



IN BRIEF



OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK TOWARDS PEACEFUL, INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES: ADVANCING THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION (2023-2027)

Photo: UN Women/Fahad Kaizer

Over the past 20 years, countries in the Asia and the Pacific region have made notable progress in furthering the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda. Thirteen countries have developed WPS National Actions Plans, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted a Regional Plan of Action for WPS in 2022. However, critical gaps remain between the ambitions expressed by international commitments and the actual political will and financial support given to WPS efforts. This is partly because women continue to be excluded and under-represented in all aspects of decision-making in the region. Moreover, the nature of conflict and its drivers have shifted; the gender dimensions of non-traditional security risks, including climate change, cybersecurity, and violent extremism, pose new challenges that require innovative responses and solutions.

For decades, women have struggled to participate and lead in governance and all levels of decision-making processes. The Asia-Pacific region has some of the lowest rates of women's representation in parliaments in the world, with 21.0 per cent in Asia and 6.5 per cent in the Pacific Islands (IPU, 2023). Gender inequality in the region translates into weaknesses in existing governance systems, and contributes to a deepening trust crisis between people and the institutions that serve them, with many feeling left behind and no longer confident that the system is working for them. A significant rethinking of women's leadership across all aspects of governance is key to advancing both gender equality and building more just, peaceful, and resilient societies.

A Regional Framework Towards Peaceful, Inclusive Societies: Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and Inclusive Governance in the Asia-Pacific Region (2023-2027)

Drawing on two decades of lessons learned and coalition building, UN Women will continue to build the evidence base on WPS and inclusive governance, particularly on emerging issues, and to leverage good practices to deliver change. Working as part of an integrated team of governance and peace and security specialists, UN Women in the Asia and the Pacific region will ensure strong linkages with the WPS agenda, complementing efforts to promote inclusive governance, the rule of law and women's access to justice. In partnership with the Governments of Australia and the Republic of Korea, UN Women developed a five-year **Regional Framework Towards Inclusive and Peaceful Societies**, outlining strategies to tackle the most pressing governance and peace and security challenges across the Asia-Pacific region.

The Regional Framework has two inter-connected pillars:

1. WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

To effectively meet peace and security needs across Asia and the Pacific, UN Women is working to ensure that women's leadership is at the core of traditional and emerging security issues. To realize this vision, UN Women provides support to collaborations and partnerships among regional and national state actors and women's organizations and movements that work to advance WPS commitments. Recognizing the specific expertise and needs of young women peacebuilders, UN Women provides tailored support that enhances their opportunities to become changemakers and leaders, to mobilize and network. Aiming to address persistent obstacles to gender equality and emerging security challenges, UN Women has identified priority areas of action to advance the WPS Agenda in the Asia and the Pacific region in the coming years, including:

National Action Plan on WPS development and implementation: Support to governments and civil society in the development and implementation of NAP processes, while aligning efforts with ASEAN and other regional WPS processes.

Conflict prevention: Support governments and women's organization and peacebuilders to tackle the root causes of conflict and historical inequalities, including on gender-sensitive conflict analysis, early warning mechanisms and community-led platforms.

Emerging non-traditional security issues: Partner with young women leaders and women's organizations on finding local solutions for climate-related security risks; and work with policymakers and CSOs on cybersecurity and new technology policy development, research, data generation and tools.

Building peace and resilience: UN Women will work to strengthen women's representation and leadership in the security sector and will build the skills and knowledge of women peacebuilders, peace negotiators and human rights defenders at community level to work together with state authorities to find solutions to peace and security challenges.



2. INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

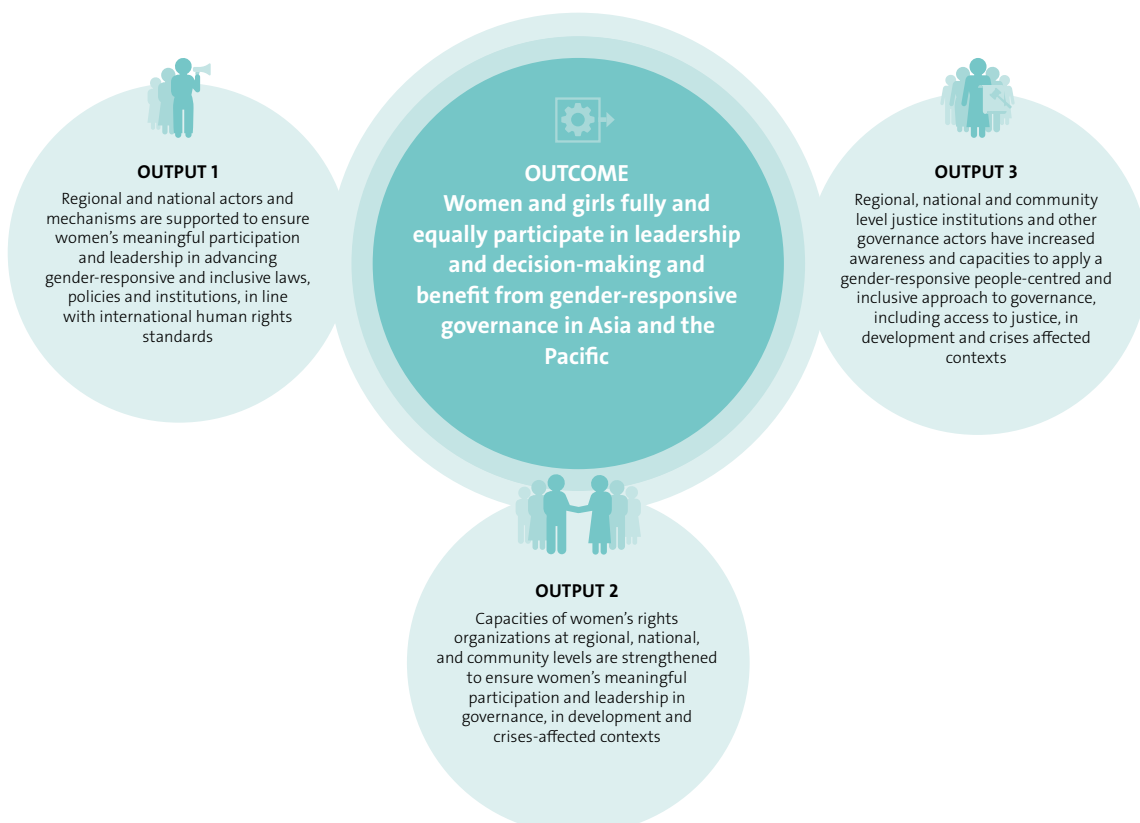
UN Women promotes equal participation of women and girls in leadership and decision-making and to ensure that they benefit from gender-responsive governance in the region. This entails a “whole-of-society” approach to governance and meaningful institutional reforms - which requires consistent engagement among state actors, women leaders, women’s organizations, civil society organizations, marginalized groups such as Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, and the private sector. UN Women will support women’s participation and leadership in public service, provide institutional support to promote gender-responsive and inclusive laws and policies, and support justice institutions in employing gender-responsive and people-centered approaches, by working across the following focus areas:

Gender-responsive and inclusive laws, including fiscal laws: Support Member States in reviewing laws and policies and provide technical capacities to advance gender-responsive budgeting and planning and gender-sensitive laws and policies that eliminate discrimination against women and girls, in line with international human rights norms and obligations.

Women’s meaningful participation and leadership in governance: Promote women’s leadership, including political participation, provide policy support to election stakeholders, and support women’s coalitions and movements to advocate for gender equality in public functions. Equip candidates and young women leaders with the necessary skills to advocate and engage in political and governance processes and address harms and risks.

Gender-responsive, people-centered access to justice: Contribute to the reduction of the justice gap for women by preventing women’s justice problems by addressing root causes, understanding women’s justice needs and their lived experiences; increasing women’s access to justice by decentralizing institutions; enabling a greater diversity of partners to support women’s justice journeys to achieve their rights; and supporting gender-inclusive justice sectors and approaches that can deliver justice at scale for women.

Data and evidence: Generate and disseminate data and evidence to inform policies, programming and advocacy, including on gender-responsive budgeting, women’s political participation, transparency and integrity.



BUDGET OF THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK: USD 23,500,000

For the period 2023-2027, approximately USD 9.5 million is available thanks to the generous support of:

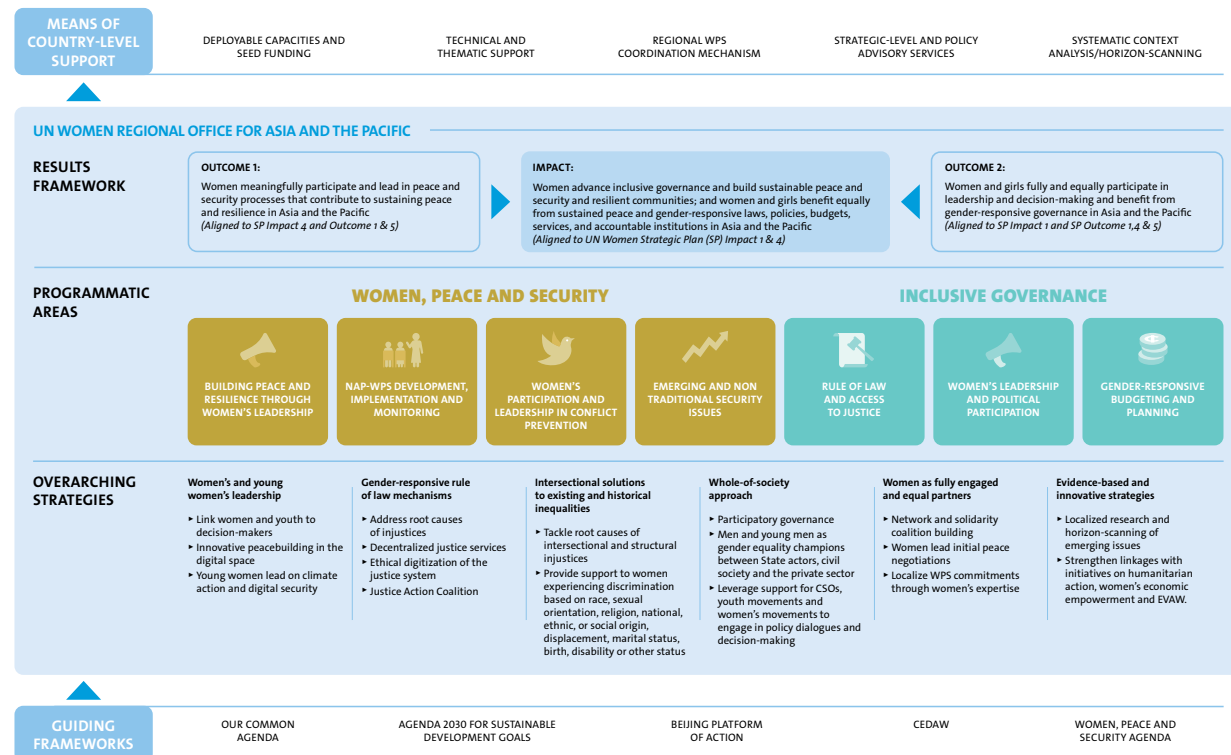
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) – “Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and informal systems through women’s empowerment” until **June 2023**.
- The Government of Korea- “Sustaining Peace in Partnership: Women’s Leadership in Community Oriented Policing” until **June 2024**.

- The Government of Korea and The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – “Women, Peace and Cybersecurity: Promoting Women’s Peace and Security in the Digital World” until **December 2023 and June 2024 respectively**.
- The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – “Women Peace and Security Pillar of the Regional Framework” until **December 2027**.
- Approximately USD 14 million is to be mobilized.

Overview of the Regional Framework



A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK TOWARDS PEACEFUL, INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES: ADVANCING THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION 2023-2027



With the generous support of:

