued advocacy for the provisions of law to penalize domestic and sexual violence;
9. Lobby for Capacity building of teachers to use technology to conduct online and media studies;
10. Youth Horizons is planning on introducing a disability inclusion initiative that works in the areas of education and economic empowerment in Kenya;
11. COVID Rights Monitoring and Awareness raising Campaign to contribute to the national campaign of Government of Burundi";
12. Advocacy for Policy drafts on effective referrals and comprehensive services for SGBV/DV during epidemic.

2.2.3 CONCLUSIONS

This chapter demonstrated that development work in Africa is multi-sectorial and CSOs have the capability to support the government in dealing with development issues and challenges. The GIMAC network members have shown that they have both the technical and intellectual capacity to respond swiftly and efficiently to issues of global challenge such as COVID-19. They were able to respond to the need of the hard-to-reach population at the community level where the government was unable to reach. It is therefore important that the Government continue to see the CSO as partners in development at all levels.

Some of the key areas that GIMAC members are focused on can really assist in ensuring the sustainable governance framework for Africa, like the Maputo Protocol Index, ending child marriage, dialogues and advocacy on Peacebuilding, WPS, YPS during COVID-19.

One major area of improvement is the need for GIMAC to showcase their activities and use opportunities like this to demonstrate their programmatic and project management ability. Though this report will be integrated to the main SDI report of 2022, it might become necessary for GIMAC to adapt the tool use in the study to produce a **“3-year GIMAC Members Accountability Report”** for their stakeholders and partners.

CHAPTER THREE

ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE SCORE CARD OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON SDGEA

3.0. OVERVIEW

This chapter is based on the analysis of the 14th report of the African Union (AU) Member States on the implementation status of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). In 2019, twenty (20) Member States submitted their SDGEA reports. These are: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda.

The report contains administrative and legislative action, policies, programs, commitments and initiatives undertaken by Member States on the implementation of nine (9) articles of the SDGEA in the year 2019. The articles are on: HIV/AIDS and other Related Infectious Diseases (article 1), Women, Peace and Security (article 2), Child Soldiers (article 3), Gender Based Violence (article 4), Gender Parity Principle (article 5), Women's Human Rights (article 6), Rights to Land, Property and Inheritance (article 7), Education for Girls and Women (article 8) and Protocol to the Africa Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (article 9).

3.1. STATUS OF AFRICAN WOMEN BASED ON MEMBER STATES IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGEA

Commitment of Member States to Annual Reporting of their SDGEA implementation Status increased from 20.00% in 2017 to 42.5% in 2019. Member States who are consistent and up to date with their reporting and submitted all the annual reports are; Senegal, Mauritius, Ethiopia. See table 4 below for reporting cycle performance of member states.

Table 4: Reporting Cycle Performance of Member States

Reporting Year	Year of Submission	Reporting Cycle	Number Of Countries	Percentage of Total (%)
2006	2007	1 st	1	1.85
2007	2008	2 nd	8	14.81
2008	2009	3 rd	7	12.96
2009	2010	4 th	3	5.55
2010	2011	5 th	24	44.44
2011	2012	6 th	3	5.55
2012	2013	7 th	8	14.81
2013	2014	8 th	14	25.92
2014	2015	9 th	15	27.77
2015	2016	10 th	13	24,07
2016	2017	11 th	28	52.83
2017	2018	12 th	11	20.00
2019	2020	14 th	20	42.59

3.2. ANALYSIS OF SOLEMN DECLARATION SCORE CARD

To generate the score card for each country, each article addressed in the country's SDGEA report was reviewed for either a policy or ratification of law that addresses the article under review. Binary scoring of either "0" or "1" was done based on the template in table 1 which gives a total score of 12. The complete score card analysis is attached to appendix V of this report.

The complimentary Solemn Declaration Score Card (SDSC) was used to assess the SDGEA report of 37 Member States whose reports were available to GIMAC. Twenty (20) of these reports were 2019/2020 SDGEA report while 17 were 2017/2018 reports.

The countries with the highest scores are Sierra Leone and Congo Republic who both had the total score of "12" each, followed by four (4) other countries that had score of "11" each. This is an improvement on the 2018 SDGEA report analysis where the highest score recorded was "11" which was attained by four states namely; Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia and Senegal. This achievement represents 91.66% implementation performance by these countries. The outstanding article against each country is indicated in table 5 below.

Just as it was found in the previous report, two (2) states, Mauritius and Somalia have the least score of 3 or 25% implementation performance (See table 6). Member States like these require high modicum of advocacy focus and capacity building by AUWGDD and GIMAC to improve their performance

Table 5: Countries with the Highest SDSC and Outstanding Articles

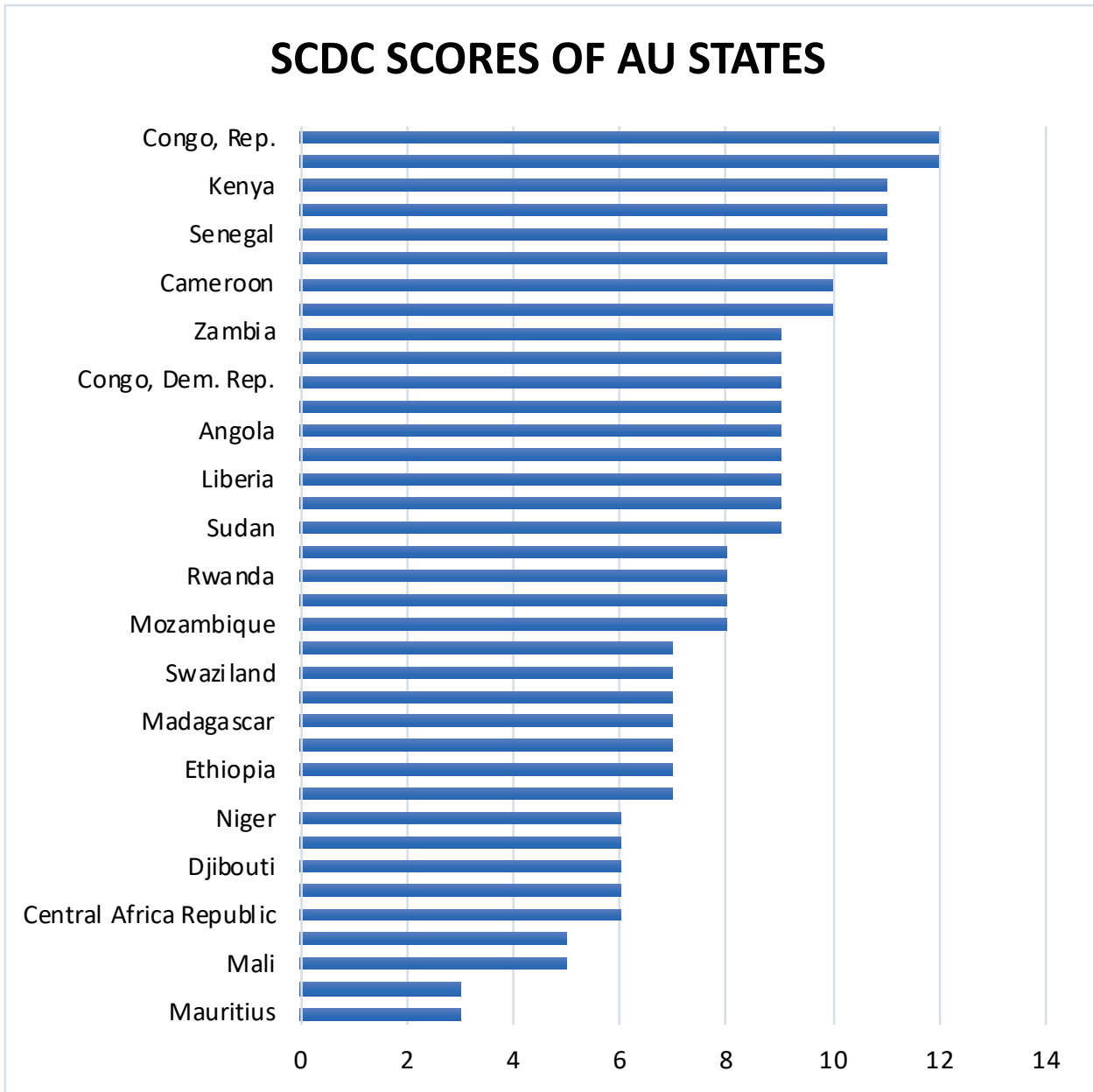
S/N	COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST SDSC	OUTSTANDING OPERATIVE ARTICLE
1	Sierra Leone	NONE
2	Congo, Rep.	NONE
3	Namibia	Gender Parity
4	Senegal	Human Trafficking
5	Côte d'Ivoire	Housing Rights
6	Kenya	Housing Rights
7	Cameroon	Gender Parity, Housing Rights
8	Comoros	Human Trafficking, Gender Parity

Table 6: Countries with the Lowest SDSC and Main Articles of Focus

Country	Mauritius	Somalia
ARTICLES OF FOCUS	HIV/AIDS	Child Soldiers
	GBV	GBV
	SDGEA Reports	SDGEA Report

Figure 5 below gives a graphical representation of the number of operative articles ratified by each country.

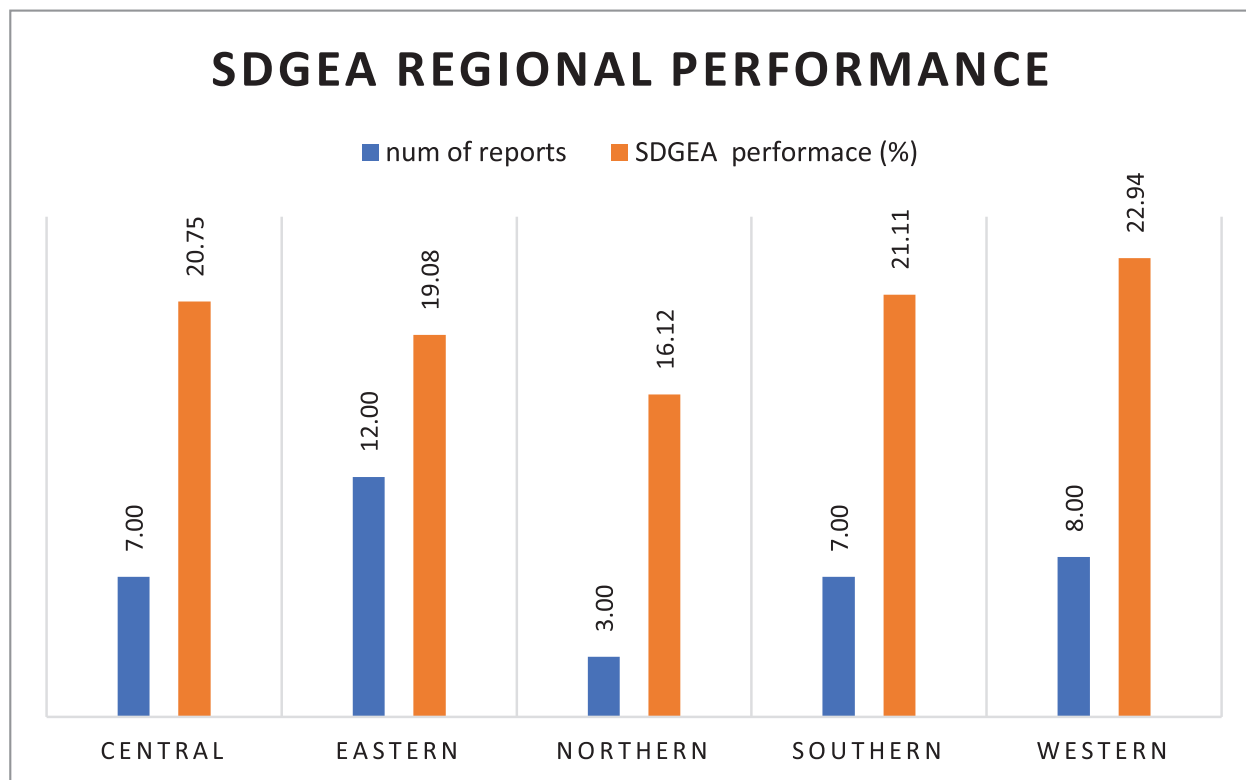
Figure 5: Number of SDGEA Articles Implemented by Each Country



3.2.1 Regional Reporting Trend

The distribution of available SDGEA reports showed that 32.43% of them came from the East Africa region, this region also had the highest countries submitting report in 2018. Followed by 18.92% both in Central and Southern Africa, West and North Africa covered for 21.62 and 8.11% of the reports respectively. The trend and performance of each Region is shown in Figure 6 below:

Figure 6: Percentage of Regional Reporting Trend



3.2.2 Overall Performance

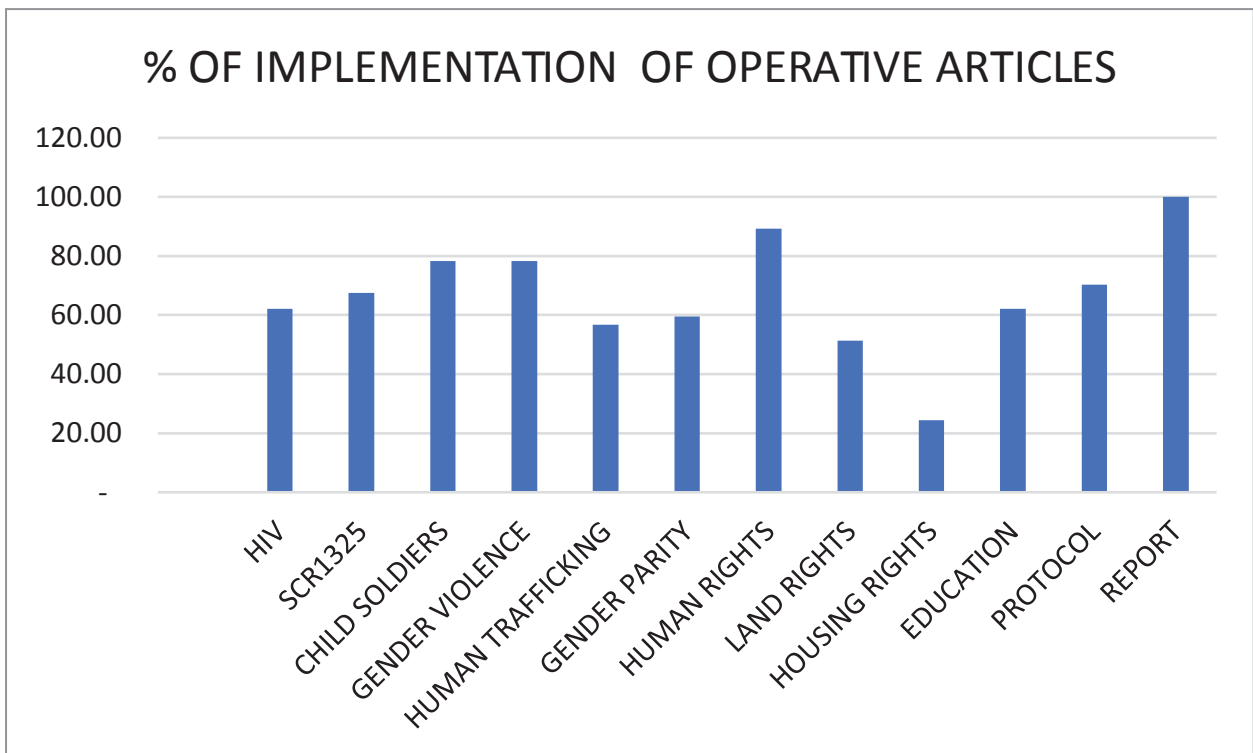
Table 7: Regional Performance Distribution of the SDGEA Operative Articles

NUMBER	ARTICLE	REGION					No of countries meeting their SDGEA Obligations	% of MS Performance
		CENTRAL	EASTERN	NORTHERN	SOUTHERN	WESTERN		
1	HIV	6	5	2	3	7	23	62.16
2	SCR1325	6	8	2	2	7	25	67.57
3	CHILD SOLDIERS	6	9	1	5	8	29	78.38
4(GBV)	GENDER VIOLENCE	7	8	2	6	6	29	78.38
4(HT)	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	3	7	1	7	3	21	56.76
5	GENDER PARITY	4	4	2	4	8	22	59.46
6	HUMAN RIGHTS	7	10	3	6	7	33	89.19
7(LR)	LAND RIGHTS	2	7	1	5	4	19	51.35
7(HR)	HOUSING RIGHTS	2	3	1	1	2	9	24.32
8	EDUCATION	4	8	0	5	6	23	62.16
9	PROTOCOL	3	9	2	7	7	28	75.68
12	REPORT	7	12	3	7	8	37	100

Looking at the trend of implementation among the 37 MS, it is very obvious that the following operative articles received greater attention than others. These include:

1. Human Rights of women
2. Adoption of Child Protection laws
3. Gender based Violence
4. Ratification and domestication of Maputo Protocol and;
5. Implementation of National Legislation and Plan of Action for UNSCR 1325

Figure 7: Implementation Trend of the SDGEA Operative Articles



3.2.3 ARTICLE 1: The Thematic Focus of this Article is HIV/AIDS backed up with legislative commitment that will end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS

As depicted by the WHO, the Africa region is the most affected with **25.7 million** people living with HIV in 2018. The 2020 HIV Profile of 53 Countries with available data on UNAIDS revealed **26.6 million** persons living with HIV. The African Region also accounts for almost two thirds of the global total of new HIV infections. According to WHO, about 1.1 million people were infected with HIV in the African Region in 2018 alone. Analyses of AU States SDGEA report showed that 23 out of 37 countries representing 62.16% of the available reports have put in place legislation that protect people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) and guarantee their rights like any other citizen without any form of discrimination.

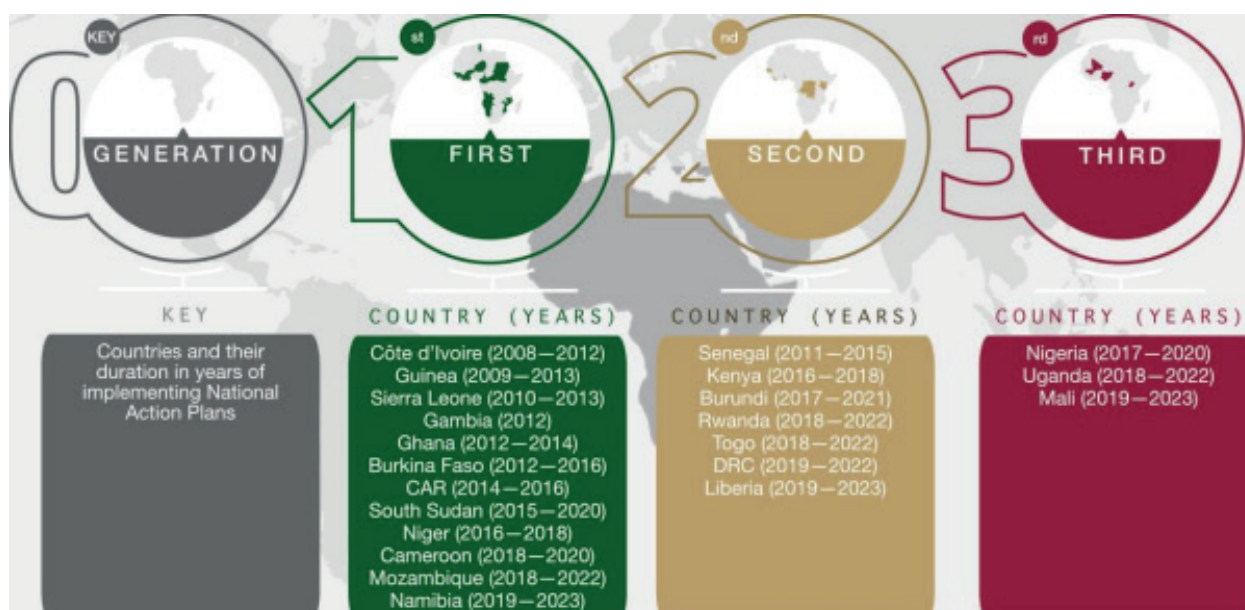
Most Member States reported to have in place national plans to fight HIV and AIDS. Sensitization programs for youth have been put in place in Comoros, Republic of Congo, Mauritius and Togo. Cote d'Ivoire has implemented a national program for the care of orphans and children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. Sierra Leone set up an employment and income opportunities programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. In Lesotho, 77% of pregnant women living with HIV access antiretroviral medicine to prevent transmission of the virus to their babies.

Most Member States reported lack of gender transformative assessments of HIV/AIDS, high levels of gender-based violence increasing partner’s vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections, high levels of poverty among women and girls undermining their ability to make informed choices and negotiating safer sex as part of their challenges. The Member States governments should therefore continue to strengthen initiatives that increase capacities of individuals, especially women and children, to protect themselves. Empowerment of women must move to the next level of well targeted, time-bound and well-funded programmes with measurable results.⁸

3.2.4. Article 2: Women Peace and Security with focus on production of National Plan of Actions or other forms of legislative backing for the implementation of UNSCR1325.

According to the AU 2020 WPS report, The WPS Agenda in Africa focuses on integrating gender in conflict situations characterized by threats to national security. The African Union (AU), through the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (OSE-WPS or OSE) has been spearheading the WPS Agenda in Africa. According to the report, by the end of the year 2019, 25 Member States, had adopted NAPs at different times and they range from 1st to 3rd generation; a total of 12 countries has current NAPs. The African countries that have adopted WPS Agenda NAPs are predominantly conflict-affected countries. These countries are mostly in the Great Lakes, West and Central regions of Africa. Three countries (Uganda, Nigeria and Mali) have transitioned to 3rd generation NAPs, and seven countries have reviewed their first NAPs and developed the second generation. This report affirms findings from the analyses of MS SDGEA reports which revealed that only 25 (67.57%) Member States have developed National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. In Tunisia, workshops have been organized to translate the draft NAP into sectoral plans and then into a general executive plan. Uganda is already finalizing its 3rd NAP (2020- 2025). The main challenges reported by the Member States are: inadequate resources for the implementation of the WPS agenda, Lack of government structures to support the WPS Agenda, lack of access to data, barriers in ensuring access to justice for victims of serious human rights violations, as well as persisting harmful customs and traditions that limit women’s participation in peace processes.

Figure 8: Countries with National Action Plans, by year of plan adoption



Source: Africa Union 2020 Report on the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa

8 Elizabeth N., 2015 HIV and AIDS in Africa and its impact on women and children. United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Africa. https://www.unicef.org/sowc08/docs/sowc08_panel_2_8.pdf

3.2.5. Article 3: Recruitment of Child Soldiers with emphasis on the use of Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of a Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts.

A recent UN report verified that 8,521 children were used as soldiers in 2020, while another 2,674 children were killed and 5,748 injured in various conflicts. According to some estimates, up to 40% of child soldiers are in Africa⁹. Despite this, the Ratification and domestication of the Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of Child and/or Domestic Laws on Protection and Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts is one of the most implemented articles of the SDGEA as 29 (78%) Member states have ratified and domesticated this optional protocol.

Member States are taking different steps for the rehabilitation of former child soldiers. For example, in Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone rehabilitation and training centers for former child soldiers have been established. In the Democratic Republic of Congo who according to UN reports has one of the highest Child Soldiers in Africa, have supported 1405 children, including 179 girls, to leave armed groups and join a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program. The main challenges faced by the Member States in implementing this article are: capacity gaps in case management on violence against children, prevalence of harmful social norms and practices, barriers in the enforcement of legislation to end recruitment of child soldiers, lack of recourses to implement holistic reintegration programs, challenges in the age verification of children.

3.2.6. Article 4: Gender-Based Violence with focus on the use of appropriate legal instruments against GBV and trafficking of women and girls.

Just as Child Soldiers, article 4 is the 2nd most implemented article in the SDGEA as 29(78%) Member States have laws that protect women and girls from rape and all forms of Gender-Based Violence. The reporting Member States have several regulations in place that aim at putting an end to different forms of violence against women in line with regional and international frameworks. Morocco in 2019 published a decree to support its implementation of the 2018 law on Combating Violence against Women, guaranteeing legal protection and institutional mechanisms for the care of women victims of violence.

Member States listed weak coordination of service provision to GBV survivors, persistent patriarchal social norms, weak implementation of laws and programs to reduce inequalities, lack of knowledge of the legislation on GBV by law enforcement agencies, scarcity of information and data on GBV, insufficient budgetary allocations, underrepresentation of women in decision-making bodies, persisting impunity of perpetrators of GBV as part of their challenges in combating GBV in their Countries.

The review of the current impact of COVID-19 on Women in Africa has revealed that the pandemic has hindered coordinated response between different sectors, like the Police, Justice and Social Services Response. By implication, the rise in Gender-Based Violence was as a result of this breakdown. A review of relevant reports revealed that while social distancing was a good strategy in slowing down the COVID-19 pandemic, it also created challenges of providing meaningful and support to women and girls who experience violence. UNHCR disclosed that, in IDP camps, displaced women, migrants and those living in refugee camps will also be doubly affected as there might be shortages of medical and other essential supplies such as sanitary wares and contraception as funds are redirected to address the pandemic.

9 https://www.google.com/search?q=child+soldiers+in+africa+2020&rlz=1C1CHBD_enNG908NG908&sxsrf=AOaemvLB9ckGIAAn_NPIdV4hZ7hfzsxVkOg%3A1639338235424&ei=-1C2YZObGaTisAf_46J4&oq=Child+soldiers+&gs_lcp=Cgdn3Mtd2l6EAEYAjIFCAAQkQlyBQgAEJECMgUIABCABDIFCAAQkQlyCwguEMcBENEDEJECMgUIABCRAjIFCAAQgAQyBQgAEIAEMgUIABCABDIFCAAQgAQ6BwgAEEcQsAM6BAgjECC6BQguEIAEOgolABCABBCHAhAUOgslLhCABBBDHARDRA0oECEEYAEoECEYYAFDwA1jfHmCxL2gBcAF4AIAB2QalAdw1kgEHNC03LjUuMZgBAKABAcgBCMABAQ&sclint=gws-wiz

A UNWomen Policy paper revealed that all types of violence against women and girls (VAWG) have intensified in countries affected by the pandemic¹⁰. Across Africa gender data is beginning to show the exacerbated gender inequalities under COVID-19 placing women and girls at greater risk of GBV¹¹.

Human Trafficking, which is a sub-set of articles 4 posted a lower result compared to GBV, with only 21 (56.8%) Member states stating that they have a legislation that protects women and girls against trafficking.

The attention being given by the Member States is also a pointer to its endemic nature which requires the engagement of both genders, young and old in finding a lasting solution to this problem. Effective mobilisation of the traditional, conventional and religious institutions across the continent may be imperative as part of the community-based solution to GBV.

3.2.7. Article 5: Gender Parity Principle with focus on its adoption by government and other regional institutions using legislative and policy instrument to ensure ascendancy of women and representation in various decision-making structures.

The decision of the AU Heads of State to adopt Gender Parity Principle in all the decision-making structures at the continental, regional and national level has been seen by some as a very great task that may be difficult to attain. It is a lofty ideal and going by the momentum this has gathered in the last ten years, it's obvious that it is a possibility.

Despite this principle, Women continue to be underrepresented in decision making bodies and processes. For instance, in Burkina Faso, women occupied 14% of parliamentary seats and 21.87% of ministerial posts in 2019. In Central African Republic the representation of women is at 9% for parliamentary seats and 14% in ministerial positions. Add something look at the Women report

Generally, only 59.6% Member States have Existence of laws that promote Affirmative Action/Parity in decision making structures of government. Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Sudan have gone a step ahead to launch advocacy campaigns pushing for the representation of women in decision-making structures.

Despite this seemingly beautiful progress, the SDI analyses of Gender Parity in the next chapter revealed that the journey to parity is still far in many Member states and that is no urgent legal framework to address Parity in these countries, then Africa might need the next 54 years for it find its way to achieving Gender Parity.

The identified barriers to gender parity in the reporting countries are; inadequate implementation of regional or international legal frameworks, slow deconstruction of harmful gender stereotypes, low economic power and high levels of illiteracy among women, lack of resources to implement the parity agenda, the tendency for women in political parties to be given token positions of leaderships or assistant roles, Lack of structures to support women's representation and the absence of reliable data on gender representation in different areas.

What should therefore follow this kind of observation is for the African Union Commission (AUC) to actively engage the Heads of States (HOS) on how to reverse the situation and get them committed to promoting gender parity in decision making structures at all levels.

10 UN Women, (2020) Policy Paper: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN AFRICA DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20africa/attachments/publications/2021/policy%20paper-%20gbv%20in%20africa%20during%20covid-19%20pandemic_en%2018%20feb_compressed.pdf?la=en&vs=1650

11 O Laura Turquet and Sandrine Koissy-Kpein (2020) COVID-19: Emerging gender data and why it matters. <https://data.unwomen.org/resources/COVID-19-emerging-gender-data-and-why-it-matters#vaw>

3.2.8. Article 6: Women and Girls' Human Rights with emphasis on mechanisms that give women access and opportunity to protect their rights and seek redress when necessary.

This article is the best performing article of all the 12 articles used in the assessment of Member States implementation of the SDEGA. Thirty-three (89.2%) Member States have adopted national laws on women's and girls' human rights as well as ratified and domesticated relevant international and regional human rights instruments.

Even though women continued to be denied full enjoyment of their rights just as it is found all around the globe, African Countries continued to put in great efforts in realising women's rights in Africa - for example, female participation in African legislatures surpasses that of many developed countries . There are now provisions on sexual and gender-based violence, economic, social and cultural rights and non-discrimination in constitutions and policies across the continent¹².

All reporting Member States have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), with the exception of Somalia. Human Rights Commissions are in place in most Member States and contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls. Member States have also taken various steps to strengthen implementation the legal framework on women's human rights in their countries. For instance, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Djibouti and Morocco conducted capacity-building sessions for magistrates on the protection of women's human rights. The core challenges such as; gaps in the implementation of the law, weak sensitization on CEDAW, lack of financial means, patriarchal, cultural and social norms and high rates of illiteracy among women in particular in rural areas.

While we continue to advocate for laws and policies that promotes GEWE, it might be necessary to establish a separate Women's Rights Commission as distinct from the existing Human Rights Commission in many countries, which does not focus much on the rights of women. This will ensure that women enjoy their full rights and be in a position to pursue these rights,

3.2.9. Article 7: Rights to Land and Property Rights with focus on land and housing rights of women.

It is reported that globally, more than 400 million women farm while in sub-Sahara Africa 60% of women farm and they contribute to 70% of food production. Although many countries in sub-Saharan Africa recognize equal rights and non-discriminatory provisions in their Constitutions, women are still not accorded the same rights as men.

These two articles, being the two least two performing articles is an indication that Barriers to women's rights to land, property, inheritance and housing persists in every part of the continent. In Kenya, only 1.6% of land titles are held by women, while 5% are held jointly by women and men. In Mali, the average size of women's farms is much smaller than men's (1.2 ha compared to 4.3 ha), and women account for 9% of the total number of livestock. Many reporting Member States have taken additional measures to promote women's access to land, property and inheritance through relevant programs. Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Central African Republic have conducted advocacy programs to strengthen women's access to land for economic activities. Challenges faced by the Member States are among others: harmful customary and statutory discriminatory laws and practices, slow process of digitalization of technical and administrative documents to limit their improper handling, slowness in the processing of land files, lack of differentiated statistics, and increase in cases of land grabbing. In many of these countries, there is still a lack of adequate provisions for women to hold land rights independently. For Countries with legislation that provides women with independent rights to own land and house, mechanisms to enforce it are often absent¹³.

¹² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21312&LangID=E>

¹³ <https://www.fao.org/3/y4308e/y4308e05.htm>

3.2.10. Article 8: Education for Girls and Women with special emphasis on progression and extension of educational opportunities to those who are out of school system, as well as commitment of Government to EFA.

Member States Performance on this article is above average with 62.1% performance. Even though the SDI analysis of Member States data showed dramatic increase in girls' primary school enrollment rate, the SDGEA reports still revealed disparities between boys and girls in access to education. For example, in Cameroon, primary school enrolment rate is 59% for boys versus 55% for girls, in Comoros, illiteracy affects 37% of women compared to 23% of men.

There are four dimensions of Women Empowerment: Economic, Political, Knowledge, and Psychological. The knowledge dimension is fostered formal education. Yet, structures of institutions in Africa are not safe and friendly for girls; school curriculum emphasizes academic subjects and avoids discussions around 'life skills'. The non-formal education setting has empowered women and girls more because it promotes critical reflections on gendered social norms and encourages corrective responses¹⁴. Most Member States have taken additional measures to strengthen access to education for girls and women. In Africa, the education emergency caused by the COVID pandemic has caused a roll back progress that has been made to achieve gender equality in education¹⁵.

The main challenges faced by the Member States are as follows: barriers to access to education for girls in rural areas as well as for girls and women with disabilities, poor teaching practices, classroom overcrowding, unavailability of schools in some communities, persistence of GBV in schools, high costs of education, high dropout rates for girls due to economic hardships, teenage pregnancies and child marriages, destruction of schools by natural disasters, violence against children in schools, lack of gender mainstreaming at all levels of general and vocational education.

3.2.11. Article 9: on the ratification of the protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).

Among the 37 Member States whose SDGEA reports were analysed, only 9 are yet to ratify the Maputo Protocol. According to ACHPR, presently, forty-nine (49) of the African Union Member States have signed the Maputo Protocol and forty-two (42) have thus far ratified it and are bound to its provisions. All these 42 countries have domesticated the Protocol. The next stage is to step up advocacy on domestication, awareness among women and performance measurement.

3.3. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE QUALITY AND CONTENT OF 2019 SDGEA REPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES

In general, there is improvement in quality of the 2019 SDGEA reports compared to all other previous SDGEA reports submitted. In the process of reviewing and assessing the MS reports on the SDGEA, a number of observations, came to light on the quality and content of some of the reports. Some of these observations were also pointed out in the last SDGEA reports submitted by MS in 2018. All these observations are as follows:

- i. Compared to previous report, it was observed that the 2019/2020 SDGEA reports of Member States were compact, concise and easy to analyse due to the adoption the new SDGEA reporting template introduces the African Union Commission. In fact, 85% (17 of 20) of reporting Countries used the new reporting template.
- ii. We are of the opinion that some of the reports are not true reflection of the efforts of the MS in promoting gender equality and women's rights. Some foundational background relating to

¹⁴ Stromquist, N. P.2015. "Women's Empowerment and Education: Linking Knowledge to Transformative Action." *European Journal of Education* 50 (3): 307-324.

¹⁵ <https://www.globalpartnership.org/blog/effects-covid-pandemic-girls-education>

existing laws and policies were omitted in some MS reports as well as previous achievements and progress made in pushing for gender equality;

- iii. Policy and programmes are not same and cannot be used to replace legislative actions and laws that are meant to drive the implementation of SDGEA;
- iv. Some MS also used their constitutional provisions in place of laws that were meant to be enacted for specific women related issues.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS OF THE THEMATIC INDEX, THE SOLEMN DECLARATION INDEX (SDI) AND THE GRAND INDEX (GI)

4.1. INTRODUCTION:

As usually done with SDI reports, the calculations were based on three (3) thematic indices. The three indices are the HIV Index, Gender Parity Index and Education Index. These three indices are used to calculate the SDI, while the grand index is the geometric mean of the SDI and the Score cards generated in chapter three.

The indicators used to calculate each of the three thematic indices in the 2019 report were maintained in the current report. The only slight difference was the indicators used in calculating the HIV Index which was slightly modified to accommodate ARV access by women. All indicators were gender-specific and were also a good measure of the country's performance regarding women in these thematic areas. A major analysis done was the comparison of country performance in the last 6 years (2016–2022) (for countries with complete data only) using findings from the 1st SDI report, the 2016 report and the 3rd SDI report which is the current report. This analysis threw up MS ability to maintain, improve or regress on their performance in each of the thematic index.

The following indicators were used:

- i. **HIV INDEX:** the two indicators selected are; the proportion of women living with HIV/AIDS (WLWHAs) with access to ARV in the population of women who are HIV positive, the second indicator being the proportion of women living with HIV/AIDS (WLWHAs) with access to ARV in the population of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) who are on ARV. Values of these indicators were extracted from the 2020 UNAIDS HIV Country profiles (Data Source: unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/). In addition to these, few other indicators which were not directly used in deriving the HIV Index were assessed to show trends in prevalence and access to ARV in Africa.
- ii. **GENDER PARITY INDEX:** The indicators used were same as those used in the SDI framework. The two indicators used are; the proportion of women in lower parliament in case of Bi-Camera Legislature, the second one is percentage of women in ministerial or cabinet positions. (Data Source: 2021 Inter-Parliamentary Union Data.)
- iii. **EDUCATION INDEX:** All indicators used in analyzing the educational index of 2019 SDI report were maintained in 2019 report. Female enrolment ratio, girls progression ratio from primary to secondary school and female (15–24 years) literacy rate. (Data Source: www.data.uis.unesco.org) (UNESCO UIS 2020).

4.2. HIV INDEX:

From the analysis of the two indicators, the following were concluded:

- i. There has been a noticeable change in HIV prevalence within the Continent. Of the 52 reporting countries (Data from Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Saharawi, and Seychelles have Incomplete) 22 countries (42.3%) have prevalence less than 1% with Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria with the least prevalence of 0.02%, 0.04% and 0.04% respectively.
- ii. Twenty-eight (23) Countries have prevalence rates between 1% and 10% which is quite higher than what it was in the previous report (20). Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe had higher prevalence in this current report when compared to previous report. Angola shifted from 0.97% in the 2019 report to 1.1% in the current report (See table8 below).

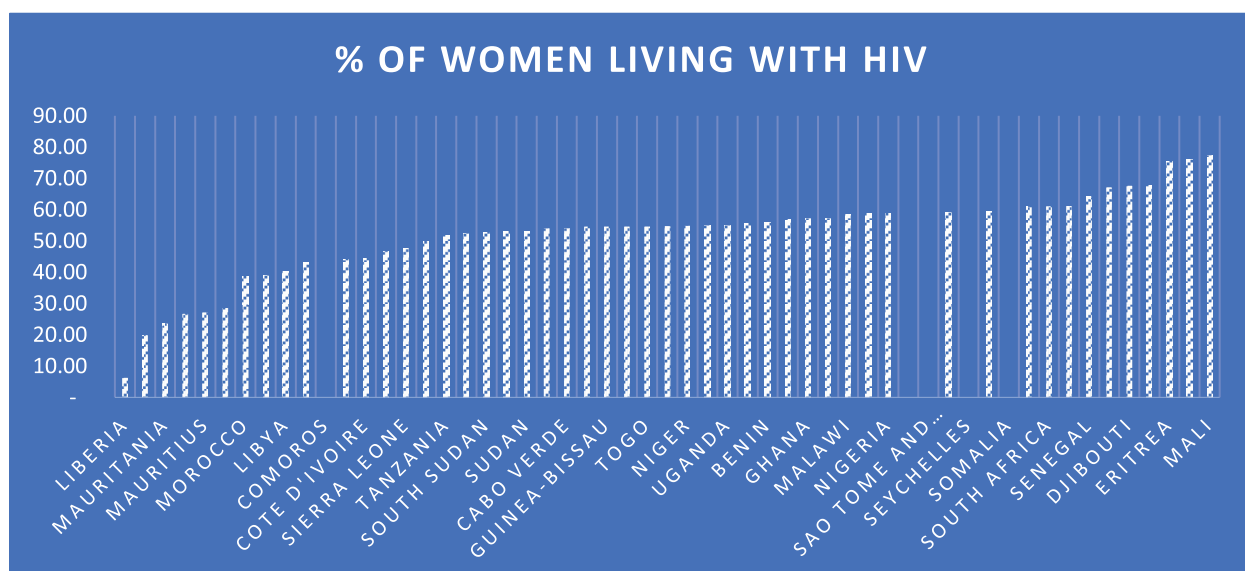
Table 8: HIV Prevalence Rate in AU Member States

Country	Prevalence rate (<1%)	Country	Prevalence rate (1%-10%)	Country	Prevalence rate (>10%)
Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.02	Sierra Leone	1.04	Zimbabwe	11.81
Tunisia	0.04	Mauritius	1.08	South Africa	13.32
Algeria	0.04	Angola	1.10	Lesotho	13.33
Morocco	0.06	Gambia, The	1.17	Botswana	16.09
Libya	0.10	Ghana	1.17	Eswatini	19.09
Sudan	0.12	Togo	1.39		
Niger	0.14	Cote d'Ivoire	1.51		
Madagascar	0.16	South Sudan	1.73		
Mauritania	0.19	Rwanda	1.79		
Senegal	0.25	Central African Republic	1.87		
Eritrea	0.37	Congo, Rep.	2.12		
Cabo Verde	0.48	Cameroon	2.14		
Burkina Faso	0.49	Gabon	2.19		
Mali	0.58	Guinea-Bissau	2.32		
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.61	Tanzania	3.02		
Ethiopia	0.63	Kenya	3.11		
Benin	0.65	Uganda	3.28		
Djibouti	0.68	Equatorial Guinea	5.23		
Chad	0.71	Malawi	5.47		
Burundi	0.74	Liberia	7.29		
Nigeria	0.87	Mozambique	7.46		
Guinea	0.89	Zambia	8.62		
		Namibia	8.75		

Source: unaid.org/en/regionscountries/countries/

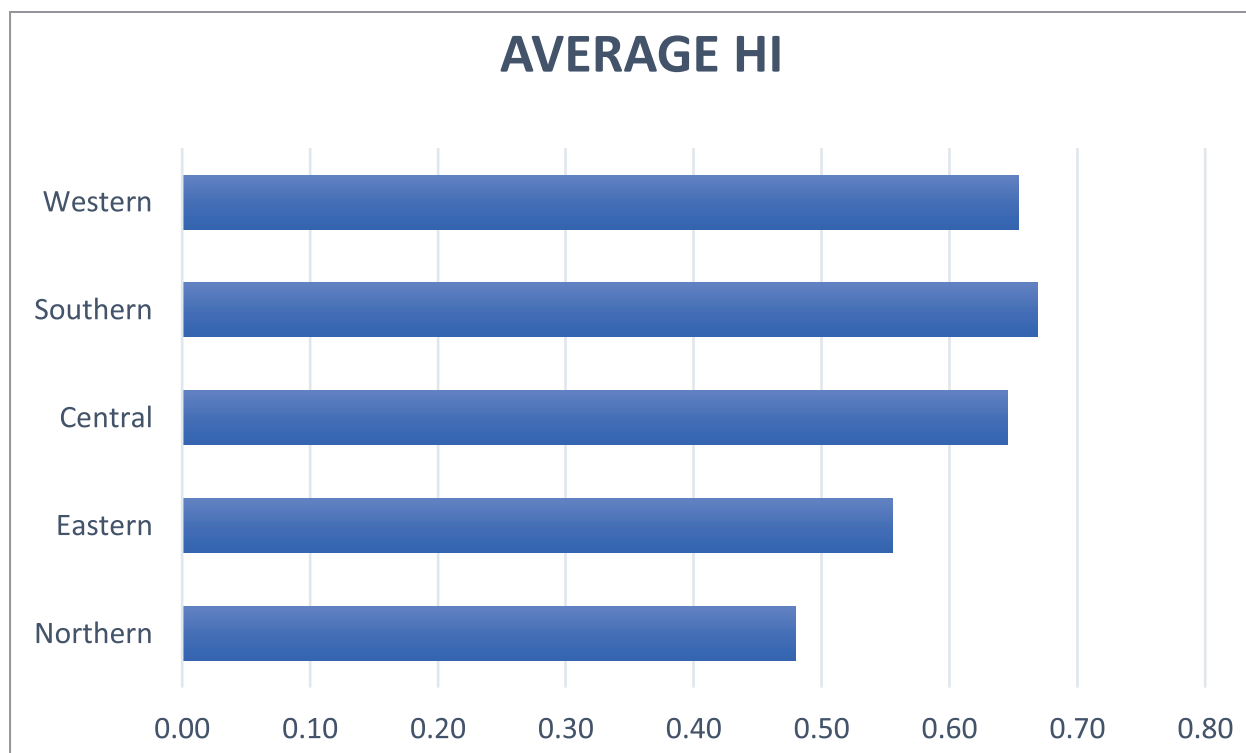
- i. Countries with the highest prevalence above 10% were still the same countries in the previous report. eSwatini had the highest prevalence of 16.92% now 19.09%, Lesotho had prevalence of 15.00% now 16.19, followed by Botswana (15.65%, now 16.09), while South Africa has increased prevalence from 12.68% to 13.22%.
- ii. Thirty-One (62%) out of the 50 reporting countries have above 50% Anti-retroviral coverage for PLWHA with Cape Verde having the highest coverage of 100% followed by eSwatni with 97% and Rwanda with 93% coverage. Liberia has the least coverage of 5.2% followed by Madagascar with 14.01% coverage only.
- iii. The five (5) Countries with the highest HIV prevalence had ARV coverage of not less than 60%. eSwatini has the 2nd Highest ARV Coverage of 97.2%. This is an Improvement for eSwatini who had ARV coverage of 77.73% in the previous report.
- iv. Four (4) Countries have achieved the UNAID’s target of 90% ARV coverage. These Countries are Cape Verde (100%), eSwatini (97.28%), Rwanda (93.05%) and Uganda (91.39%).
- v. Figure 9 below shows the percentage of women living with HIV in AU states

Figure 9: Percentage of WLWHAs in Total PLWHAs



- i. WLWHAs among the population of PLWHAs on ARV was assessed. It became obvious that despite the fact that the proportion of WLWHA among the population of PLWHAs is very high, percentage of WLWHAs on treatment among the population of PLWHAs on ARV is below the UNAID’s Target of 90%.
- ii. In spite of the observation in (viii) above, the ARV coverage among women living with HIV is still quite high when compared with the population of PLWHA. Thirty-eight (38) countries have ARV coverage above 50.00% among WLWHA;
- iii. Although ARV coverage among women is high, only 8 countries have met UNAID’s target of ≥90% ARV Coverage among WLWHA. These countries are eSwatini, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Senegal, Botswana;
- iv. The Average ARV Coverage for women in AU Member States is 68.5%. The countries with the least ARV Coverage are South Sudan (25%), Congo, Rep. (25%), Sudan (23%), Mauritius (21%), Madagascar (16%). Even though Liberia recorded the least (6%) ARV coverage among PLWHA, it was able to give access to ARV to 65% of WLWHA;
- v. Overall, it thus appears that conscious effort is being made to ensure women have access to ARV as the overall percentage of WLWHA with access to ARV among the population of PLWHA with access to ARV is 57.5%;

- vi. The average score for HIV Index was generally high for all the regions because of the high ARV coverage among women. After the analysis, the health index for MS came out as 0.60% This shows that Africa has about 0.4% gap to cover when it comes to ARV coverage for WLWHA in AU States;
- vii. Southern Africa has the highest index of 0.67%, while North Africa has the least average of 0.48%.

Figure 10: Africa HIV Index Average**Table 9: Regional Analysis of Health Index**

REGION	AVERAGE HI	NUMBER OF STATES With Complete Data	NUMBER OF STATES
Northern	0.48	6	7
Eastern	0.56	13	14
Central	0.65	8	9
Southern	0.67	10	10
Western	0.65	15	15
AU States	0.60	52	55

4.3. GENDER PARITY

- i. Women representation in parliament has increased over the years in Africa. There has been 9% growth in the last 9 years (2013–2021).
- ii. Expectedly, Rwanda (54.84%) has the highest women representation at ministerial cabinet level while Libya (5.56%) has the least representation. While only 31.4% met the CEDAW target at this level, majority of the reporting countries have below 30% representation.
- iii. Seventeen (17) countries representing 30.9% of AU membership met CEDAW target at ministerial cabinet level positions. Rwanda (61.30%) and Guinea-Bissau (54.86%) met gender parity target set by AU in the SDGEA at the cabinet level. The 2019 report did not record any country meeting AU target of at least 50% representation while only Rwanda met the target in the 2016 report;
- iv. Only 9 out of these 17 AU Member States met the CEDAW target of minimum of 30% women representation at parliamentary level
- v. In total, 15 (27.27%) countries have at least 30% women representation at parliamentary level with Rwanda toping list with 61.3% women representatives. Only Rwanda met the AU Parity target of 50%. eSwatini who was toping the chart in the last report now has only 7% representation. This is a drastic regression from 84% women representation recorded in the last report.
- vi. Twenty-six (26) Countries recorded increase in the number of women representations at the parliament between 2018 and 2021. Countries with the highest increase are: Chad, Mali, Cape Verde, Egypt, Arab Rep. and Comoros. These are major improvements are perhaps an indication that the decision-making space in Africa are being liberalized for the ascendancy of more women.
- vii. Nineteen (19) countries representing 34.50% of the Member States have achieved 50% of their journey to Gender Parity in the parliament. The highest achiever is Rwanda at 116% followed by South Africa 90.81%, Mozambique with 85.04% then Namibia and Ethiopia with 83% gender parity achieved.
- viii. The implication of this data is that Rwanda has gone beyond parity and representation in parliament is now skewed in favor of women. Nigeria has the least GPI of (15.22) followed by Comoros (15.62) and then Libya (18.86%).
- ix. Analysis of the Gender Parity Index (GPI) showed that overall AU States had covered 46% of its journey to gender parity.
- x. While comparing Africa's progress in GPI between 2019 report and the current report. The continent has made an average increase of 9% between 2013 and 2021.
- xi. Of the 45 countries who had complete data for 2019 and 2022 reports 30 Countries have increased gender parity while 15 have decreased Gender Parity.
- xii. Ethiopia had highest increase of moving from GPI of 0.39 in 2019 report to 0.83 in 2022 report. Twenty-Nine (29) other countries among which are Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Burundi also has increased GPI;
- xiii. These increases in GPI were driven by substantial increase in the proportion of women in the Ministerial positions.
- xiv. 16 countries (35.5%) which included, eSwatini, Tunisia, Uganda, Tanzania and Sierra Leone experienced decrease in the GPI. This decrease ranges from -0.01 as seen in Cameroon to -0.16 decrease in GPI as it is in Eswatini;

Table 10: Regional Distribution of Gender Parity Index (GPI)

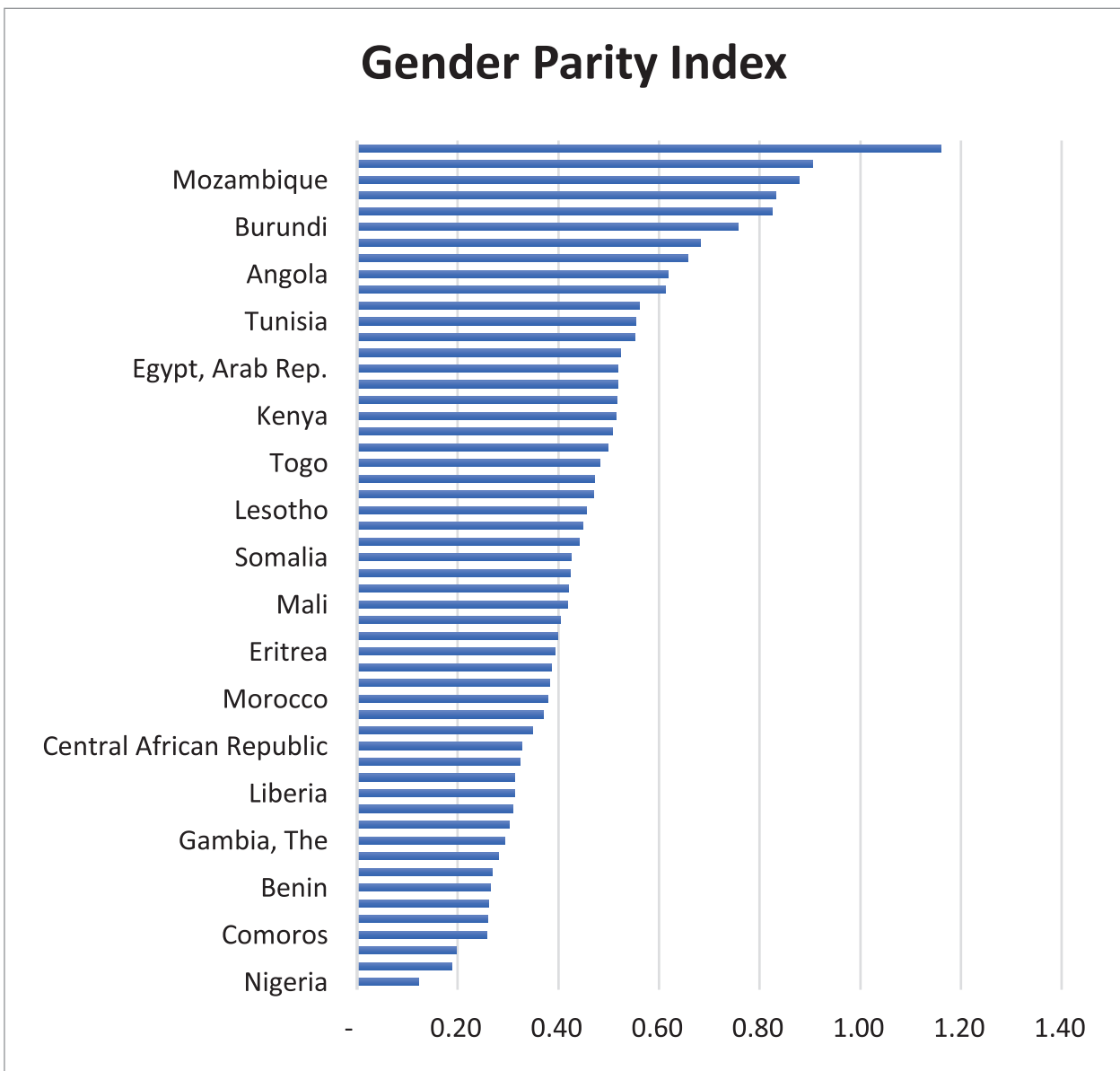
REGION	AVERAGE HI	NUMBER OF STATES With Complete Data	NUMBER OF STATES
Central	0.43	9	9
Eastern	0.54	15	15
Northern	0.39	6	7
Southern	0.57	9	9
Western	0.36	15	15
AU States	0.46	54	55

- xv. Just as previous analysis revealed, Southern African Countries maintained their slot as the region with the highest GPI while North African Countries has the least GPI of 0.39 as seen in table 10;

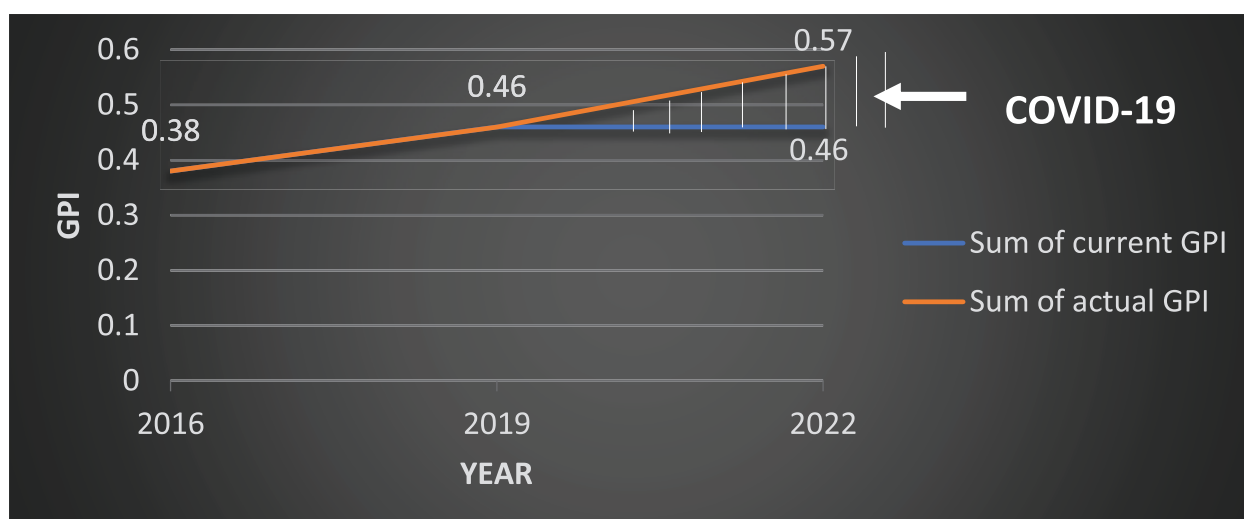
Table 11: List of Top 10 Countries With Increase in GPI

S/N	COUNTRY	REGION	2016 GPI	2019 GP1	2022 GPI	INCREASE IN GPI 2019/2022
1	Ethiopia	Eastern	0.28	0.39	0.83	0.43
2	Mozambique	Southern	0.38	0.61	0.88	0.26
3	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Southern	0.27	0.27	0.52	0.25
4	Chad	Central	0.27	0.27	0.51	0.24
5	Sao Tome and Principe	Eastern	0.32	0.36	0.56	0.20
6	Burundi	Eastern	0.17	0.57	0.76	0.19
7	South Sudan	Northern	0.67	0.48	0.66	0.18
8	Namibia	Southern	0.28	0.67	0.83	0.17
9	Madagascar	Eastern	0.30	0.37	0.50	0.13
10	Mali	Western	0.41	0.29	0.42	0.13

Figure 11: Country Gender Parity Index



- xvi. It is evident that Covid-19 took women away from the political space and limited their participation in the process which resulted in a plateau as seen in Fig 12. Covid 19 wiped away 9% from the political representation gain;
- xvii. If there was no COVID-19, the GPI would have increased by 9%. This reinforces the urgent need for some kind of accelerated legislative framework to ensure gender balance in leadership and governance in Africa;

Figure 12: GPI Projections and impact of COVID-19**Table 12: GPI Comparison with Best and Least Performing Country**

SDI Reporting Year	Women Representation At Ministerial Cabinet Level (%)	Women Representation At National Parliament (%)	Gender Parity Index (GPI)	Best Performing Countries	Least Performing Countries
2016 Report (2015 IPU Data)	19.49	21.22	0.38	Rwanda (0.95), South Africa (0.84), Tanzania (0.68)	Egypt (0.09), Libya (0.15), Sierra Leone (0.19)
2019 Report (2018 IPU Data)	18.15	27.99	0.47	Rwanda (1.078), Uganda (0.99), Eswatini (0.96)	Nigeria (0.16), Benin Republic (0.209), DRC (0.20.3)
2022 (2021 IPU Data)	24.50	24.75	0.46	Rwanda (1.156), South Africa (0.908), Mozambique (0.878)	Nigeria (0.122), Libya (0.189), Burkina Faso (0.197)

4.4. GIRLS' EDUCATION INDEX (GEI)

Three (3) major indicators were used to calculate this index, namely; Female Enrolment Ratio, Girls' Progression Rate to Secondary school, Female Literacy Rate (15–24yrs). The current data available were used in the analysis. Outcome of the analysis shows that:

Girls' progression from primary to secondary school is high with all countries having progression rates higher than 50%. Only Gabon had progression rate less than 50% which is 41% progression rate. This could be due to the crises that occurred in the country in recent years;

- i. The highest progression rate just as seen in the last report was 100% progression in Kenya and Sao Tome and Principe. However, Seychelles who had 100% rate in 2019 now has 97% progression rate;
- ii. Aside from Gabon, no other country had girl's progression rate less than 50%. Though countries such as Central Africa Republic, Chad and Niger have the least percentage of female literacy rates, girls' progression rate in these countries are still above 52%;
- iii. Countries that achieved 100% progression rate also achieved high literacy rate (among women 15 – 24 years) posting figures as high as 80%. Eight countries, with Niger being the least (15.6%), have literacy rates below 50% with Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Kenya and 12 other countries having literacy rates above 80%;
- iv. While girl's enrollment and progression in Western Africa is very high, Thirty-Seven percent (37%) of the Countries in West African have female literacy rate below 50% making west Africa have the lowest Female literacy rate in the Continent;
- v. Data shows that primary school female enrolment is generally high with some countries having more than 100% primary School enrollment.
- vi. Malawi (149%) tops the chart when it comes to Primary School Enrollment, followed by Sierra Leone (145%), Madagascar (139%) and Rwanda (129%). Even though South-Sudan has the least enrollment present of 60.3% no Country has less than 50% enrollment rate;
- vii. Due to the high performance of Member States, only 2 countries (Niger and Chad) have GEI less than 0.50. Other countries such as Namibia, Tunisia, eSwatini, Algeria Sao Tome and Principe have GEI above 1;
- viii. In summary North Africa has the highest GEI average of 0.94, followed by South African Countries with 0.93 average, while East Africa scored 0.82 GEI average. West African maintained the least GEI with 0.78 score;
- ix. When Comparing 2016 and 2022 analysis, 39 Member States have complete data for both reports. Of these, 37 Member States have increased GEI with an average of 14.09% increase;
- x. Only two Member States (Cabo Verde and Chad) have decrease in GEI between 2016 and now. This is due to lack of Law that supports girl's education in a country like Chad. Also, female literacy rate in Chad is the lowest recorded rate in the Continent with as low as 22%.

Figure 13: Regional Analysis of Girls' Education Index

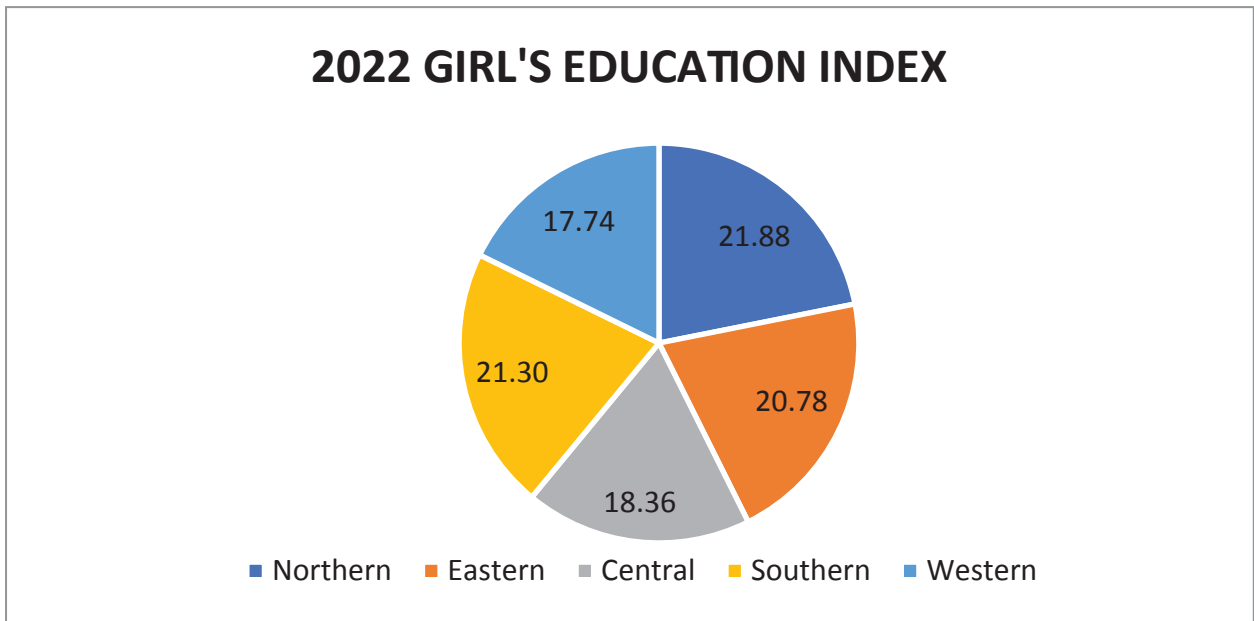


Figure 14: Best Performing Countries on Girls' Education

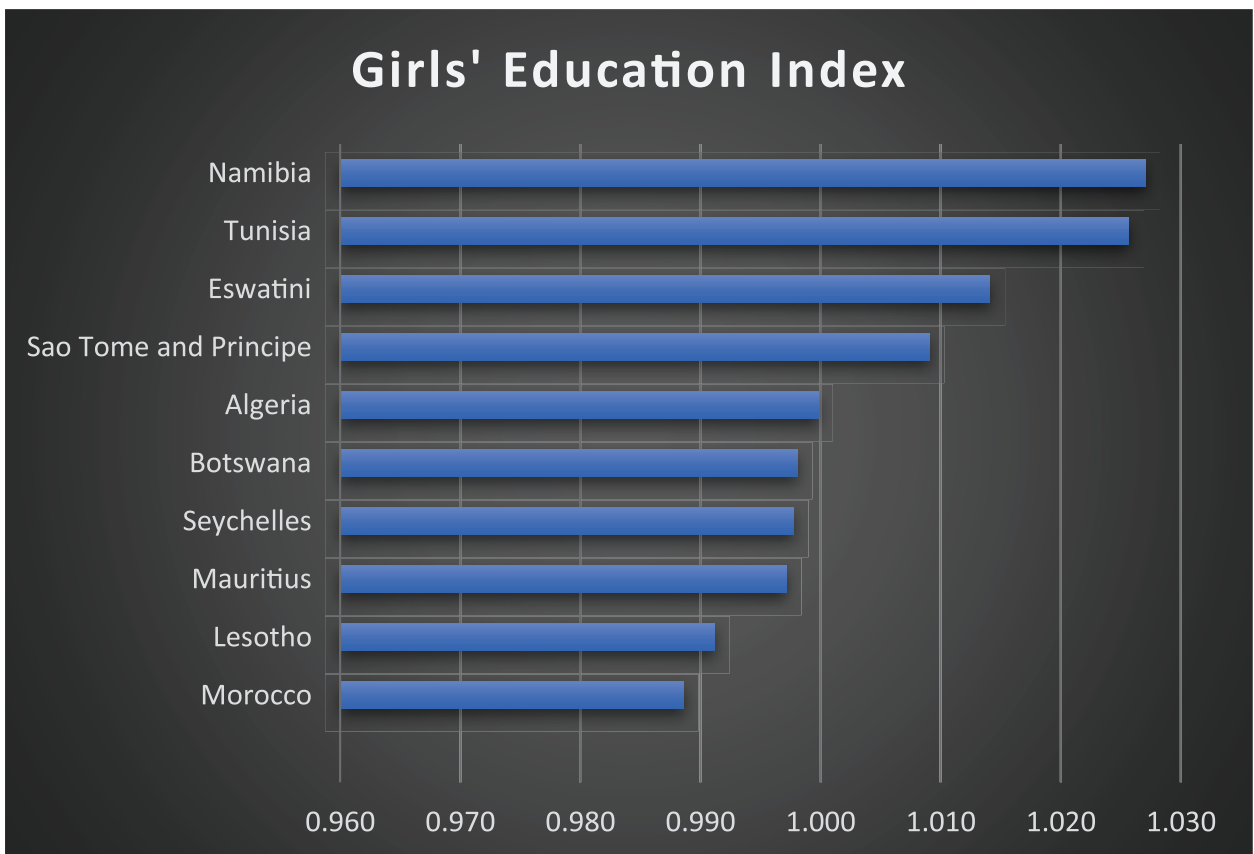


Table 13: Countries with Highest GEI increase between 2016 to 2022

Country	Region	2016 GEI	2019 GEI	2022 GEI	CHANGE IN GEI 2016/2022
Sierra Leone	Western	0.69	0.77	0.94	25.68
Cote d'Ivoire	Western	0.54	0.69	0.78	24.42
Burkina Faso	Western	0.51	0.63	0.74	23.53
Malawi	Southern	0.75	ICD	0.97	21.35
Madagascar	Eastern	0.72	ICD	0.93	21.08
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	0.68	ICD	0.88	20.00
Togo	Western	0.72	0.80	0.92	19.83
Benin	Western	0.59	ICD	0.79	19.71
Mozambique	Southern	0.63	ICD	0.82	19.46
Eritrea	Eastern	0.62	ICD	0.82	19.45
Gambia, The	Western	0.68	0.76	0.85	17.05
Ethiopia	Eastern	0.69	ICD	0.86	16.65
Tunisia	Northern	0.86	0.75	1.03	16.25
Mauritania	Northern	0.56	ICD	0.72	16.24
Algeria	Northern	0.84	ICD	1.00	15.98

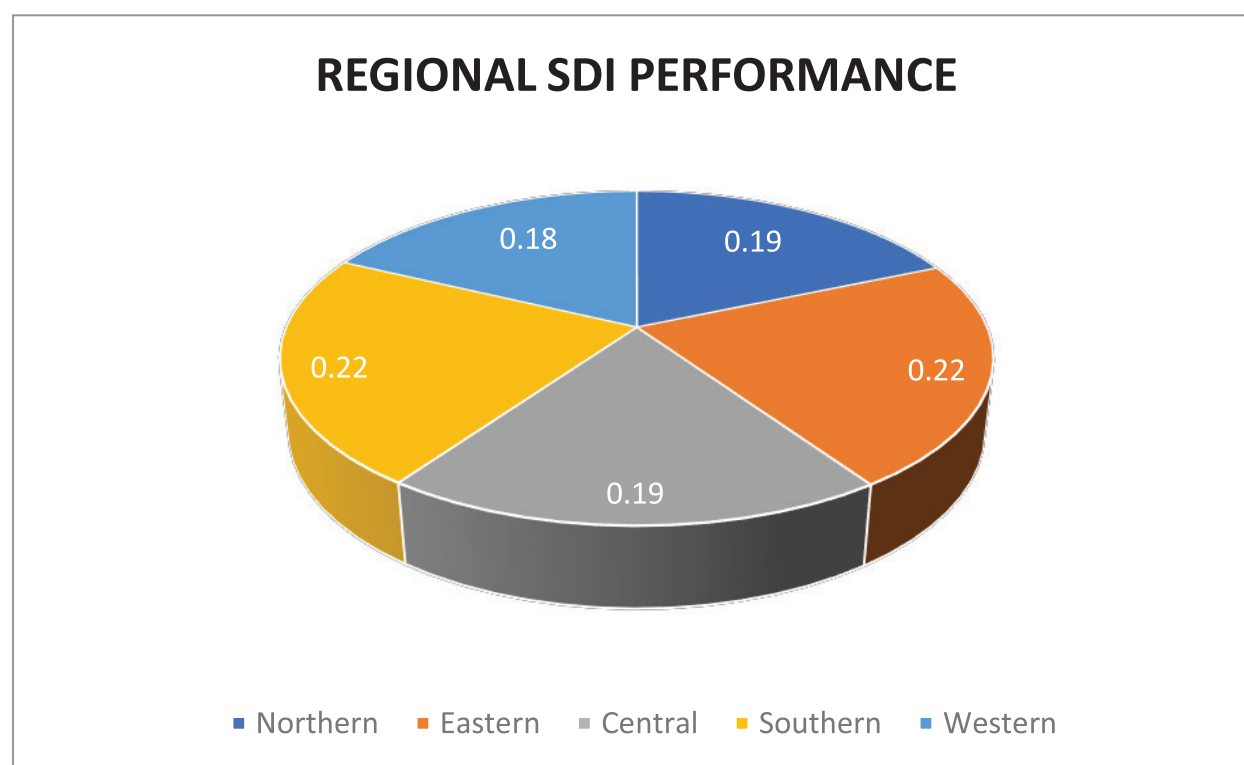
4.5. COMPOSITE SOLEMN DECLARATION INDEX

The composite SDI is a derivative of three (3) thematic focuses which are; HIV Index, Education Index and Gender Parity Index. The SDI is calculated by finding the geometric mean of these three thematic focuses for each country. This gives a composite indication of the SDI status of each country and region.

- i. The higher the value of the SDI, the better the performance of the countries in moving towards gender equality in the areas of these thematic focus;
- ii. Forty-Five (45) Countries have complete data for their index, therefore the SDI in this report only reflects the performance of these 45 Member States.
- iii. Rwanda has the highest SDI score of 0.941 which is followed by Namibia with 0.869 and Burundi 0.821. Table 14 below shows the SDI of the best 10 countries of the 55 AU Member States;
- iv. Uganda that emerged with the highest SDI in the 2019 report now stands as the 4th highest in this current report. This is due to its underperformance in the GPI where it moved from 0.99 in 2019 report to 0.68 GPI in this report;
- v. On regional performance, each region maintained its position as is in the previous report.
- vi. The average composite SDI for Southern Africa region is 0.34 which turns out to be the highest of the 5 regions. The region with the least composite SDI average is North Africa with 0.25;

Table 14: 10 Countries with highest SDI Scores and their Regions

S/N	Country	REGION	Education	Health	Gender Parity	SDI
1	Rwanda	Eastern	0.939	0.765	1.16	0.941
2	Namibia	Southern	1.027	0.770	0.83	0.869
3	Burundi	Central	0.924	0.787	0.76	0.821
4	Ethiopia	Eastern	0.857	0.694	0.83	0.790
5	Mozambique	Southern	0.824	0.678	0.88	0.789
6	Uganda	Eastern	0.811	0.771	0.68	0.752
7	Kenya	Eastern	0.969	0.765	0.52	0.728
8	Senegal	Western	0.734	0.794	0.61	0.708
9	Lesotho	Southern	0.991	0.740	0.46	0.696
10	Cabo Verde	Western	0.877	0.752	0.47	0.677

Figure 15: Regional Composite SDI Average.

- i. Analysing the difference between the composite SDI score in 2019 and 2022 report, only 38 Countries have complete data to enable this assessment
- ii. While table 15 below shows the first 10 countries with increased SDI, no country experienced decrease in SDI score between 2019 and now, however, Togo, South Africa, and Sierra Leone only have <0.1 increase in their SDI score.

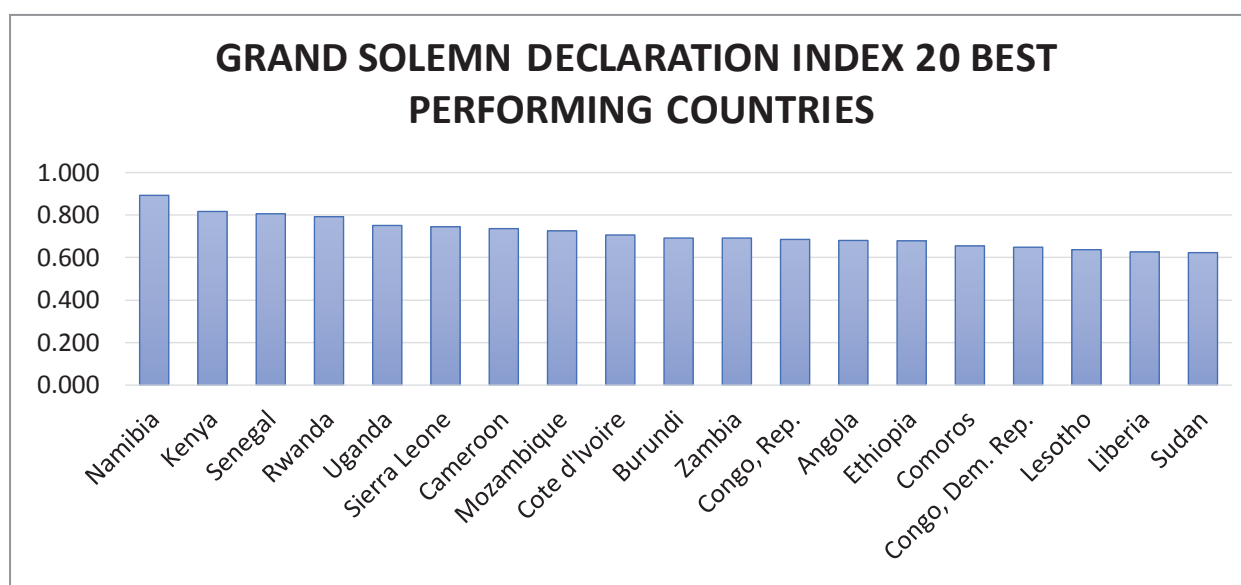
Table 15: 10 Best Countries with Increase in SDI Score

Country	2019	2020	Difference in SDI
Ethiopia	0.33	0.79	0.46
Rwanda	0.52	0.94	0.42
Namibia	0.49	0.87	0.38
Burundi	0.47	0.82	0.35
Mozambique	0.45	0.79	0.34
Madagascar	0.18	0.51	0.34
Lesotho	0.37	0.70	0.32
Eritrea	0.29	0.60	0.31
Senegal	0.40	0.71	0.31
Egypt, Arab Rep.	0.21	0.51	0.30

4.6. GRAND INDEX

To generate the Grand Index, two (2) critical values were put into consideration. These are; the composite SDI as seen above and the SDSC as seen in chapter three. As explained in chapter one, the geometric mean of the values of these indices were calculated for each country. Countries that have any or both of the values missing do not have a Grand Index with which they can be assessed or ranked. The following observations can be deduced from the analysis of the Grand Index:

- i. As discussed in chapter 3 only 37 countries have their SCDC data available as at the time of this study. Of these 37 countries, 17 were data generated from 2018 SDGSA report, while 20 were from 2019;
- ii. Also, for SDI, 45 MS have the complete data. Both the SCDC and the SDI has more MS with complete data compared to the 2019 report.
- iii. Due to paucity of data, overall, only 32 (58%) MS have complete data to generate their Grand Index which was used in this report. This is quite more than the 24 (44%) MS with complete SCDC and SDI data in 2019.
- iv. As seen in figure 16 below, Namibia and Kenya maintained their position on the 1st and 2nd best country with 0.893 and 0.817 GI respectively.
- v. Senegal and Rwanda which were the 4th and 5th ranking countries in the previous report progressed to the 3rd and 4th highest ranking countries displacing Zambia.
- vi. Zambia dropped down the ladder by 8 steps moving from the 3rd best performing country to the 11th best performing country. Table 16 shows the 10 best performing countries in the 2016, 2019 and 2022 reports.
- vii. It is worth mentioning that Cameroon who was ranked 19th best performing Country moved up to now be the 7th best performing country. This can be strictly attributed to the increase in its SCDC score. Cameroon who scored “5” points in its 2018 SDGSA report, went ahead to score “10” points in the 2019 report because of recent development in favour of women in country such as the recent Ratification and domestication of the Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of Child and/ or Domestic Laws, a new law that guarantee women access to land and housing etc.
- viii. Burundi was able to maintain its position as the 10th best performing country for the 2nd time while Morocco whose SDGSA implementation performance is being assessed for the first time since its joining of the AU States was able to secure the 25th position. It is commendable that Morocco has complete data for its assessment compared to some other countries who have been submitting SDGSA report for many years;

Figure 16: 20 Best Performing Countries

- ix. Even though Rwanda had the highest composite SDI score of 0.941, its average performance in SCDC score of 0.667 brought down the Country's grand index. This is because Rwanda failed to reflect its activities on articles relating to are HIV/AIDS, Child Solider, GBV And Housing Rights as expected in the declaration;
- x. Looking at the Global picture, Africa has an average Grand index on 0.64 (64.05%). which is an improvement on the 2019 GI of 48.53%. This improvement is influenced by the Following:
- Increase in the number of countries reporting on the SDGEA, the reports of 37 countries were available as at the time of this study compared to the previous report;
 - Increase in the average SCDC for AU States which is an improvement in the implementation of the content of the SDGEA;
 - Increase in the SDI scores which is generally influence by a better performance in HIV/AIDS and improvement in the GPI of states who have complete data for both SCDC and SDI.

Table 16: 10 Best Performing Countries, 2016, 2019 and 2022

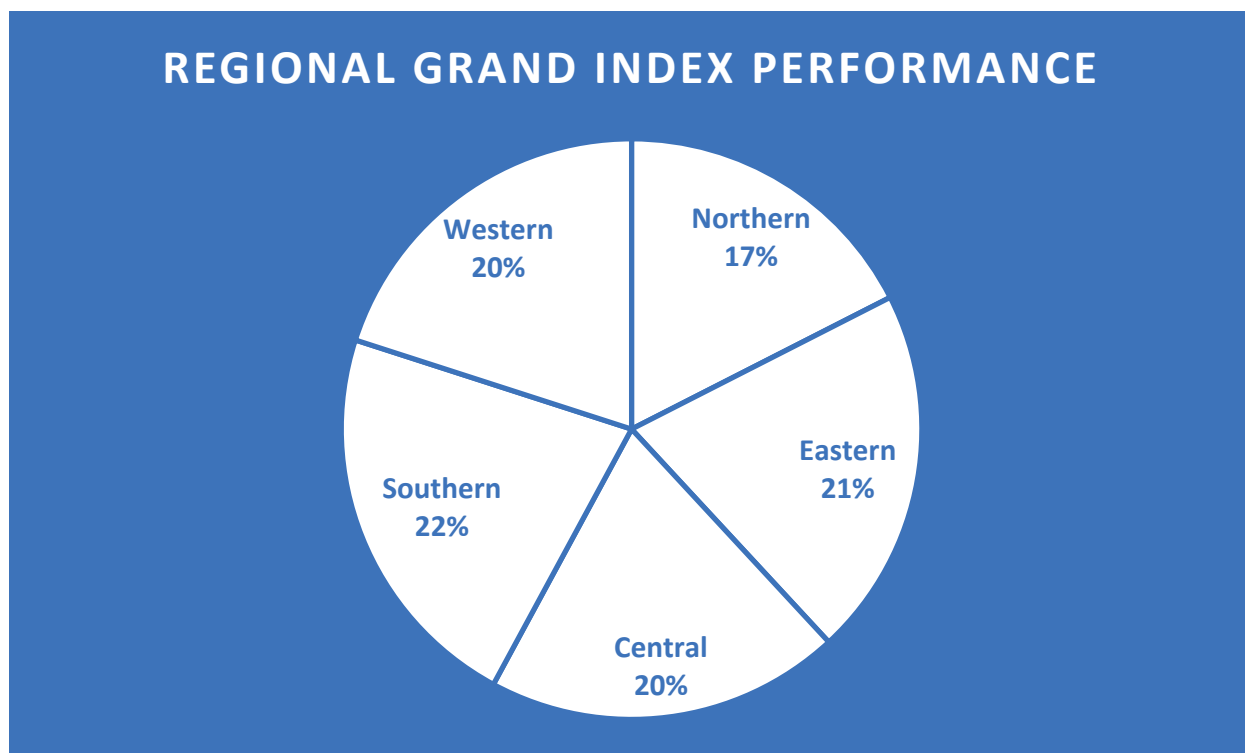
RANK	2016 SDI REPORT		2019 SDI REPORT		2022 SDI REPORT	
	Country	GRAND INDEX	Country	GRAND INDEX	Country	GRAND INDEX
1	Senegal	0.760	Namibia	0.668	Namibia	0.893
2	Namibia	0.720	Kenya	0.636	Kenya	0.817
3	Tanzania	0.711	Zambia	0.609	Senegal	0.806
4	Algeria	0.688	Senegal	0.606	Rwanda	0.792
5	Mozambique	0.695	Rwanda	0.591	Uganda	0.751
6	Uganda	0.650	Cote d'Ivoire	0.570	Sierra Leone	0.745
7	Rwanda	0.638	Swaziland	0.568	Cameroon	0.736
8	Burundi	0.568	Mozambique	0.547	Mozambique	0.726
9	Ethiopia	0.583	Togo	0.528	Cote d'Ivoire	0.706
10	Eswatini	0.509	Burundi	0.523	Burundi	0.692

- xi. For regional performance, just as it is with the overall performance, Africa regions performed better in this current report when compared to the 2019 report (Figure 17). Result of this analysis showed that Southern African Countries who usually have the highest Grand Index Performance did so again in this report but with an addition of 14%, that is it moved from 55.08% in 2019 to 69.50% in 2022. Table 17 below showed the differences in the reporting years.

Table 17: Regional performance of Member States, 2016, 2019 and 2022 SDI Reports

REGION	2016	2019	2022
Northern	41.90%	42.25%	55.11%
Eastern	49.10%	44.65%	64.89%
Central	40.23%	43.55%	62.31%
Southern	54.66%	55.08%	69.50%
Western	41.23%	51.45%	63.08%
AU States	51.35%	48.53%	64.05%

Figure 17: Regional Analysis of Grand Index



CHAPTER FIVE

GIMAC THEMATIC ACTIVITY REPORT

5.1. GOVERNANCE AND STATUS OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA

PREPARED BY AKINA MAMA WA AFRIKA

5.1.0 Introduction.

As part of the Gender is my Agenda Campaign's (GIMAC) activities, this report provides a general landscape of the current governance, leadership and political participation in Africa, drawing from specific regions and countries to make observations of trends, challenges and opportunities for women and young people's full and equal participation in governance and political processes. In line with GIMAC's role in monitoring progress on gender equality in African Union (AU) member states using the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) as a guide, this report as commissioned by Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC Network) and developed by Akina Mama wa Afrika to inform the final report of the GIMAC Network Solemn Declaration Index Report.

Several international and regional instruments have clear obligations for states, further stating the urgency of ensuring women's equal and full participation in democratic and governance processes. Specifically, the African Charter on Human and People's rights under Article 13 recognizes civil and political rights for all individuals. These, which include freedom to political participation, among others.¹⁶ This is reechoed in the AU Protocol on Gender Parity which calls for a fifty-fifty representation of the sexes in decision-making, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), among many other legally binding and aspirational instruments.

5.1.1 Setting the Stage: Where We Are Now

Agenda 2063 aspiring to 'The Africa we Want' also recognizes the urgency that all citizens of Africa are actively involved in decision making in all aspects. It speaks specifically to aspiring to an Africa "where no child, woman or man will be left behind or excluded, on the basis of gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age or other factors".¹⁷ This is further restated in the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) which has been signed and ratified by 42 out of 54 African countries.¹⁸

According to the 2021 edition of the IPU-UN Women in Politics and the Women's Political Participation Africa Barometer (2021), women's political representation across the continent was still low with only 24% of the 12,113 parliamentarians in Africa - 25% in the lower houses, and 20% in the upper houses of parliament and 21% of councilors in the 19 countries studied being women.¹⁹

In the same study, women's representation in regional parliaments across Africa by year 2021 continued to be low. Southern Africa registered a total of 716 women in parliament leading to 28%, North Africa 481 women members, 24%, Central Africa, 171 women members ,19%, West Africa, 352 women members ,16% while East Africa has got a total of 581 women parliamentarians leading to 32%.

16 Afr. Charter on Hum. & People's Rts., Art.13 (1981).

17 Our Aspirations for The Africa We Want, Afr. Union, Aspiration 6.

18 Art.9, Maputo Protocol

19 Africa Barometer, Women's Political Participation, 7 (2021).

Equally, the IPU study indicates women representation at local government levels across Africa, very low. East Africa is at 35%, Southern Africa 20%, Central Africa 27%, North Africa 3%, and West Africa 2%.

At cabinet level, East Africa has 32%, the Horn 23%, Southern Africa 26%, Central Africa 20%, North Africa 13% and West Africa 19%.²⁰

Individual African countries have also domesticated and set laws aimed at guaranteeing full participation of women and young people in political processes. Uganda's Constitution provides for a quota system that guarantees that parliament shall consist of a woman representative for every district as well as representatives of youth and other different groups²¹ and reserves one third of the membership of each local government council for women.²² Political parties such as the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa have instituted similar legislations in their party constitutions under Article 6(1) and the Front for Liberation of Mozambique where the party's policy requires that 40% of candidates in national assembly and local government should be women. However even where laws are in place, governments have continued to falter at their obligations. In Kenya for example, despite Constitutional provisions and court rulings aimed at guaranteeing that no more than two-thirds of any elected or appointed body can be of the same gender, women hold 22% of seats in the country's lower house of parliament, and 31% in the upper house.²³

While many African countries represent and hold a collective ideal root in the concept of Pan-Africanism, the variations of multiplicity of identity, economic standing, historical contexts, geographical location, and the changing internal dynamics present similar and unique challenges and opportunities. As most African states continue processes of decolonization and thus solidifying their democratic ideals, it is urgent that the status of political participation for women and young people in Africa takes center stage.

By 2030, it is expected that young Africans will make up 75 percent of the those under age 35 in Africa.²⁴ More than half of these will be women. Without addressing the systemic causes that have allowed for discrimination to persist, African states will find themselves in a repetitive cycle. Women will undoubtedly continue to bear that brunt of this, unless the systemic root causes that allows inequalities to persist are addressed. Appreciating that inclusiveness and participatory decision making are core elements of democracy, it is therefore essential that women and young people, as core groups in Africa have the ability to both be represented and actively participate in the different democracy processes in their countries.²⁵ Despite these aspirations and commitments, studies continue to show that political parties, governments, and various institutions fail to live up to these grand objectives.

In a study conducted by IDEA²⁶, found that while political parties' manifestos outlined commitments to gender equality, they did not speak to how to measure these beyond rhetoric.²⁷ Only 21 per cent of the surveyed 214 political parties demonstrated how they planned to remedy the power imbalances that caused underrepresentation both within internal structures and national leadership positions.²⁸ Only 12 political parties out of these 21 per cent were in line with existing legislation, further proving that despite legislation in many countries that spoke expressly to legislated quotas aimed at guaranteeing representation, many political parties were non-compliant.²⁹

20 IPU Website, February 2021

21 Uganda Constitution Art. 78(1) (1995).

22 Uganda Constitution Art. 180(2) (b).

23 Kenya's Judge Advises Parliament to Dissolve Over Lack of Women, Aljazeera (Sept. 20. 2021).

24 Africa's Future: Youth and the Data Defining Their Lives, PRB, <https://www.prb.org/resources/africas-future-youth-and-the-data-defining-their-lives/>.

25 Africa Barometer, Women's Political Participation, 18 (2021).

26 Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu, Political Parties in Africa through a Gender Lens, Int'l. IDEA (2013).

27 Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu, Political Parties in Africa through a Gender Lens, Int'l. IDEA, 14 (2013).

28 Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu, Political Parties in Africa through a Gender Lens, Int'l. IDEA, 14 (2013).

29 Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu, Political Parties in Africa through a Gender Lens, Int'l. IDEA, 14 (2013).

Between 2019 – 2020, African states have also gone through a number of challenges that affect women and young people's ability to fully participate in governance and political processes. These include civil conflicts and secessionist movements³⁰, contested and violent electoral processes³¹, regressive laws and policies³², foreign interference, among others. Observers have also pointed to contested democratic and civil processes in countries such as Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, among others, which have been described as undemocratic processes.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to further magnify the different inequalities in societies. The different measures imposed by governments have resulted into a restricted access to reproductive rights, an increase in gender-based violence, poverty levels, among others.³³ The pandemic has also extended the care work burden on women³⁴, further limiting their ability to participate effectively outside the home. This reinforcement of gender norms particularly threatens to undo years of progressive work towards guaranteeing more gendered equity. The response to addressing new and existing threats to women's full participation from most governments has largely been slow or not forthcoming at all. While emphasis has been put on measures aimed at containing the pandemic, little has gone to addressing the effects of such measures on the lives of those already marginalized. By neglecting to address these, African governments run the risk of re-entrenching systems that breed long term inequalities and a departure to their commitments to achieving Agenda 2020.

Despite the systemic barriers that limit access to political and civic spaces, socio-cultural norms and financial constraints further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, young people, women and other minoritized people in all these countries have and continue to lead calls for political and civic reform.

5.1.2 Words into Deeds: Recommendations and Activities

In working towards the full participation of women and young people in governance and political processes, it is crucial that governments, civil society, and various stakeholders adopt new strategies, while working to implement existing frameworks aimed at addressing this problem. It is for this purpose that GIMAC members have reinforced actions for strengthening women's rights to unequivocally contribute towards achieving Gender equality in Africa. The African Leadership Foundation (ALF) in partnership with Plan International and the African Union hence, developed the Maputo Protocol Score card and Index (MPSI). The Scorecard and Index is an innovative contribution to the body of tools that seek to enhance accountability and assess the progress on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and the implementation of the Maputo Protocol

The major thrust of this Scorecard and Index framework is to build accountability into gender equality and the implementation of the Maputo Protocol³⁵. A total of 226 indicators were generated from the 25 articles of the Maputo Protocol. These indicators were grouped into nine themes in accordance with the Maputo Protocol Reporting Template provided by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). A ninth theme that focuses on reporting and implementation was added to the eight themes provided by ACHPR to assess the level of implementation by Member States. The MPSI incorporates outcomes of the 2019 Africa Review Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years since adoption.

30 Conflict is still Africa's biggest challenge in 2020, ISS (Jan. 6, 2020).

31 Joseph Siegle and Candace Cook, Assessing Africa's 2020 Elections, Afr. Ctr. Strategic Stud. (Nov. 23, 2020).

32 Africa Barometer, Women's Political Participation, 19–21 (2021).

33 Nairobi: UN Women and UNFPA, East and Southern Africa Regional Offices, The Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Men (Mar. 2021).

34 United Nations, "Impact of Covid-19 on Women," Policy Brief (United Nations, April 9, 2020), 6, <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/report/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en-1.pdf>.

35 Addis Ababa, Maputo Protocol Score card and Index (MPSI, AU, ALF (June 2020).

Building on the same efforts, Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) has continued to deepen and scale up contributions to achieve gender equality in the region. AMwA has enhanced African women's leadership capacities through her inaugural African Women's Leadership Institute. Over 6000 African Women leaders have been equipped in Feminist transformational leadership since inception to raise political consciousness and substantially increase women's participation in political development processes in Africa.

Policy Influencing at various national, regional and international spaces to ensure that issues affecting women are continuously brought to the attention of key policy makers, governments and relevant stakeholders. AMwA mobilized actions for passing the Minimum wage bill into law and contributed advocacy efforts for ratification of the International Labor Organization Convention 190(ILO C190), and for advocacy to end sexual harassment in the world of work.

AMwA contributed to building evidence on gendered injustice in the region through conducting feminist researches and studies to inform actions. The Political Economy Analysis and Action research for Kenya and Uganda respectively builds evidence regarding realities of women in politics and proposes actions to address gender disparities in decision making spaces in Africa, the technical brief on a Rapid assessment study carried out by AMwA on the impact of COVID19 on flower farms, The Gendered effects of Illicit financial flows, Deepening feminist analysis in East Africa, The Beijing Dispatch to track progress in Achievement of Women's Rights and Gender Equality as the Beijing Platform for Action, to mention a few.

AMwA has contributed to strengthen the African Feminist movement through networking and movement building to advance the interests of African women in all their diversities. AMwA actively participates and engages with the African Feminist Forum (AFF) and is the current host of the Uganda Feminist Forum which are both initiatives aimed at building and strengthening the feminist movement and organizing in Africa.

Akina Mama Continued to provide strategic direction in key Pan-African networks including NGO CSW Africa, Solidarity for African Women's Rights, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and through her consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, AMwA contributed to the ratification, domestication and effective implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Influenced the zero-tolerance campaign on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region, the establishment of eight CSO national structures in member states and continued to mobilize and monitor the implementation of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Pact on Peace, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

Overall, in the present, the over 55 member organizations of the GIMAC network continue to promote gender equality and accountability for women's rights differently by monitoring Member States' commitments as outlined in relevant legal instruments concerning women's rights in Africa and individually working to strengthen gender equality in the region.

Therefore, to strengthen the many efforts already done and for tackling remaining gaps, a multi-pronged approach must be applied that addresses the root causes of exclusion, work to enforce existing legislation and challenges regressive attitudes and norms.

In that regard, these are the following recommendations:

A. Create an enabling environment for effective participation in political processes

It is imperative that African states invest in creating an enabling political environment to achieve the midterm and long-term goal of gender parity. As such, there should be a deliberate investment in interventions for women and young people that seeks to address the root causes of why they do

not participate. This means addressing issues such as unpaid care work, sexual harassment in political spaces, power dynamics, restrictive laws that dictate how women dress, act, etc. This comprehensive task requires a full assessment of language used acknowledging firstly that language around politics continues to be highly masculine and ageist, reinforcing the ideas that political spaces are not welcoming to women and young people.

Creating an enabling environment will equally require improvement of the electoral processes by regulating illicit use of money during elections. Political financing when not regulated affects women's access to run as candidates, be elected, campaign and reach out to the population. Actors should support women by regulating abuse of money during campaigns to create a level playing field in electoral competition for both men and women. They can also work to ensure that women are able to compete on a more equal footing with men by increasing funding opportunities for women who run for public office. This is a key feature of democracy and in turn, it may result into women increased political participation.

B. Enhance implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks

Gains in legal and policy frameworks have been curtailed by limited implementation and a disabling environment for civil society to hold states accountable. Strengthening the civic capacity of citizens to play a role in public participation and work with political parties to address existing gaps within their frameworks is critical. Further still, it is important to hold political parties to both their own commitments and different legislations that speak to gender equality processes and inclusiveness.

C. Greater focus on Women's economic Justice.

Gender equality will only be achieved when women have equal access to, and control over resources, and equal participation and influence in economic decision-making. Women's economic justice means women can benefit from economic activities on terms which recognize the value of their contribution, respect their dignity and make it possible for them to negotiate a fair income.

In addition, invest in women's economic power through reforms that increase their formal market participation, reform of laws that prevent women from inheriting/owning assets, and through livelihood/economic programmes that explicitly seek to shift gender norms that prevent women from controlling/owning assets rather than simply to raise household income.

D. Fully embrace the principals and ideals of Pan Africanism and Feminism.

Today the continental mainstream Pan-African agenda is dominated by powerful men who are mostly concerned about using conservative pan-African rhetoric to the service of their often-anti-democratic purposes ³⁶

Transforming the face of Pan Africanism on the continent should take action to dismantle gender hierarchies in Africa, seek to redress injustice and inequality in its content and design by exploring to strengthen the African feminist agenda for a just and inclusive Pan African continent.

E. Political party strengthening: Institutionalization of political parties

There is a critical and urgent need to build political parties as enduring institutions beyond electoral cycles. Political parties need to be spaces for policy and public interest dialogue that bring convergence of ideas and people. The rationale behind investing in political party strengthening is that if political parties are built as institutions, it means that there will be a commensurate investment in requisite structures and offices. Where institutionalization of parties is weak, power resides with a few highly placed political actors to the disadvantage of youth and women.

36 20Cape town: Feminist Africa Issue 20, Feminism and Pan-Africanism – Amina Mama and Hakima Abbas (July,2015).

5.1.3 Conclusion

While it is clear that a lot more is left to be done, there are also many opportunities for this progress to be made. African states have an obligation to their citizens to treat the full and equal participation of women and young people as urgent and necessary, if they are to achieve national and collective aspirations.

5.2. STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN AFRICA

Compiled by: African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

5.2.1 INTRODUCTION

The changing nature of local, national, regional and international disputes has affected the way in which policymakers and experts view conflicts and their impacts. Globally, there has been a shift from a perspective that sees security solely through the military lens and the security of the State, to a perspective that takes into account non-military aspects and stakeholders. This perspective includes drawing on the notion of human security to focus on the impact conflict has on different individuals across society. Out of this has been the growing discourse around the status of women in relation to peace and security as well as how conflict impacts their lives. As conflicts continue to ravage local, national, regional and international communities, it has been apparent that women and girls bear the brunt of it all due to their heightened vulnerability, unequal status in society, lack of access to resources and exclusion from decision making. Consequentially, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), adopted in 2000, was birthed out of a need to address this long-term impact of conflict on women's lives, as well as the policy gap that excluded them from contributing to formal peace and security processes.

5.2.2 UN Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda

The year 2020 was momentous for the Women, Peace and Security agenda as it marked 20 years since the creation of UNSCR 1325. Celebrated as a milestone in the struggle for greater gender equality at all levels of peacekeeping, peace-making, peacebuilding and post conflict reconstruction, UNSCR1325 introduced a new era for international conflict resolution with a greater focus on the inclusion of women.³⁷ The resolution affirms the fundamental rights that women have to equal participation and involvement in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security (see Text box 1). In the UN Secretary General Report (UNSG) of 2020, women's leadership in preventing and responding to crisis is characterized as an essential element to the success of peacebuilding initiatives.³⁸ Like UNSCR1325, the report highlights that gender has a significant influence on conflict, stating that this is further shown by the fact that finest examples of leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic have come from women, yet they still remain underrepresented.³⁹

37 Herbst Lena, 2021. A New Era of UN Peacekeeping? The Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa. Available online <https://www.e-ir.info/2021/05/14/a-new-era-of-un-peacekeeping-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda-in-africa/> [Accessed on 21 July 2021]

38 United Nations Security Council, 2020. Women, Peace & Security – Report of Secretary General. Available online: https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2020_946.pdf [Accessed on 16 August 2021]

39 Ibid, p. 2

6. **Participation** - of women at all levels of decision-making, including in national, regional, and international institutions; in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict; in peace negotiations; in peace operations
7. **Protection** - from violence in conflict-related situations and or other humanitarian crises such as Gender Based violence (GBV) and sexual violence in particular
8. **Prevention** - improving intervention strategies in the prevention of violence against women, including by prosecuting those responsible for violations of international law; strengthening women's rights under national law; and supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.
9. **Relief & Recovery** – this calls for the advancement of relief and recovery measures to address international crises through a gendered lens, including by respecting the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps, and considering the needs of women and girls in the design of refugee camps and settlements.

Text box 1: Pillars of UNSCR 132540

Thus, it is against this backdrop that the status of women in peace and security has come to gain enormous attention worldwide.

5.2.3 Situational Analysis of WPS in Africa

In Africa, the African Union (AU) has adopted and promoted the nexus of peace, security and gender equality as part of its social transformation agenda on the continent. According to the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, although the road to achieving gender equality has proven to be long and fraught with obstacles, gender issues should still remain at the heart of African member states' priorities.⁴¹ Without achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, Agenda 2063 cannot be realised.⁴² As such, the AU has shown its commitment to WPS through the creation of various structures and the adoption of legal instruments in support of the WPS agenda. At a continental level these include, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women, which is also known as the Maputo Protocol (2003), the Solemn Declaration of Gender Equality in Africa (2004), Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063, the AU Gender Policy (2009), the AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2018), and the African Women's Decade under the theme of **Grassroots Approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** (GEWE) (2010–2020). Moreover, the Office of the Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security at the AU, led by Mme Bineta Diop, developed the Continental Results Framework (CRF) in 2018, which aims to accelerate the delivery of WPS commitments through systematic and sustained monitoring and reporting by Member States.⁴³

Enhancing the monitoring and reporting framework has resulted in significant levels and increased commitments from Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms (RMs) in adopting UNSCR 1325 Regional and National Actions Plans. Between 2011–2015, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) developed a Regional Action Plan (RAP) that supports the tackling of violence against women and girls, the increasing the number of women at the

40 United States Institute for Peace, 2021. What is UNSCR 1325? https://www.usip.org/gender_peacebuilding/about_UNSCR_1325 [Accessed on 21 July 2021]

41 African Union, 2018. AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Available at : https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36195-doc-52569_au_strategy_eng_high.pdf [Accessed on 16 August 2021]

42 ibid

43 Scanlon, Hellen., Hamilton, Molly., Makan-Lakha, Pravina., 2020. The twentieth anniversary of UNSCR: What's next in the Era of COVID-19? ACCORD

negotiating table and supporting gender-inclusive peace processes. Following this, other RECs have also devised RAPs – including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Community (EAC), and most recently in the last three years, Southern African Development Community (SADC), making Africa the leader in regional approaches to WPS worldwide.⁴⁴

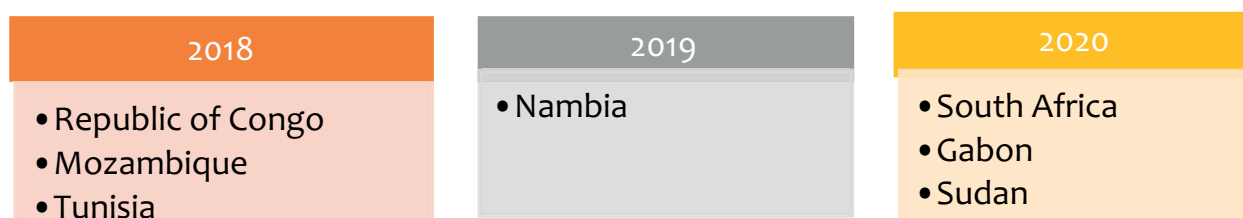
5.2.4 NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

At a national level, Africa has 30 countries that have adopted NAP’s to date. According to Table 18, from 2018 to date, 7 countries have adopted NAPs. Thus, this makes for a 30% increase in the past two years and makes Africa the continent with the largest number of NAPs.

Table 18: Number of NAP’s Implemented in Africa since 2019⁴⁵

Year	Number of NAP’s Implemented
2018–2019	23
2019–2020	24
2020–2021	30 ⁴⁶

Figure 18: Africa countries that have adopted NAPs since 2018



A considerable number of member states have made notable progress within their localised WPS agenda’s. This can especially be seen through women’s participation at national decision-making levels and other areas in the security sector such as the police and military forces. The following section will make use of the case studies of Rwanda, South Africa, Namibia, South Sudan and Ethiopia to illustrate some of this progress.

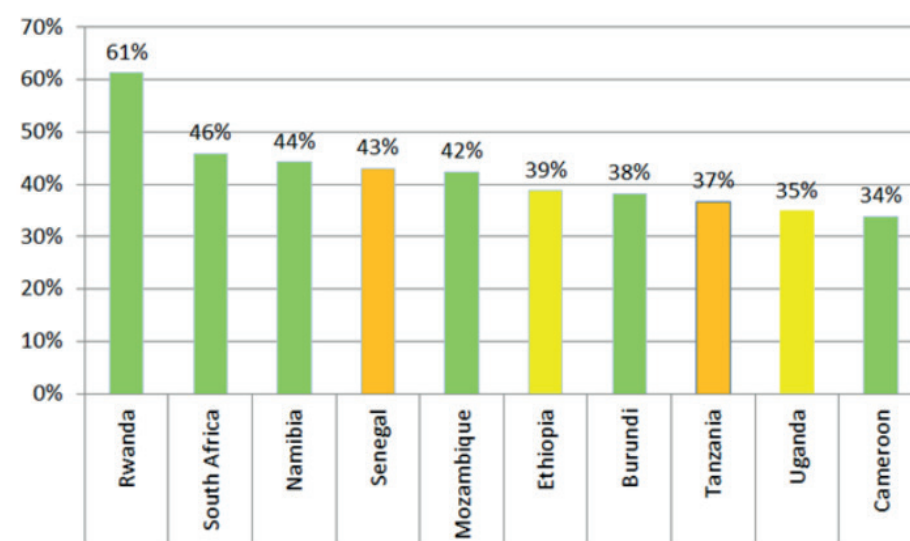
44 ibid

45 WILPF,2021. National Action Plans at a glance. Available at: <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/> [Accessed on 1 August 2021]

46 Africa News, 2020. Scaling up actions on Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa. Available at: <https://www.africanews.com/2020/11/09/scaling-up-actions-on-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda-in-africa/> [Accessed on 1 August 2021]

Figure 19: Women's Political Participation: Representation in African parliaments⁴⁷**Colour Code**

■ Proportional Representation System ■ Mixed First ■ First Past the Post System

**5.2.4.1. Rwanda**

In Africa, Rwanda has emerged as a 'role model' of gender equality and conflict resolution. The country's first NAP was adopted in 2009 and implemented for the period 2009–2012. The framework was developed under five overarching pillars: participation and leadership of women in decision-making; prevention of violence against women and involvement in conflict prevention; protection from violence; equal access to means of relief, economic recovery and rehabilitation; and women's promotion and gender mainstreaming in Rwanda's foreign service and international and regional cooperation

Following this, it launched its second and most recent NAP in 2018 for the period 2018–2022. Being one of the few African countries to have developed two National Action Plans on WPS, its main successes over the past few years have been seen in the increased participation of women at the national level and in the lower levels of the security sector. The increased participation of women can be seen through the fact that, as of 2021, 61.25% of seats in parliament are held by women, making Rwanda the top African country with women in decision-making positions at a national level as well as a world leader in women's political representation.⁴⁸

5.2.4.2. South Africa

South Africa adopted its NAP in 2020. The mission of the NAP is to create a safer and peaceful South Africa, Africa, and world for women, girls and gender non-conforming persons whilst enabling meaningful participation for women in peace processes; and prioritising their needs, experiences and agency in all conflict and non-conflict contexts.

Whilst South Africa has only recently just adopted its NAP, its contribution to the localisation of UNSCR1325 has been seen through the involvement and participation of women in decision-making spaces. As seen in Figure 2, South Africa has 46% of women representatives in parliament, making it the 2nd highest African country with women in decision-making positions.

⁴⁷ International Idea, 2021. Women's political participation: African Barometer. Available at: <https://www.idea.int/news-media/news/women%C2%B4s-political-participation-africa-barometer-2021> [Accessed on 1 August 2021]

⁴⁸ Statista, 2021. Percentage of women in national parliaments in African countries. Available at: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1248493/percentage-of-women-in-national-parliaments-in-african-countries/> [Accessed on 1 August 2021]

Beyond women's participation in parliament, South Africa has also made progress with women's participation in the security sector. The South African National Defence Force comprises 30% women.⁴⁹ This has allowed South Africa, as a troop-contributing country to UN peacekeeping missions, to deploy more females in the frontlines of armed conflicts. Currently, the South African contingent of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) to MONUSCO, the peacekeeping mission in DRC, is composed of 14.5% women and the officer commanding the South African force is a woman.⁵⁰

5.2.4.3. Namibia

Namibia adopted its first NAP in 2019 for the period 2019–2024. The overarching goal of the NAP is to create a safe and peaceful Namibia where all women, men, girls and boys have equal rights and live without fear or want and in dignity.⁵¹

Namibia stands among African states that have made consistent strides in their journey towards achieving gender equality and localising the objectives on UNSCR 1325. Although it has not had a NAP, until now, it has made substantive progress in mainstreaming gender into various sectors. In the political sector, an indication of this has been the gender quota, which has now become the norm in national politics. Between 2015–2020, the percentage of women in parliament increased significantly by 17.6%. This significant milestone resulting in 44.23% of women represented in the national parliament in 2021.⁵² Table 19 shows that this is a 2.23% increase from 2020, which has resulted in Namibia's ranking 3rd position for women in parliamentary decision-making positions in Africa, 2021. Thus, its gender mainstreaming has made large contributions to the equal participation of women at the national level of decision-making.

Table 19: Percentage of women in Governance and Decision Making in Namibian National Assembly 1990–2020 ⁵³

Year	Percentage of Women in Parliament
1 st National Assembly= 1990-1995	6.4%
2 nd National Assembly = 1995-2000	17.9%
3 rd National Assembly = 2000-2005	28.2%
4 th National Assembly = 2005-2010	26.9%
5 th National Assembly = 2010-2015	24.4%
6 th National Assembly = 2015-2020	42%

5.2.4.4. South Sudan

Having adopted its NAP from the period 2015–2020, South Sudan has made considerable progress in the participation of women at decision making levels. One of the most significant wins was the appointment of the first female vice-president, Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior, in 2020.⁵⁴ Furthermore, although South Sudan's percentage of women in parliament is not as significant as Rwanda, South Africa and Namibia's, it has still made noteworthy steps such as the appointment of first female parliament speaker, Jemma Nunu Kumba.⁵⁵

49 DIRCO,2019. South Africa committed to women as leaders in global peacekeeping, Available at: <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2019/unsc1105.htm> [Accessed on 1 August 2021]

50 ibid

51 Republic of Namibia, 2019. Namibia National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Available at: <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Namibia-NAP-2019-2024.pdf> [Accessed on 2 August 2021] pg 16

52 Statista, 2021.

53 Quadri Maryam & Thomas Erika, 2018. Women and political participation in Namibia and Nigeria: a comparative analysis of women in elective positions. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. 7. 1–22.

54 Escola de Cultura de Pau, 2021. Peace Talks in Focus. Report on Trends and Scenarios Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/negociaciones20i-2.pdf> [Accessed on 3 August 2021] pp.45

55 Barrons, 2021. Jemma Nunu Kumba: S.Sudan's First Female Parliament Speaker. Available at: <https://www.barrons.com/news/jemma-nunu-kumba-s-sudan-s-first-female-parliament-speaker-01627119607> [Accessed on 3 August 2021]

Women's participation in South Sudan has also extended beyond political participation. 43 South Sudanese women organizations and other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working on peace and women's empowerment, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on October 21, 2018 to collaborate and work together. As a result of this, the renewed 2018 peace efforts comprised of one women mediator, official observers that were made up of female civil society leaders and the participation of 25% female delegates overall.⁵⁶

5.2.4.5. Ethiopia

Whilst Ethiopia does not have a WPS NAP, it has made significant progress in scaling up its contributions to the WPS agenda on the continent such as ensuring that 39% of women are involved in decision making levels at a national level. Since coming to power in 2018, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has reorganised the cabinet to ensure that 50 percent of the government's top ministerial positions have been given to women. Notable successes have included Sahle-Work Zewde coming into power as the country's first female president, while Aisha Mohammed is representing the country as the country's first Defence Minister.⁵⁷ Even though women continue to remain underrepresented in law enforcement, security and justice institutions in Ethiopia, these milestones have served to be a source of inspiration.

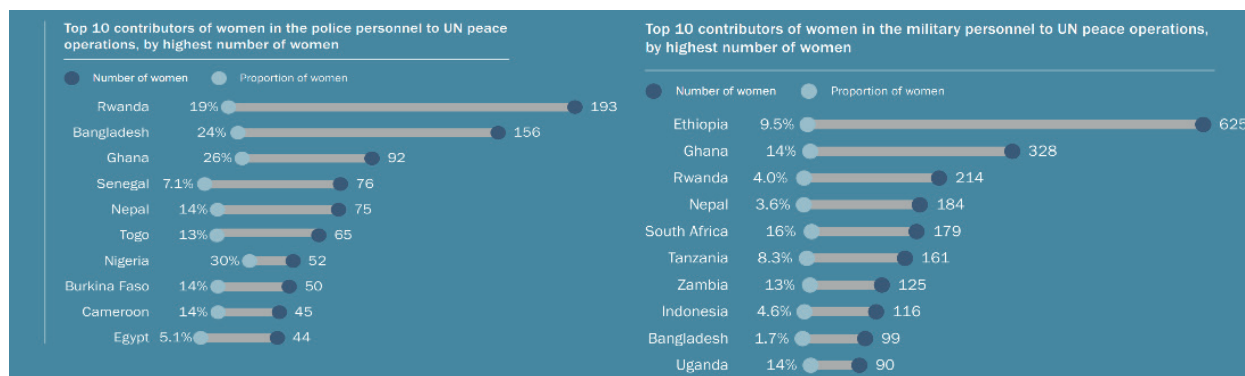
5.2.5 Beyond the Political

Although there has been progress made with women's political representation across a few African states, women's overall participation in formal peace processes and engagement in conflict resolution efforts has still been low. With regards to peacekeeping missions, Figures 3 & 4 show the top 10 contributing countries who have included women as part of their military and police personnel in UN peacekeeping operations in 2020. Out of all of the continents, Africa holds the highest amount of women personnel that has been deployed to several peace operations. With regards to women within military personnel, while Ethiopia has contributed the highest number of women, South Africa's proportion of 16% women in relation to men was much higher. These low numbers highlight the existence of grave structural challenges that act as barriers to women's involvement as peacekeepers. With regards to police personnel, whilst Rwanda has the highest number of women involved (193) and Ghana holds the highest proportion of women police deployed (26%), these numbers still remain considerably low. Figures 20 and 21 show that, although there has been some involvement, women are still not equally represented with the security sector in Africa. Furthermore, considering the overall proportion of women who have been involved compared to men, the figures are still too low to match the ambitions set by the WPS Agenda. Lastly, bearing in mind that women shoulder the impacts of conflicts through increased violence, their equal representation is essential as it ensures that they are not being excluded from the processes of preventing these crises that impact them and protecting other women and young girls who may be affected.

⁵⁶ Wilpf, 2020. South Sudan. Available at <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/south-sudan/> [Accessed on 1 August]

⁵⁷ Jeffrey James, 2020. A gender equal Ethiopian parliament can improve lives of all women. Available at: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/04/gender-equal-ethiopian-parliament-can-improve-lives-women/> [Accessed on 1 August 2021]

Figure 20 & 21: Women representation within the security sector in Africa



Source: SIPRI58

Women’s participation in negotiation and mediation spaces beyond ‘civil society participation’ has also proved to challenge the successful localised implementation of UNSCR1325. There have been various limitations such as patriarchy and gender discrimination that have kept women’s involvement as informal in negotiation and mediation. Out of the 13 peace and negotiation agreements that were underway in 2020 across the continent (see figure 22), there were only two cases where women were included at formal levels. In Mali, for example, there were 9 women who participated in the sessions of the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the Peace Agreement. There were shortfalls, however, as women had yet to be included in the 4 subcommittees and other executive bodies.⁵⁹ The second case was Libya where the political dialogue (known as the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, or LPDF) included 16 women out of 75 total participants, despite threats to their safety.⁶⁰ Despite this progress, the civic and political space for women peace activists continues to shrink, as has been observed in their struggle to engage with these structures while being continuously met with resistance. For example, despite the role of Sudanese women in the liberation, their participation in the ongoing peace talks in Juba remains minimal. In other contexts, as a result of persistent demands, women in countries such as Somalia, Burundi and Central African Republic (CAR) managed to reach deals and agreements with the support of UN Women and women’s organizations in order to guarantee and strengthen their political participation in upcoming political events.⁶¹ In CAR, for example, through the UN’s stabilisation mission MINUSCA, 11 women’s situation chambers were created in Bangui and the prefectures in order to strengthen women’s roles in monitoring the elections.⁶²

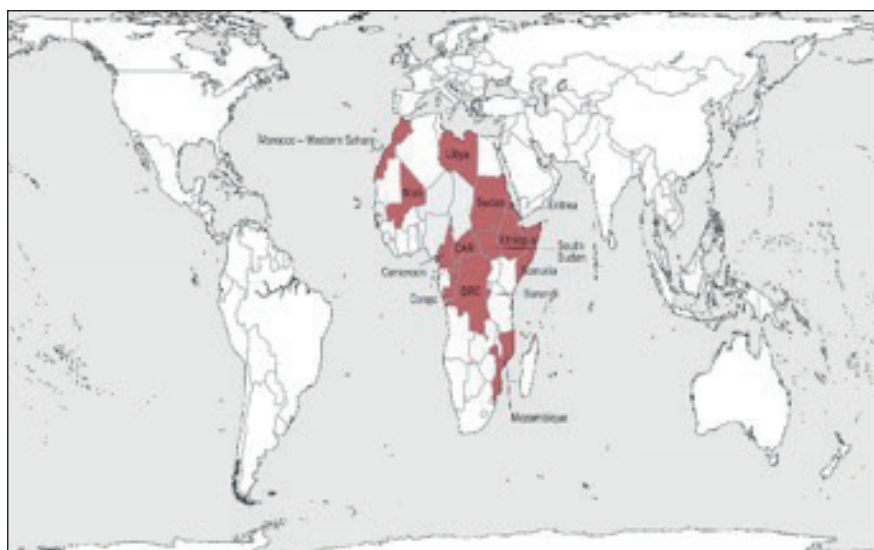
58 SIPRI, 2020. Women in Multilateral Peace Operations 2020: What’s the state of Play? Available online: https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/women_in_multilateral_peace_operations_in_2020_small.pdf [Accessed on 3 August 2021]

59 Escola de Cultura de Pau, 2021. pp. 11

60 *ibid*

61 *ibid*

62 *ibid*.pp42

Figure 22: Peace Negotiations in Africa⁶³

■ Countries with peace processes & negotiations 2020

The exclusion of women in spaces such as peacekeeping, mediation and negotiation displays that African women still face a plethora of challenges that threaten their meaningful involvement across different mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. There have been many determining factors that have resulted in women's exclusion in these spaces. These include the feminization of poverty and gender discrimination in all areas of development, cultural practices and beliefs, social norms and gender stereotypes which further trigger gender discrimination and gender-based violence.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also contributed immensely to the mixed success in the implementation of the WPS agenda in the last 2 years. It has caused further and a disproportionate impact on women and girls. One such impact has been the increase in GBV, which has been characterised as a 'shadow pandemic' in Africa. Liberia, for example, recorded a 50% increase in gender-based violence in the first half of 2020, with more than 600 reported rape cases.⁶⁴ In Kenya, an investigation of GBV in the country unravelled that violence against women had increased by 92% from 2020 to June 2021, owing to the pandemic.⁶⁵ In South Africa, the government's GBV and Femicide Command centre recorded more than 120,000 victims in the first three weeks of lockdown in 2020.⁶⁶ Through these examples, it is evident that the pandemic has decelerated the efforts of UNSCR1325. Although the continent has witnessed significant improvements such as the involvement of women in national decision-making spaces, the pandemic has highlighted that more needs to be done in continuing the inclusion of women across all sectors within the continent; protecting women; preventing violence against them and developing effective relief and recovery spaces/platforms to cater for their specific needs.

5.2.6 Recommendations for Future Actions

- 1. Member states need to redesign peace processes to ensure women are equal partners and decision-makers, with full, equal, and meaningful participation throughout the process -** This should include proactive, long-term investments to mitigate structural barriers that limit the participation of women in peace processes and other high-level decision-making spaces that lead up to the negotiating table. There simply are not enough women sitting in mediation

⁶³ Ibid pp. 35

⁶⁴ Made for Minds, 2020. Violence against women, Africa's shadow pandemic. Available online: <https://www.dw.com/en/africa-pandemic-violence-rape-women/a-55174136> [Accessed on 4 August 2021].

⁶⁵ UN Women Africa, 2021. Kenya's platform for action revealed ahead of Generation Equality Forum. Available online: Kenya's platform for action revealed ahead of Generation Equality Forum | UN Women - Africa [Accessed on 4 August 2021].

⁶⁶ Minsini, Valeria.,2021. South Africa's Secondary Pandemic: A Crisis of Gender Based Violence. Available online: <https://globalriskinsights.com/2021/03/south-africas-secondary-pandemic-a-crisis-of-gender-based-violence/> [Accessed on 4 August 2021].

and negotiation spaces and member states need to work towards changing this. Additionally, in redesigning these peace processes, member states should support designing gender-sensitive peace processes, which include gender awareness training for mediators and facilitators.

2. **Increase meaningful participation of women as uniformed personnel in peacekeeping operations** – Although Africa has made considerable efforts in contributing the most women troops to peace operations, there is a need to go beyond simply increasing numbers. Member states need to go beyond just increasing numbers and commit to addressing barriers such as patriarchal culture and issues of masculinity, which create a barrier in women’s equal representation in peacekeeping spaces. Furthermore, states need to review their security sector policies to ensure that they are gender-sensitive and adopt comprehensive policy frameworks on gender parity in the deployment of women in security sector and peacekeeping operations. This should include affirmative action measures to encourage and facilitate women’s joining and promotion within the military and police.
3. **Beyond the meaningful participation of women in at all levels** - More has to also be done in creating mechanisms that protect women, preventing violence against them and advancing relief and recovery measures to address crises through a gendered lens. The COVID-19 pandemic has done its due diligence in highlighting the gaps that still persist and the work member states need to engage in to ensure the successful implementation of the WPS Agenda in Africa.
4. **Incorporate gender in the mechanisms for coordinating the response to COVID19** – Member states need to ensure that their national response plans to COVID-19 and the programs of the various actors integrate the gender dimension provide specific responses for women. Furthermore, women must be involved in the aid needs assessments, distributions, monitoring, and evaluation of these programmes.
5. **Men and Boys have to be engaged in the WPS agenda** – As a result of structural norms such as patriarchy, women’s participation is still lagging and African men remain the gatekeepers of peace and security programmes. Thus, it is important to include men and ensure they are part of the solution to the WPS agenda. Furthermore, perhaps member states could develop local programmes could help reach out to marginalised masculinities and address gendered institutional barriers in the upper levels of the masculinist security sector.
6. **Create opportunities for intergenerational leadership** – Young women’s voices are dominantly excluded and their participation in informal peace processes are rarely acknowledged, yet have often proved to be invaluable. Member states need to engage in the creation of intergenerational platforms that allow young women to also take part in formal processes of peacebuilding through their participation in leadership, conflict resolution/management, mediation and negotiation. Intergenerational platforms will serve as an essential roadmap in ensuring that young women are not excluded from these processes and through co-leadership at all levels, can meaningfully and equally engage in peace processes.

5.2.7 Conclusion

With the current peace and security context, characterized by new and emerging threats such as COVID-19, the implementation of the WPS agenda has become more fragile. Although a handful of the African states have made significant improvements especially in areas such as women’s participation in decision making levels at a national scale, there is more that needs to be done in fully institutionalising the WPS agenda as a holistic and interconnected framework. Issues pertaining to women’s participation in peace processes and protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, for example, have continued to lag behind. Member states need to pay more attention to increasing women’s participation in informal and formal peace processes, ensuring that women are equally represented at all levels in order to garner their meaningful engagement.

5.3. STATUS REPORT ON WOMEN'S RIGHT IN AFRICA

Prepared by Women in Law & Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

5.3.1 Overview

This report covers 4 articles of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). Article 3 relating to child protection and prohibition of child abuse; article 4 on protecting women and girls against violence and trafficking; article 6 on women's basic rights; and article 7 relating to women's right to land resources and inheritance. Based on the indicators, the report will analyse the achievements and challenges in these various areas of focus over the 2019–2020 period.

5.3.2 Child Protection / Child Soldiers and Young Girls Abuse

The Heads of State undertook under Article 3 to “**Launch**, within the next one year, a campaign for systematic prohibition of the recruitment of child soldiers and abuse of girl children as wives and sex slaves in violation of their Rights as enshrined in the African Charter on Rights of the Child”. This assumes that the States have created a legal environment that would contribute to the effectiveness of their commitment. Creating an enabling legal environment requires the ratification and domestication of treaties and conventions relating to children's rights. While the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by the 54 States of the Continent, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict has been ratified by 47⁶⁷ out of 54 States. The last State to ratify it is The Gambia in September 2019. The situation of children in armed conflict remains worrying. According to the Report of the Special Representative of the *Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict*, in 2020, 19,379 children, including 14,097 boys, 4,993 girls and 289 children of unknown sex were victims or survived at least one of the four serious violations targeting children, namely recruitment and use, murder or bodily harm, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and kidnapping. The most serious violations are the recruitment and use of child soldiers as well as the violation of physical integrity. The African countries most affected by this situation are Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia.

Child abduction cases have increased and been reported in Somalia, DRC and the Lake Chad Basin. Rape and other sexual violence have also been recorded in Somalia, DRC and CAR. In addition, in Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, DRC, attacks on schools and hospitals have caused the closure of these places, school dropouts, injuries and deaths. The COVID 19 health crisis with restrictive measures including the closure of schools has also affected the situation of children, especially regarding kidnappings and sexual violence which have increased by 50% and 10%, respectively, compared to the first quarter of 2020. The pandemic has also contributed to the reduction of resources intended to assist children affected by conflict, in particular regarding the reintegration of children recruited and used⁶⁸.

5.3.3 Violence against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls constitutes a serious violation of human rights, the scale and consequences of which have prompted States to resolve to “**organise and launch**, within two years, sustained public campaigns against violence against women and trafficking in women and girls; strengthen legal mechanisms to ensure women's protection at all levels and end impunity for crimes against women to positively change the African society's attitude and behaviour”. This is a concern that has prompted various actions at regional, sub-regional and national levels. We can thus note a tendency to protect women against violence by improving the legal framework. Madagascar, Djibouti, Morocco and Tunisia have adopted specific legislation on domestic violence. Gender-based violence is criminalized and measures

67 Countries that have not yet ratified the protocol: Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Sao Tome et Principe, Somalia, Zambia.

68 Protection Officer, UNICEF Office, South Sudan

are taken so that the State can assist survivors by guaranteeing them medical, psychological, legal and economic care. Harassment in the workplace is punishable in several States. Senegal and Sierra Leone have also banned all forms of discrimination in employment, especially as concerns wage differences. Rwanda has abolished the waiting period applying for female divorcees before remarriage and Benin has cancelled the requirement for married women to provide a copy of their marriage certificate when applying for an ordinary passport. Uganda has also harmonized the passport application process for men and women. Regional and sub-regional initiatives, such as the ECOWAS roadmap to combat child marriage, adopted in 2019, have been put in place to combat certain specific forms of violence. Despite these efforts, violence against women and girls remains rooted in social practices. The evaluation carried out during the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action showed that the lack of resources, the low rate of reporting of violence, institutional obstacles and the existence of patriarchal systems and gender stereotypes within security, police and justice institutions constitute barriers to the enforcement of legal provisions⁶⁹. This situation has been worsened by the COVID 19 pandemic with restrictive movement measures, financial insecurity ... The reduction in the resources of women's organisations has also affected the prevention and response to violence against women and girls despite innovative initiatives to ensure service continuity.

5.3.4 Women's Basic Rights

Human rights are at the heart of all development programmes. Thus, States are committed to ensuring to women and girls all fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to development, by raising awareness or by enforcing the necessary laws. As regards the legal framework, the majority of the States of the Continent are parties to international and regional conventions relating to women's rights. Thus 52 out of 54 States have ratified the CEDAW, 28 States, the Optional Protocol relating thereto. As for the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the rights of women, it has been ratified by 42 States out of the 54. Reservations relating mainly to rights in marriage, inheritance and prohibition of discrimination were introduced by some States when ratifying the CEDAW. Most of these reservations are justified by the risk of conflicts between these provisions and the sharia applied in the concerned States.

Beyond accession to international instruments, States have made every effort to incorporate in their constitutions the principle of equality and non-discrimination before the law and access to justice. Most governments have aligned their national development plans with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 which see human development as a growth issue. Several countries in the 5 regions have undertaken reforms in recent years to improve women's legal status. Thus, in 2019, Sao Tome and Principe adopted a new Labour Code that cancels the restrictions on women's work, particularly regarding night work in mines or other workplaces deemed hazardous. Restrictions on women's employment have also been abolished in Nigerien and Malian legislation. Cote d'Ivoire grants spouses the same rights in terms of property ownership and management. In addition, *"most governments have also taken specific measures promoting women's and girls' human rights, including providing them with quality education, training and lifelong learning. Protecting girls against early marriage and female genital mutilation is also an area in which African countries have made significant progress."*⁷⁰

In some regions, such as Eastern and Southern Africa, independent institutions have been created for the promotion and protection of women's rights. However, despite the progress made, discriminatory laws continue to threaten the basic human rights of women and limit equal opportunities. On average, women are enjoying only three quarters of the rights granted to men⁷¹.

69 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: Report of the Secretary-General (July 2020)

70 Review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 25 years after (Beijing +25)

71 World Bank Group, Women, Business and the Law 2021

5.3.5 Rights to Land, Inheritance and Housing

Women are experiencing difficulties in enjoying their rights to land ownership and inheritance. Indeed, the existing duality of legal systems prevents women from effectively fulfil their basic rights. Although women are predominantly present in the agricultural sector, they represent less than 15% of landowners (FAO, 2018).

Equal access to land ownership is enshrined in most Constitutions; however, in practice, women have limited access to the courts in charge of ruling on land issues. Moreover, customary systems are still dominated by patriarchy, which does not favour women's access to land.

5.3.6 Final Remarks and Conclusion

Efforts have been made by African States to ensure gender equality through the promotion and protection of women's rights. Several countries have undertaken reforms that improve their gender equality index. Development policies are increasingly gender sensitive. However, discrimination still persists in national legislations. Almost half of African States have not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW and 1/5 have not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The health crisis has slowed growth and affected women's rights organizations through the reduction/scarcity of resources. To achieve the Development Goals, in particular SDG5, Africa must increase its efforts, innovate and allocate substantial resources to programmes for women's promotion and protection.

5.3.7 Recommendations for Future Actions

- Advocate with regional and national institutions:
 - to ensure that post-covid reconstruction programmes take into account gender-based violence issues;
 - for the implementation of a programme and a fund to support women's and girls' economic empowerment;
- for the creation of a support fund for women's rights organisations;
- Encourage States to launch programmes promoting women in agriculture's access to land and technological resources;
- Initiate innovative programmes to popularise legislative reforms.

5.4. STATUS REPORT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH IN AFRICA

(With a focus on Reproductive Health from January 2020–June 2021)

Report compiled by Ipas Africa Alliance

5.4.0 Introduction

The world was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 and the pandemic exacerbated many existing social inequalities, including the disproportionate burden on women and their access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. While governments and health systems focused on fighting the Corona virus and protecting citizens' health, the focus on SRH was relegated despite its being in a dire state pre-pandemic, characterized by stigma, restrictive policy and legal environments, service unavailability, shortage of supplies and non-supportive service providers.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported that one year into the pandemic, an estimated 12 million women had seen contraceptive interruptions, leading to 1.4 million unintended pregnancies and suggests that these numbers are significantly underreported. No doubt, this points to an increased the number of unsafe abortion cases leading to death, lifelong injuries, and a strain on the underbudgeted post abortion care treatment in many countries.

Ipas Africa Alliance as the thematic lead for health, assessed the status of health in Africa, with a focus on SRH during 2020. The assessment was conducted using qualitative and quantitative data from various countries including The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Rwanda.

5.4.1 Status or Situational Analysis of the Thematic Area in Africa

Across Africa, health systems were hit hard in 2020 due to COVID-19 related interruptions in service delivery. The production and delivery of commodities, availability of health providers and access to health facilities were impeded by slowed down supply chains and total shutdowns in transport systems. The focus of Ministries of Health pivoted to preparing health systems to manage COVID-19 cases and SRH services were de-prioritized. Nevertheless, the analysis conducted showed that in select countries, Ministries of Health implemented policy and service delivery actions to preserve SRH access.

Policy actions

Several countries initiated SRH policy actions; in Kenya, the Ministry of Health (MOH) launched the national post-abortion care guidelines and service package in June 2021 to respond to an increase in unsafe abortion cases. Additionally in Kenya, the Covid 19 RMNH Guidelines on management of clients during Covid 19 period and beyond was launched in April 2020. The guidelines call for continued provision of services during the COVID-19 pandemic for inevitable, incomplete, and septic abortions.

In DRC, in April 2020 the MOH began developing the *Complete Abortion Care Standards and Guidelines* in which issues of 3rd party consent were tackled, as well as authorization for married women and minors. Whereby for married women it was authorized that the married woman's signature alone should suffice for provision of services, for minors accessing services it was agreed that the minor can be accompanied by a person of her choice, who can be someone from inside or outside of her family, such as a peer educator, community health worker etc. And lastly in reference to sexual violence, clients need not to present any proof for a rape when seeking services.

Rwanda developed the National Family Planning and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (FP/ASRH) and Maternal Newborn and Child Health Strategic Plan which has continued to be implemented in the time of COVID-19. Lastly, in **Zambia** the government worked on the COVID-19 national multi-sectoral contingency preparedness and response plan as well as the review of the national Reproductive Policy to ensure that SRHR is provided in the COVID-19 package and provision of SRHR to persons with disability.

Service delivery actions

Repositioning family planning was a priority in several countries. In the DRC, the MOH embarked on working with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children and the Ministry of Planning to fully adopt the primary health care (PHC) strategy and place contraceptives access among the 11 components of PHC to be integrated into the minimum package of activities (PMA) of basic health structures and in packages complementary health structures. In Kenya, three month extended refills for condoms and oral contraceptives were implemented to relieve pressure on the health facilities and mitigate exposure of clients to the corona virus. Institutions were advised to offer FP services on a 24-hour basis and based on telephone appointments to reduce the workload on the service delivery points. Through the Kenya COVID-19 Guidelines, the government strengthened infection prevention control, COVID-19 client screening, referral and management including continuation of SRH and safe motherhood services alongside COVID-19 prevention measures.

Expanded SRH training was a feature of SRH programming in South Africa, which ensured that SRH services were recognized as essential services during COVID by finalizing the National SRHR training curriculum and rolling out online capacity building programs in 2020. In Tanzania, the Nursing and Midwifery Services Department (NMSD) of the MOH approved the inclusion of adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health (AYSRH) content in the midwifery curriculum for all diploma programs by 2022.

Some member countries, however, continued to face significant challenges to SRH services. Tanzania has over the years experienced slow progress in terms of reproductive health developments, due to a restrictive political climate. Nevertheless, some efforts were noticed in implementing the existing policies instead of developing new ones. Civil society actors are hopeful that with the change of leadership in Tanzania there will be progress on the SRH laws and policies. Similarly in Mali, SRH continues to face serious challenges due to the security crisis, the destruction of local health centers and the internal displacement of populations towards peri-urban areas. These disruptions have led to increases in maternal morbidity and mortality, with unsafe abortion contributing significantly. Mali has tried to equip the functional health centers to meet the demand for maternal care of displaced women in the areas under its control, but the availability of resources devoted to SRH has been severely impacted by COVID-19.

5.4.2 Observations and Deductions

The common issues that women and girls face in accessing SRH services continued to persist and were made even more pervasive by the COVID-19 pandemic. Barriers to access to services are provider bias and stigma, cost of services and 3rd party consent and authorization.

Initially, countries experienced a slowing down of SRH services and quickly instituted remedial actions. Remedies at policy level included outlining new policies and service delivery guidelines to advance SRH and preserve SRH service delivery during COVID-19. This included repositioning FP and focus on managing unsafe abortion, as well as instituting provisions for expanded access for girls and married women.

At the service level, amendments to service delivery hours were observed, as well as increases in use of tele-health, e.g., telephone appointments for public-sector provision. All these happened alongside enhanced infection prevention to counter the threat of COVID-19 to clients and providers. Nevertheless, significant challenges persist in policy and operating environments, as well as in countries affected by conflict and internal displacement.

5.4.3 Recommendations for Future Actions

Recommendations for African Governments for future actions in the sector of health care are:

1. Governments should adopt a total market approach in the provision of health care services and include the provision of SRHR in the essential health care packages or universal health coverage of countries across Africa.
2. Governments should continue to embrace scientific and technological advancements in health care including telemedicine that would reduce the workload on the facilities.
3. Governments should expand the provision of SRHR services to be done by mid-level providers such as nurses, midwives and clinical officers.
4. Governments should create enabling environments for SRHR by putting in place laws and policies that enhance access to contraceptives as well as decriminalize access to safe abortion.
5. NGOs and other stakeholders should continue supplementing the services being offered by governments or where there is no government support, should form a basis for fund raising and advocacy to ensure women and girls do not continue to suffer adversely.

5.4.4 Conclusion

The obstacles in the provision of and advancing reproductive rights remain the same even in the wake of COVID-19. From a societal perspective, sexual and reproductive health rights are guarded; access to services such as abortion are not easily accepted; there are cultural taboos surrounding sexual education in general in the DRC that makes it that social norms and values are not open to reproductive health rights. This is further exacerbated with religious pushback and social norms.

As the globe continues to battle COVID-19 Governments and non-state actors should ensure access to comprehensive SRHR services including access to contraceptives, emergency contraception, post-abortion, and safe abortion services, and ensure continuity of care is done.

5.5. STATUS REPORT ON GIRLS' EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Report compiled by Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE)

5.5.1 Introduction

"The global disruption to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes the worst education crisis on record. Most countries in the world closed schools, vocational training, and higher education institutions as part of their strategies to combat the pandemic, and nearly all of the world's students have been affected. The costs have been immense. The magnitude of the shock is still not fully understood, but emerging evidence is deeply concerning". *The State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery*⁷². Remote learning became a "temporary way of teaching as an alternative mode due to crisis circumstances.

A report by UNESCO echoes the findings of much research done on the impact of COVID 19 on education which found that as a response measure to the pandemic, most governments closed schools, vocational centers of learning increasing girls' risk of child marriage, teenage pregnancies child labor and school dropout. Many governments attempted to use different methods of learning e.g. radio, tv, newspapers or other online platforms for those that could afford it. The effects of Covid-19 that affected school participation include; learning was affected as the schools were totally shut down, Pregnancies among learners, child marriages occurred, learners engaged in income generating activities, repeating of learners in the same classes, indiscipline, drug abuse, learning materials like text books and blackboards destroyed, school attendance became very low as many dropped out, Donor funding cuts affected schools that used to be supported to provide food and learning materials for their learners and finally, Online learning only widened the gap between the rich and the poor since all learners were unable to access learning through this platform attributed to the lack of access to technology and electricity amongst the urban poor and rural communities.

UNESCO estimated that based on economic shocks of COVID 19, over **24 million** children and youth would not return to school. These numbers could increase due to the impact of school closures such as teenage pregnancies, child marriage and paid labor for children⁷³.

72 <https://en.unesco.org/news/state-global-education-crisis-path-recovery>

73 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373992>

UNESCO further found that though there is still no measure of the full effect of the COVID-19 crisis on education, it is evident that millions of students are at risk of not returning to school due to a number of factors including:

- a. financial constraints and pressure to take up employment,
- b. household chores,
- c. childcare, especially when parents or caregivers are ill or have passed away,
- d. early and forced marriage and/or early and unintended pregnancy, with girls being particularly vulnerable, and,
- e. fear of resurgence of the virus. In addition, learning loss and learning gaps incurred during the confinement may also drive disadvantaged learners away from education ⁷⁴.

The alarming numbers of reported cases on teenage pregnancies prompted FAWE to collaborate with the ACERWC CSO Forum to produce a documentary to capture the opinions and stories of children in their own words on the impact COVID 19 had on their lives⁷⁵. The documentary was launched on the 16th of June 2021 the Day of the African child as Africa took stock of the progress towards achieving Africa agenda 2040 on children.

5.5.2 FAWE's Role in Promoting Girls Education

Considering the effect of the pandemic on Girls' education, FAWE held dialogues with key education stakeholders on the detrimental impact of lack of girls' access to education during this pandemic. This was done in collaboration with various international agencies which included; the AU goodwill ambassador on ending child marriage, Plan International, GPE, and Girls Not Brides.

FAWE also held a series of webinars and twitter chats with the Girls Advocacy Alliance program partners, AU CIEFFA, AfDB and other CSOs networks to address emerging issues from the pandemic situation such as increased cases of GBV, child marriage and limited access to basic needs such as food, sanitary pads, and internet by learners.

To document the voices of the youth, FAWE collaborated and supported the office of the youth envoy to develop Africa Youth lead policy presenting Africa's, Facts & Figures of Africa Youth Agency, Challenges and Recovery Roadmap on COVID-19⁷⁶.

FAWE further collaborated with GIMAC and AU WGYD to initiate the **#COVID19GenderResponses** campaign to raise awareness on the issues facing girls and young women during the pandemic period. The series provided avenues for inter-generational engagement on matters such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Agriculture and Women Peace and Security to commemorate International Peace Day.

The campaign generated significant growth on social media for GIMAC, creating a strong online presence of the network. Specifically, on Facebook, the network social media activity was able to reach 115 people. 92% of these were women, mostly young women drawn from the age of 14–31 years old. Direct engagement, the number of users who engaged were 681 people. The page received 44 new unique visits translating to 11 new followers. On Twitter, the central platform of the campaign, the network registered an overall impression of 1,685,856 people, with posts reaching 535,111 people. These translated to direct total engagement of 46,139 people during the report period of the campaign. The network tweets

74 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373992>

75 <https://youtu.be/YiOIB3P9P0w>

76 <https://au.int/en/documents/20201127/africa-youth-lead-policy-paper-facts-and-figures-africa-youth-agency-challenges>

were retweeted 260 times translating to 86 new followers. The Zoom platform attracted 567 registered participants of all the registered participants 372 participated. During the Live session, we were able to provide simultaneous interpretation in English and French which made the engagement very inclusive.

FAWE in collaboration with West Africa CSO Forum (WACSO) and GAA partners also produced good practices report to guide ECOWAS interventions during the pandemic period⁷⁷.

In collaboration with the EAC Gender Directorate, East Africa Civil Society Organizations Kenya Chapter and MEMPROW, the organization supported the establishment of the EAC GBV Working Group⁷⁸ to establish mechanisms that can mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and address the GBV challenge in the region. The objective of the initiative is to strengthen monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms of Regional and Sub-regional bodies on GBV as well as practices that promote the economic empowerment of women and girls

To foster Learning during crisis, FAWE joined MOE pandemic response committees to support the government in developing guidelines responding to closure of schools and measures to undertake whilst considering their reopening.

FAWE scholars in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda were also offered psychosocial support services especially those experiencing family crisis and parents sensitized to bring their children to school, enhance re-entry strategies for girls. The scholars were given smartphones, laptops, and internet incentives to participate in online learning. In addition, FAWE recruited new teachers in Ethiopia to meet the demand of the online learning activities. Thousands of African girls have benefited and will still continue to benefit from these various interventions.

FAWE further continued to develop an online platform to make information accessible to learners and teachers such as the STEM portal⁷⁹

5.5.3 Recommendations

- Member States should develop and implement gender equality in education policies to promote girls' enrolment, retention, completion, and transition to higher levels of education with greater focus on re-entry for teenage mothers, availing Menstrual Hygiene Management facilities in schools and providing legal and psychosocial support to girls who face violence in and out of schools.
- Girls' education is an important aspect for development irrespective of their backgrounds. With the myriad of challenges, they experience, efforts from the various stakeholders should demonstrate the desire to support the girls to continue with their education as expected. The sustainability of education pursuit among the vulnerable girls can therefore be attained with combined efforts cutting across the learners, the parents, the school community, and the local leadership.
- The stakeholders responsible for school participation together with the parents should take steps to ensure girl's school participation while mitigating the issues affecting them in schools. It is evident that support from the government and other stakeholders engaged in the education sector may play a crucial role in aligning access to girls' education which is very much needed within these settings. Overall, a resource to support the institutions is crucial to ensure success of school development plans.

77 https://fawers-my.sharepoint.com/:b:g/personal/fkagu_fawe_org1/EerTXi-aPmtIgL0LK7xShDEBR8O_6mukdWOPPEtwwhn1OA?e=2cuFie

78 <https://www.eac.int/gender/gbv/gbv-interventions>

79 <https://elearning.fawe.org/resources/>

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. SUMMARY

Just as it was in the previous reports, the 2022 SDI report focused on the generation of three thematic indices on HIV/AIDs, Gender Parity and Girls Education as it was in the previous report. The complimentary Solemn Declaration Score Card (SDSC) was used to assess the SDGEA report of 37 Member States whose reports were available to GIMAC. Twenty (20) of these reports were 2019/2020 SDGEA report while 17 were 2017/2018 reports. Compared to previous report, it was observed that the 2019/2019 SDGEA reports of member states were compact, concise and easy to analyse due to the adoption the new SDGEA reporting template introduces the African Union Commission. In fact, 85% (17 of 20) of reporting Countries used the new reporting template.

The Grand Index (GI) which is the geometric mean of SDI and SDSC assisted in throwing up the current high performing countries to include Namibia, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Mozambique.

One of the major highlights of this report is the introduction of two new chapters that demonstrated the role of GIMAC members in the implementation of GEWE agenda in Africa. The 2nd Chapter of this report titled “**Helping hand in time of Crisis**” documents GIMAC network members’ responses and recovery efforts to COVID19. It also assesses how GIMAC’s efforts support the objectives of the African Union Guidelines on gender sensitive response to COVID19 in the Africa. Similarly, Chapter five contains GIMAC’s thematic activity reports on its thematic areas of such as Health, Peace and Security, Governance and Women’s Rights.

Another innovation in this report is the introduction of intertemporal comparison of the performance of Member States between 2019 and 2022. This comparison showed that progress is being recorded in some areas, however concerted efforts are required in protecting women against the upsurge in Gender Based Violence (GBV), right to housing, Human Trafficking, Slavery and lack of access to productive resources. A major improvement was also recorded in primary school enrollment rate where about five countries had more than 100% female enrollment.

6.2. RECOMMENDATION

The various analysis and status reports included in this report threw up the following reports;

1. AU-WGYDD should enhance their engagement with the Member States through the specialized Technical Committee (STC) on GEWE to ensure that MS submit their SDGEA report at least once in 3 years if they cannot meet the annual obligation. In this way, analysis and evidence-based policy direction can be generated using up to date report and data;
2. The AU should use the African Women’s’ Decade (AWD) on Financial and Economic inclusion to advocate with MS to develop the Special Women Socio-Economic Empowerment Act with 20-year sunset clause that will cover: Affirmative Public Procurement, Social Protection, discriminatory tax regime, interest rate for women entrepreneurs, farm input pricing and conditional cash transfer to female household heads. This way, the impact of COVID-19 on the socio-economic well-being of the women can be eliminated;
3. The WYGDD should work with GIMAC to develop appropriate windows within the new Gender Observatory platform with the new reporting SDGEA template for Member States to generate their reports;

4. Related to (3) above is the need for Member State to set up an Inter-Ministerial Report Generation Group for all Instruments relating to the Right of Women and populate the group with experts that are familiar with development, efforts, achievements and impact that the Government is making in the promotion and protection of rights of women in the country;
5. To maintain the success so far recorded in GEI, GIMAC and other Gender advocates should increase the tempo of their advocacy in the area of education to ensure that we do not lose this gain so far made in education and ensure that girls are retained from the beginning to the end. Girls drop out in school due to issues of early pregnancy etc should be tackled with the appropriate framework especially for those who dropped out due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
6. Member States should focus more on improving the quality of life of women living with HIV/AIDS and ensuring that the current ARV access level for women does not decline.
7. Countries that are yet to develop National Legislation and Plan of Action for promotion of and participation of women in conflict resolution and peace building (UNSCR 1325+1820) should do so immediately while Member States and the office of the African Union Chairperson should continue to support the Office of the Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security to effectively perform its mandate;
8. Convening of a Special Session of the Heads of State of the African Union (AU) on Acceleration of Political Participation of Women through Affirmative Action Gender Parity laws that compels political parties and Electoral Commissions across the continent to give room and ensure women are encouraged and well-resourced to be part and parcel of the electoral system from the national to local government level;
9. In the light of the development and adoption of the MPSI by the Heads of States of the Africa Union we recommend the creation of a separate Women's Rights Commission as distinct from the existing Human Rights Commission to ensure the promotion and protection of women's right at all levels;
10. In preparation for future pandemic, donors should provide direct financial and technical support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working at the community level instead of the national governments. This is to ensure community's easy access to palliatives, efficient utilization of funds and support CSOs and CBOs awareness creation at the community levels.
11. The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) need to demonstrate their commitment to gender parity principle in the appointment and promotion of staff into key positions within these institutions.
12. In preparation for future pandemic, donors should provide direct financial and technical support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working at the community level instead of the national governments. This is to ensure community's easy access to palliatives, efficient utilization of funds and support CSOs and CBOs awareness creation at the community levels;
13. Gender budgeting that focuses on reproductive health and women participation at the decision-making level should be vigorously pursued with strong advocacy by the GIMAC Network.

APPENDIX I: HIV Index

		ARV Coverage Among Women with HIV		Total Antiretroviral therapy Coverage (%)			
Country	Region	Value	Data Year	Value	Data Year	HIV INDEX	Categories
Algeria	Northern	87.00	2020	47.68	2020	0.6441	0.61-0.80
Angola	Southern	39.00	2020	68.57	2020	0.5171	0.41-0.60
Benin	Western	87.00	2020	70.22	2020	0.7816	0.61-0.80
Botswana	Southern	95.00	2020	62.56	2020	0.7710	0.61-0.80
Burkina Faso	Western	98.00	2020	67.52	2020	0.8134	0.81-1.00
Burundi	Central	98.00	2020	63.23	2020	0.7872	0.61-0.80
Cabo Verde	Western	98.00	2020	57.64	2020	0.7516	0.61-0.80
Cameroon	Central	80.00	2020	68.08	2020	0.7380	0.61-0.80
Central African Republic	Central	64.00	2020	64.04	2020	0.6402	0.61-0.80
Chad	Central	78.00	2020	63.62	2020	0.7044	0.61-0.80
Comoros	Eastern	63.00	2020	57.50	2020	0.6019	0.61-0.80
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	74.00	2020	61.15	2020	0.6727	0.61-0.80
Congo, Rep.	Central	25.00	2020	67.02	2020	0.4093	0.41-0.60
Cote d'Ivoire	Western	83.00	2020	69.77	2020	0.7610	0.61-0.80
Djibouti	Eastern	31.00	2020	51.96	2020	0.4014	0.41-0.60
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Northern	38.00	2020	18.38	2020	0.2643	0.21-0.40
Equatorial Guinea	Central	53.00	2020	72.59	2020	0.6203	0.61-0.80
Eritrea	Eastern	75.00	2020	58.86	2020	0.6644	0.61-0.80
Ethiopia	Eastern	80.00	2020	60.21	2020	0.6940	0.61-0.80
Gabon	Central	53.00	2020	66.69	2020	0.5945	0.41-0.60
Gambia, The	Western	38.00	2020	71.69	2020	0.5219	0.41-0.60
Ghana	Western	69.00	2020	71.64	2020	0.7031	0.61-0.80
Guinea	Western	54.00	2020	66.32	2020	0.5984	0.41-0.60
Guinea-Bissau	Western	48.00	2020	68.49	2020	0.5734	0.41-0.60
Kenya	Eastern	91.00	2020	64.26	2020	0.7647	0.61-0.80
Lesotho	Southern	87.00	2020	62.93	2020	0.7399	0.61-0.80
Liberia	Western	65.00	2020	71.38	2020	0.6812	0.61-0.80
Libya	Northern	67.00	2020	39.18	2020	0.5123	0.41-0.60
Madagascar	Eastern	16.00	2020	52.66	2020	0.2903	0.21-0.40

Malawi	Southern	89.00	2020	62.35	2020	0.7449	0.61-0.80
Mali	Western	62.00	2020	64.33	2020	0.6315	0.61-0.80
Mauritania	Northern	45.00	2020	49.20	2020	0.4705	0.41-0.60
Mauritius	Eastern	21.00	2020	29.67	2020	0.2496	0.21-0.40
Morocco	Northern	83.00	2020	46.40	2020	0.6206	0.61-0.80
Mozambique	Southern	73.00	2020	63.03	2020	0.6783	0.61-0.80
Namibia	Southern	92.00	2020	64.48	2020	0.7702	0.61-0.80
Niger	Western	81.00	2020	62.70	2020	0.7126	0.61-0.80
Nigeria	Western	98.00	2020	31.64	2020	0.5568	0.41-0.60
Rwanda	Eastern	96.00	2020	61.02	2020	0.7654	0.61-0.80
Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic	Northern	ND	2020	ND	2020	ND	ND
Sao Tome and Principe	Central	ND	2020	59.82	2020	ICD	ICD
Senegal	Western	95.00	2020	66.37	2020	0.7941	0.61-0.80
Seychelles	Eastern	ND	2020	ND	2020	ND	ND
Sierra Leone	Western	65.00	2020	74.77	2020	0.6972	0.61-0.80
Somalia	Eastern	53.00	2020	58.84	2020	0.5584	0.41-0.60
South Africa	Southern	87.00	2020	5.18	2020	0.2123	0.21-0.40
South Sudan	Eastern	25.00	2020	61.46	2020	0.3920	0.21-0.40
Sudan	Eastern	23.00	2020	41.03	2020	0.3072	0.21-0.40
Eswatini	Southern	98.00	2020	62.44	2020	0.7823	0.61-0.80
Tanzania	Eastern	90.00	2020	64.26	2020	0.7605	0.61-0.80
Togo	Western	80.00	2020	6.64	2020	0.2304	0.21-0.40
Tunisia	Northern	34.00	2020	39.71	2020	0.3674	0.21-0.40
Uganda	Eastern	96.00	2020	61.88	2020	0.7707	0.61-0.80
Zambia	Southern	84.00	2020	60.26	2020	0.7115	0.61-0.80
Zimbabwe	Southern	90.00	2020	64.26	2020	0.7605	0.61-0.80

APPENDIX II: Girls' Education Index

Country	Region	Girls Progression from Primary School to Secondary school		Literacy Rate (Female 15+)		Primary School Enrollment (Enrollment to Grade 1 of Primary School, Female %)		GEI	Categories
		Value	Data Year	Value	Data Year	Value	Data Year		
Algeria	Northern	98.000	2017	97.250	2018	104.860	2019	1.000	0.81-1.00
Angola	Southern	53.000	2008	70.590	2014	105.890	2015	0.734	0.61-0.80
Benin	Western	85.000	2015	51.940	2018	112.400	2019	0.792	0.61-0.80
Botswana	Southern	98.000	2012	99.400	2014	102.060	2015	0.998	0.81-1.00
Burkina Faso	Western	79.000	2017	54.670	2018	94.280	2019	0.741	0.61-0.80
Burundi	Central	77.000	2017	85.620	2017	119.840	2019	0.924	0.81-1.00
Cabo Verde	Western	68.000	2011	98.730	2015	100.460	2018	0.877	0.81-1.00
Cameroon	Central	69.000	2015	82.410	2018	100.210	2019	0.829	0.81-1.00
Central African Republic	Central	68.000	2011	28.710	2018	86.370	2016	0.552	0.41-0.60
Chad	Central	65.000	2015	22.390	2016	78.040	2019	0.484	0.41-0.60
Comoros	Eastern	85.000	2013	78.300	2018	99.420	2018	0.871	0.81-1.00
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	71.000	2012	79.710	2016	118.459	2018	0.875	0.81-1.00
Congo, Rep.	Central	75.000	2011	78.740	2018	92.370	2018	0.817	0.81-1.00
Cote d'Ivoire	Western	93.000	2016	53.030	2018	97.230	2019	0.783	0.61-0.80
Djibouti	Eastern	84.000	2017			72.210	2020	ICD	ICD
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Northern	98.000	2017	86.810	2017	106.850	2019	0.969	0.81-1.00
Equatorial Guinea	Central	92.000	2011	98.700	2014	61.590	2015	0.824	0.81-1.00
Eritrea	Eastern	93.000	2017	92.710	2018	63.080	2018	0.816	0.81-1.00
Eswatini	Southern	98.000	2016	96.700	2018	110.050	2018	1.014	0.81-1.00
Ethiopia	Eastern	91.000	2014	71.970	2017	96.090	2015	0.857	0.81-1.00
Gabon	Central	41.000	1972	91.450	2018			ICD	ICD
Gambia, The	Western	95.000	2013	64.450	2015	101.659	2019	0.854	0.81-1.00
Ghana	Western	95.000	2017	92.210	2018	105.580	2019	0.974	0.81-1.00
Guinea	Western	62.000	2013	37.210	2014	82.360	2016	0.575	0.41-0.60
Guinea-Bissau	Western	75.000	1983	49.760	2014			ICD	ICD
Kenya	Eastern	100.000	2015	88.080	2018	103.400	2016	0.969	0.81-1.00
Lesotho	Southern	88.000	2015	93.970	2014	117.760	2017	0.991	0.81-1.00
Liberia	Western	81.000	2016	45.640	2017	84.710	2017	0.679	0.61-0.80

Libya	Northern	84.000	1980	99.400	2004			ICD	ICD
Madagascar	Eastern	73.000	2015	80.680	2018	135.220	2019	0.927	0.81-1.00
Malawi	Southern	84.000	2011	73.390	2015	146.960	2019	0.968	0.81-1.00
Mali	Western	80.000	2016	43.400	2018	71.600	2018	0.629	0.61-0.80
Mauritania	Northern	64.000	2017	56.760	2017	103.550	2019	0.722	0.61-0.80
Mauritius	Eastern	99.000	2017	99.350	2018	100.810	2019	0.997	0.81-1.00
Morocco	Northern	88.000	2017	97.400	2018	112.730	2019	0.989	0.81-1.00
Mozambique	Southern	76.000	2015	65.490	2017	112.370	2019	0.824	0.81-1.00
Namibia	Southern	97.000	2012	91.440	2018	122.140	2018	1.027	0.81-1.00
Niger	Western	56.000	2015	31.640	2012	62.010	2019	0.479	0.41-0.60
Nigeria	Western	61.000	2009	68.260	2018	82.180	2016	0.699	0.61-0.80
Rwanda	Eastern	72.000	2017	88.500	2018	129.810	2019	0.939	0.81-1.00
Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic	Northern							ICD	ICD
Sao Tome and Principe	Central	100.000	2016	97.850	2018	105.000	2017	1.009	0.81-1.00
Senegal	Western	71.000	2016	63.500	2017	87.580	2015	0.734	0.61-0.80
Seychelles	Eastern	97.000	2017	99.600	2018	102.810	2019	0.998	0.81-1.00
Sierra Leone	Western	92.000	2017	62.700	2018	145.590	2019	0.943	0.81-1.00
Somalia	Eastern							ICD	ICD
South Africa	Southern	98.000	2015	96.880	2017	96.590	2018	0.972	0.81-1.00
South Sudan	Eastern					60.380	2015	ICD	ICD
Sudan	Eastern	94.000	2016	73.490	2018	76.120	2018	0.807	0.81-1.00
Tanzania	Eastern	69.000	2017	84.640	2015	99.900	2019	0.836	0.81-1.00
Togo	Western	80.000	2017	78.370	2015	124.420	2020	0.921	0.81-1.00
Tunisia	Northern	98.000	2016	95.800	2014	114.930	2018	1.026	0.81-1.00
Uganda	Eastern	57.000	2016	89.950	2018	104.130	2017	0.811	0.81-1.00
Zambia	Southern	62.000	2012	91.630	2018	99.900	2017	0.828	0.81-1.00
Zimbabwe	Eastern	79.000	2012	93.190	2014			ICD	ICD

Appendix III: Gender Parity Index

Country	REGION	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		Proportion of women in ministerial cabinet level positions (%)		GEOMEAN	GPI (GEOMEAN/0.5)	Categories
		Value	Year	Value	Year			
Algeria	Northern	↓ 8.10	2021	↓ 24.48	2020	0.1408	↓ 0.28	0.21-0.40
Angola	Southern	→ 30.00	2017	→ 31.82	2020	0.3090	↑ 0.62	0.61-0.80
Benin	Western	↓ 8.40	2019	↓ 20.83	2020	0.1323	↓ 0.26	0.21-0.40
Botswana	Southern	↓ 10.80	2019	↓ 15.79	2020	0.1306	↓ 0.26	0.21-0.40
Burkina Faso	Western	↓ 6.30	2020	↓ 15.38	2020	0.0984	↓ 0.20	0.10-0.20
Burundi	Central	→ 38.20	2020	→ 37.50	2020	0.3785	↑ 0.76	0.61-0.80
Cabo Verde	Western	→ 38.90	2021	↓ 14.29	2020	0.2358	→ 0.47	0.41-0.60
Cameroon	Central	→ 33.90	2020	↓ 14.89	2020	0.2247	→ 0.45	0.41-0.60
Central African Republic	Central	↓ 12.90	2020	↓ 20.68	2019	0.1633	→ 0.33	0.21-0.40
Chad	Central	→ 32.30	2021	↓ 20.00	2020	0.2542	↑ 0.51	0.41-0.60
Comoros	Eastern	↓ 16.70	2020	↓ 10.00	2020	0.1292	↓ 0.26	0.21-0.40
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	↓ 12.80	2018	↓ 17.78	2020	0.1509	→ 0.30	0.21-0.40
Congo, Rep.	Central	↓ 11.30	2017	↓ 21.21	2020	0.1548	→ 0.31	0.21-0.40
Cote d'Ivoire	Western	↓ 14.20	2021	↓ 12.77	2020	0.1347	↓ 0.27	0.21-0.40
Djibouti	Eastern	↓ 26.20	2018	↓ 13.04	2020	0.1848	→ 0.37	0.21-0.40
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Northern	↓ 27.70	2020	↓ 24.24	2020	0.2591	↑ 0.52	0.41-0.60
Equatorial Guinea	Central	↓ 23.00	2017	↓ 10.71	2020	0.1569	→ 0.31	0.21-0.40
Eritrea	Eastern	↓ 22.00	1994	↓ 17.65	2020	0.1971	→ 0.39	0.21-0.40
Eswatini	Southern	↓ 9.60	2018	→ 31.58	2020	0.1741	→ 0.35	0.21-0.40
Ethiopia	Eastern	→ 42.60	2021	→ 40.00	2020	0.4128	↑ 0.83	0.81-1.00
Gabon	Central	↓ 16.20	2018	↓ 23.08	2020	0.1934	→ 0.39	0.21-0.40
Gambia, The	Western	↓ 8.60	2017	↓ 25.00	2020	0.1466	↓ 0.29	0.21-0.40
Ghana	Western	↓ 14.60	2020	↓ 25.00	2019	0.1910	→ 0.38	0.21-0.40
Guinea	Western	↓ 16.20	2018	↓ 27.78	2020	0.2121	→ 0.42	0.41-0.60
Guinea-Bissau	Western	↓ 13.70	2019	↑ 50.00	2020	0.2617	↑ 0.52	0.41-0.60

Kenya	Eastern	↓ 21.80	2017	→ 30.43	2020	0.2576	↑ 0.52	0.41-0.60
Lesotho	Southern	↓ 23.30	2017	↓ 22.22	2020	0.2275	→ 0.46	0.41-0.60
Liberia	Western	↓ 11.00	2017	↓ 22.22	2020	0.1563	→ 0.31	0.21-0.40
Libya	Northern	↓ 16.00	2014	↓ 5.56	2020	0.0943	↓ 0.19	0.10-0.20
Madagascar	Eastern	↓ 17.90	2019	→ 34.78	2020	0.2495	→ 0.50	0.41-0.60
Malawi	Southern	↓ 22.90	2019	↓ 17.39	2020	0.1996	→ 0.40	0.21-0.40
Mali	Western	↓ 27.30	2020	↓ 16.00	2020	0.2090	→ 0.42	0.41-0.60
Mauritania	Northern	↓ 20.30	2018	↓ 21.74	2020	0.2101	→ 0.42	0.41-0.60
Mauritius	Eastern	↓ 20.00	2019	↓ 13.04	2020	0.1615	→ 0.32	0.21-0.40
Morocco	Northern	↓ 22.80	2021	↓ 15.79	2020	0.1897	→ 0.38	0.21-0.40
Mozambique	Southern	→ 42.40	2019	→ 45.45	2020	0.4390	↑ 0.88	0.81-1.00
Namibia	Southern	→ 44.20	2019	→ 39.13	2020	0.4159	↑ 0.83	0.81-1.00
Niger	Western	↓ 25.90	2020	↓ 15.79	2020	0.2022	→ 0.40	0.41-0.60
Nigeria	Western	↓ 3.60	2019	↓ 10.34	2020	0.0610	↓ 0.12	0.10-0.20
Rwanda	Eastern	↑ 61.30	2018	↑ 54.84	2020	0.5798	↑ 1.16	0.81-1.00
Saharawi Arab Democrati	Northern	ND	ND	↓ 0.00	2020	ICD	ICD	ICD
Sao Tome and Principe	Central	↓ 23.60	2018	→ 33.33	2020	0.2805	↑ 0.56	0.41-0.60
Senegal	Western	→ 43.00	2017	↓ 21.88	2020	0.3067	↑ 0.61	0.61-0.80
Seychelles	Eastern	↓ 22.90	2020	→ 33.33	2020	0.2763	↑ 0.55	0.41-0.60
Sierra Leone	Western	↓ 12.30	2018	↓ 13.79	2020	0.1302	↓ 0.26	0.21-0.40
Somalia	Eastern	↓ 24.40	2016	↓ 18.51	2020	0.2125	→ 0.43	0.41-0.60
South Africa	Southern	→ 42.40	2019	→ 48.28	2020	0.4524	↑ 0.90	0.81-1.00
South Sudan	Eastern	→ 32.40	2021	→ 33.33	2020	0.3286	↑ 0.66	0.61-0.80
Sudan	Eastern	↓ 27.70	2015	↓ 20.00	2020	0.2354	→ 0.47	0.41-0.60
Tanzania	Eastern	→ 36.90	2015	↓ 18.18	2020	0.2590	↑ 0.52	0.41-0.60
Togo	Western	↓ 18.70	2018	→ 31.03	2020	0.2409	→ 0.48	0.41-0.60
Tunisia	Northern	↓ 26.30	2014	↓ 29.17	2020	0.2770	↑ 0.55	0.41-0.60
Uganda	Eastern	→ 33.80	2021	→ 34.48	2020	0.3414	↑ 0.68	0.61-0.80
Zambia	Southern	↓ 15.10	2021	→ 32.26	2020	0.2207	→ 0.44	0.41-0.60
Zimbabwe	Eastern	→ 31.90	2018	↓ 20.83	2020	0.2578	↑ 0.52	0.41-0.60

↑ Above 50% Representation → Between 30%-50% Representation ↓ Below 30% Representation

Appendix IV: Composite SDI

Country	Region	Education	Health	Gender Parity	SDI	Category
Algeria	Northern	1.000	0.644	0.28	0.565	0.41-0.60
Angola	Southern	0.734	0.517	0.62	0.618	0.61-0.80
Benin	Western	0.792	0.782	0.26	0.544	0.41-0.60
Botswana	Southern	0.998	0.771	0.26	0.585	0.41-0.60
Burkina Faso	Western	0.741	0.813	0.20	0.494	0.41-0.60
Burundi	Central	0.924	0.787	0.76	0.821	0.81-1.00
Cabo Verde	Western	0.877	0.752	0.47	0.677	0.61-0.80
Cameroon	Central	0.829	0.738	0.45	0.651	0.61-0.80
Central African Republic	Central	0.552	0.640	0.33	0.489	0.41-0.60
Chad	Central	0.484	0.704	0.51	0.558	0.41-0.60
Comoros	Eastern	0.871	0.602	0.26	0.515	0.41-0.60
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	0.875	0.673	0.30	0.561	0.41-0.60
Congo, Rep.	Central	0.817	0.409	0.31	0.470	0.41-0.60
Cote d'Ivoire	Western	0.783	0.761	0.27	0.544	0.41-0.60
Djibouti	Eastern	ND	0.401	0.37	ICD	ICD
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Northern	0.969	0.264	0.52	0.511	0.41-0.60
Equatorial Guinea	Central	0.824	0.620	0.31	0.541	0.41-0.60
Eritrea	Eastern	0.816	0.664	0.39	0.596	0.41-0.60
Eswatini	Southern	1.014	0.782	0.35	0.652	0.61-0.80
Ethiopia	Eastern	0.857	0.694	0.83	0.790	0.61-0.80
Gabon	Central	ICD	0.595	0.39	ICD	ICD
Gambia, The	Western	0.854	0.522	0.29	0.506	0.41-0.60
Ghana	Western	0.974	0.703	0.38	0.639	0.61-0.80
Guinea	Western	0.575	0.598	0.42	0.525	0.41-0.60
Guinea-Bissau	Western	ICD	0.573	0.52	ICD	ICD
Kenya	Eastern	0.969	0.765	0.52	0.728	0.61-0.80
Lesotho	Southern	0.991	0.740	0.46	0.696	0.61-0.80

Liberia	Western	0.679	0.681	0.31	0.523	0.41-0.60
Libya	Northern	ICD	0.512	0.19	ICD	ICD
Madagascar	Eastern	0.927	0.290	0.50	0.512	0.41-0.60
Malawi	Southern	0.968	0.745	0.40	0.661	0.61-0.80
Mali	Western	0.629	0.632	0.42	0.550	0.41-0.60
Mauritania	Northern	0.722	0.471	0.42	0.523	0.41-0.60
Mauritius	Eastern	0.997	0.250	0.32	0.430	0.41-0.60
Morocco	Northern	0.989	0.621	0.38	0.615	0.61-0.80
Mozambique	Southern	0.824	0.678	0.88	0.789	0.61-0.80
Namibia	Southern	1.027	0.770	0.83	0.869	0.81-1.00
Niger	Western	0.479	0.713	0.40	0.515	0.41-0.60
Nigeria	Western	0.699	0.557	0.12	0.360	0.21-0.40
Rwanda	Eastern	0.939	0.765	1.16	0.941	0.81-1.00
Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic	Northern	ICD	ND	ICD	ICD	ICD
Sao Tome and Principe	Central	1.009	ICD	0.56	ICD	ICD
Senegal	Western	0.734	0.794	0.61	0.708	0.61-0.80
Seychelles	Eastern	0.998	ND	0.55	ICD	ICD
Sierra Leone	Western	0.943	0.697	0.26	0.555	0.41-0.60
Somalia	Eastern	ICD	0.558	0.43	ICD	ICD
South Africa	Southern	0.972	0.212	0.91	0.573	0.41-0.60
South Sudan	Eastern	ICD	0.392	0.66	ICD	ICD
Sudan	Eastern	0.807	0.307	0.56	0.518	0.41-0.60
Tanzania	Eastern	0.836	0.760	0.52	0.691	0.61-0.80
Togo	Western	0.921	0.230	0.38	0.430	0.41-0.60
Tunisia	Northern	1.026	0.367	0.55	0.592	0.41-0.60
Uganda	Eastern	0.811	0.771	0.68	0.752	0.61-0.80
Zambia	Southern	0.828	0.711	0.44	0.638	0.61-0.80
Zimbabwe	Eastern	ICD	0.760	0.52	ICD	ICD
Number of Countries with Data		45	47	54.00	45	55

Appendix V: Solemn Declaration Score Card

COUNTRY	REGION	HIV/AIDS	SCR 1325	CHILD SOLDIERS	GBV	HUM TRAF	GENDER PARITY	HUMAN RIGHTS	LAND RIGHTS	HOUSING RIGHTS	EDUCATION	PROTOCOL	Report	TOTAL SCORE	Score Card Index	Reporting Year
		1	2	3	4G	4HT	5	6	7LR	7(HR)	8	9	12			
Angola	South-ern	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	9	0.75	2019
Burkina Faso	West-ern	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	9	0.75	2019
Burundi	Central	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	7	0.58	2018
Cameroon	Central	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	10	0.83	2019
Central Africa Re-public**	Central	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	0.50	2019
Chad	Central	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0.42	2018
comoros**	Eastern	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	0.83	2019
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	9	0.75	2019
Congo, Rep.	Central	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1.00	2019
Côte d'Ivoire	West-ern	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	11	0.92	2019
Djibouti	Eastern	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	6	0.50	2018
Ethiopia	Eastern	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	7	0.58	2018
Kenya	Eastern	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	11	0.92	2019
Lesotho	South-ern	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	7	0.58	2018
Liberia	West-ern	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	9	0.75	2018
Madagascar	Eastern	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	7	0.58	2018
Malawi	South-ern	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	7	0.58	2018
Mali**	West-ern	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	6	0.50	2019
Mauritania	North-ern	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	6	0.50	2018
Mauritius	Eastern	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0.25	2018
Morocco**	North-ern	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	*	1	7	0.50	2019
Mozam-bique	South-ern	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	8	0.67	2018

Namibia	South- ern	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	0.92	2018
Niger	West- ern	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	7	0.50	2019
Rwanda	Eastern	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	8	0.67	2019
São Tomé and Prín- cipe	Central	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	8	0.67	2018
Senegal	West- ern	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	0.92	2018
Sierra Leone**	West- ern	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1.00	2019
Seychelles	Eastern	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	0.67	2019
Somalia	Eastern	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0.25	2018
Sudan**	Eastern	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	9	0.75	2019
Eswatini	South- ern	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	7	0.58	2018
Togo	West- ern	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	9	0.75	2019
Tunisia	North- ern		1		1	0	1	1	1	0		1	1	7	0.58	2019
Uganda**	Eastern	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	9	0.75	2019
Zambia	South- ern	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	9	0.75	2019
Zimbabwe	Eastern	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	9	0.75	2018

Appendix VI: Grand Index

Country	Region	SDI	SCORE CARD	GRAND INDEX	Category
Algeria	Northern	0.565	ND	ICD	ICD
Angola	Southern	0.618	0.750	0.681	0.61–0.80
Benin	Western	0.544	ND	ICD	ICD
Botswana	Southern	0.585	ND	ICD	ICD
Burkina Faso	Western	0.494	0.750	0.609	0.61–0.80
Burundi	Central	0.821	0.583	0.692	0.61–0.80
Cabo Verde	Western	0.677	ND	ND	ND
Cameroon	Central	0.651	0.833	0.736	0.61–0.80
Central African Republic	Central	0.489	0.500	0.494	0.41–0.60
Chad	Central	0.558	0.417	0.482	0.41–0.60
Comoros	Eastern	0.515	0.833	0.655	0.61–0.80
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	0.561	0.750	0.649	0.61–0.80
Congo, Rep.	Central	0.470	1.000	0.685	0.61–0.80
Cote d'Ivoire	Western	0.544	0.917	0.706	0.61–0.80
Djibouti	Eastern	ICD	0.500	ICD	ICD
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Northern	0.511	ND	ICD	ICD
Equatorial Guinea	Central	0.541	ND	ICD	ICD
Eritrea	Eastern	0.596	ND	ICD	ICD
Eswatini	Southern	0.652	0.583	0.617	0.61–0.80
Ethiopia	Eastern	0.790	0.583	0.679	0.61–0.80
Gabon	Central	ICD	ND	ICD	ICD
Gambia, The	Western	0.506	ND	ICD	ICD
Ghana	Western	0.639	ND	ICD	ICD
Guinea	Western	0.525	ND	ND	ND
Guinea-Bissau	Western	ICD	ND	ICD	ICD
Kenya	Eastern	0.728	0.917	0.817	0.81–1.00
Lesotho	Southern	0.696	0.583	0.637	0.61–0.80
Liberia	Western	0.523	0.750	0.627	0.61–0.80
Libya	Northern	ICD	ND	ND	ND
Madagascar	Eastern	0.512	0.583	0.547	0.41–0.60
Malawi	Southern	0.661	0.583	0.621	0.61–0.80
Mali	Western	0.550	0.500	0.525	0.41–0.60
Mauritania	Northern	0.523	0.250	0.361	0.21–0.40
Mauritius	Eastern	0.430	0.250	0.328	0.21–0.40
Morocco	Northern	0.615	0.500	0.555	0.41–0.60

Mozambique	Southern	0.789	0.667	0.726	0.61-0.80
Namibia	Southern	0.869	0.917	0.893	0.81-1.00
Niger	Western	0.515	0.500	0.507	0.41-0.60
Nigeria	Western	0.360	ND	ICD	ICD
Rwanda	Eastern	0.941	0.667	0.792	0.61-0.80
Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic	Northern	ICD	ND	ND	ND
Sao Tome and Principe	Central	ICD	0.667	ICD	ICD
Senegal	Western	0.708	0.917	0.806	0.81-1.00
Seychelles	Eastern	ICD	0.667	ICD	ICD
Sierra Leone	Western	0.555	1.000	0.745	0.61-0.80
Somalia	Eastern	ICD	0.250	ICD	ICD
South Africa	Southern	0.573	ND	ICD	ICD
South Sudan	Eastern	ICD	ND	ICD	ICD
Sudan	Eastern	0.518	0.750	0.623	0.61-0.80
Tanzania	Eastern	0.691	ND	ICD	ICD
Togo	Western	0.430	0.750	0.568	0.41-0.60
Tunisia	Northern	0.592	0.583	0.587	0.41-0.60
Uganda	Eastern	0.752	0.750	0.751	0.61-0.80
Zambia	Southern	0.638	0.750	0.692	0.61-0.80
Zimbabwe	Eastern	ICD	0.750	ICD	ICD
Number of Countries with Data		45	37	32	55

Appendix VII: Gender Index Rank

Country	Region	GRAND INDEX	RANK
Namibia	Southern	0.893	1
Kenya	Eastern	0.817	2
Senegal	Western	0.806	3
Rwanda	Eastern	0.792	4
Uganda	Eastern	0.751	5
Sierra Leone	Western	0.745	6
Cameroon	Central	0.736	7
Mozambique	Southern	0.726	8
Cote d'Ivoire	Western	0.706	9
Burundi	Central	0.692	10
Zambia	Southern	0.692	11
Congo, Rep.	Central	0.685	12
Angola	Southern	0.681	13
Ethiopia	Eastern	0.679	14
Comoros	Eastern	0.655	15
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Central	0.649	16
Lesotho	Southern	0.637	17
Liberia	Western	0.627	18
Sudan	Eastern	0.623	19
Malawi	Southern	0.621	20
Eswatini	Southern	0.617	21
Burkina Faso	Western	0.609	22
Tunisia	Northern	0.587	23
Togo	Western	0.568	24
Morocco	Northern	0.555	25
Madagascar	Eastern	0.547	26
Mali	Western	0.525	27
Mauritania	Northern	0.511	28
Niger	Western	0.507	29
Central African Republic	Central	0.494	30
Chad	Central	0.482	31
Mauritius	Eastern	0.328	32

Appendix VIII: SDGEA Declaration as it was Adopted By HoS



Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone 517 700 Cables: OAU, ADDIS ABABA

SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6–8 July 2004:

Reaffirming our commitment to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (I) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various regional, continental and international instruments on human and women's rights, including the Dakar Platform for Action (1994), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW - 1979), the African Plan of Action to Accelerate the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action for the Advancement of Women (1999); the Outcome Document of the Twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000); UN Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

Standing by our Decision on gender parity taken at the Inaugural Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa implemented during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, 2003 through the election of five female and five male Commissioners;

Noting with satisfaction that our Decision on gender parity is a historic achievement that does not yet exist in any other continent or regional organizations;

Re-affirming our commitment to continue, expand and accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels;

Determined to build on the progress that we have achieved in addressing issues of major concern to the women of Africa;

Taking cognizance of the landmark decision to adopt the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, 2003;

Noting the decision of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to transform the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) into the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC), which will be located in the Gender Directorate and serve as an Advisory Body to the Chairperson on Gender and Development;

Recognizing that major challenges and obstacles to gender equality still remain and require concerted and collective leadership and efforts from all of us including networks working on gender and development;

Deeply concerned about the status of women and the negative impacts on women of issues such as the high incidence of HIV/AIDS among girls and women, conflict, poverty, harmful traditional practices, high population of refugee women and internally displaced women, violence against women, women's exclusion from politics and decision-making, and illiteracy, limited access of girls to education;

Aware of the policies and programmes we have put in place to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic as well as the current challenges in this campaign;

Concerned that, while women and children bear the brunt of conflicts and internal displacement, including rapes and killings, they are largely excluded from conflict prevention, peace-negotiation, and peace-building processes in spite of African women's experience in peace-building;

Aware of the fact that low levels of women's representation in social, economic and political decision-making structures and feminisation of poverty impact negatively on women's ability to derive full benefit from the economies of their countries and the democratization process;

Aware of the digital divide between the North and the South, men and women and the role of information telecommunication technologies (ICTS) in the advancement of the gender issue as stated in the e-gender Forum Declaration of Tunis, May 2004 in preparation for the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2005;

HEREBY AGREE TO:

- 1. Accelerate the implementation of** gender specific economic, social, and legal measures aimed at combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic and effectively implement both Abuja and Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Disease. More specifically we will ensure that treatment and social services are available to women at the local level making it more responsive to the needs of families that are providing care; enact legislation to end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS and for the protection and care for people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly women; increase budgetary allocations in these sectors so as to alleviate women's burden of care;
- 2. Ensure** the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace process including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa as stipulated in UN Resolution 1325 (2000) and to also appoint women as Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the African Union;
- 3. Launch,** within the next one year, a campaign for systematic prohibition of the recruitment of child soldiers and abuse of girl children as wives and sex slaves in violation of their Rights as enshrined in the African Charter on Rights of the Child;

4. **Initiate, launch and engage** within two years sustained public campaigns against gender based violence as well as the problem of trafficking in women and girls; Reinforce legal mechanisms that will protect women at the national level and end impunity of crimes committed against women in a manner that will change and positively alter the attitude and behaviour of the African society;
5. **Expand and Promote** the gender parity principle that we have adopted regarding the Commission of the African Union to all the other organs of the African Union, including its NEPAD programme, to the Regional Economic Communities, and to the national and local levels in collaboration with political parties and the National parliaments in our countries;
6. **Ensure** the active promotion and protection of all human rights for women and girls including the right to development by raising awareness or by legislation where necessary;
7. **Actively promote** the implementation of legislation to guarantee women's land, property and inheritance rights including their rights to housing;
8. **Take** specific measures to ensure the education of girls and literacy of women, especially in the rural areas, to achieve the goal of "Education for All" (EFA);
9. **Undertake to Sign and ratify** the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by the end of 2004 and to support the launching of public campaigns aimed at ensuring its entry into force by 2005 and usher in an era of domesticating and implementing the Protocol as well as other national, regional and international instruments on gender equality by all States Parties;
10. **Establish** AIDS Watch Africa as a unit within the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission who should render annual report on HIV/AIDS situation in the continent during annual Summits; and promote the local production of anti-retroviral drugs in our countries;
11. **Accept** to establish an African Trust Fund for Women for the purpose of building the capacity of African women and further request the African Union Commission to work out the modalities for the operationalisation of the Fund with special focus on women in both urban and rural areas;
12. **Commit** ourselves to report annually on progress made in terms of gender mainstreaming and to support and champion all issues raised in this Declaration, both at the national and regional levels, and regularly provide each other with updates on progress made during our Ordinary Sessions;
13. **We request** the chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit, for our consideration, an annual report, during our ordinary sessions, on measures taken to implement the principle of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and all issues raised in this Declaration both at the national and regional levels.

Appendix IX: GIMAC COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Monitoring Reporting Template

I. Name of Organization:	
II. Country of Operation:	
III. Region (Tick as appropriate):	
North	
South	
East	
West	
Central	
Diaspora	
Operational Coverage (Tick as appropriate):	
Community	
Provincial	
National	
Regional	
Continental	
Global	
IV. Thematic Focus (Tick as appropriate)	
Health	
Peace and Security	
Youth and Children	
Women's Rights	
Governance	
Education	
Economic Empowerment	
V. Covid-19 Activity Type (Campaign, Policy Advocacy, Meetings, Research, Material Distribution, Engagement with Government, etc.)	

VI.	Description of COVID-19 Response and Interventions (<i>indicate the key and critical issue(s) your intervention addressed</i>)
VII.	Context and Coverage (<i>what informed the intervention and indicate coverage such as Community, Sub-National and National</i>)
VIII.	Any type of collaboration (<i>Government, International Agencies, CSOs, CBOs and FBOs</i>)
IX.	Human Resources Utilised (<i>Number of Staff and Time (hours, days and months):</i>
X.	Financial Resources Utilised (<i>US\$</i>):
XI.	The number of participants in meetings, webinar, stakeholder engagements etc. (if any):
XII.	Number of Women and girls Impacted by the interventions (if known):
XIII.	Outcome and Impact (<i>What are the key results and achievements of the interventions, add</i>)
XIV.	Challenges and Gaps (<i>Noticeable hinderances and obstacles to effective delivery of the interventions</i>)
XV.	Key Recommendations (<i>Important actionable advice and recommendations to stakeholders</i>)
XVI.	Advocacy Opportunities (<i>Indicate advocacy steps required to cushion the negative impact of COVID-19</i>)
XVII.	Follow-up Actions (<i>identify additional beneficial programmes and projects that require actions and funding</i>)

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