

CASE STUDY

**LOCALIZING
GENERATION
EQUALITY – FROM
GLOBAL INITIATIVE
TO LOCAL ACTION**

INTRODUCTION

IMPRINT

UN WOMEN

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women [lead, participate in and benefit equally](#) from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free [from all forms of violence](#); and Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in [building sustainable peace and resilience](#), and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and [humanitarian action](#). UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work on advancing gender equality.

GENERATION EQUALITY

Generation Equality is a multistakeholder initiative convened by UN Women in partnership with civil society, youth, governments, the private sector and philanthropists to catalyse partners, increase investments, drive results and accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. Generation Equality is anchored in the UN Decade of Action. It emphasizes the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to benefit women and girls in all their diversity.

View the report at: commitments.generationequality.org/annual-report

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The Generation Equality Forums, held in 2021 in Mexico and Paris to mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), emerged as a global multi-stakeholder initiative to accelerate the fight for gender equality. Generation Equality established concrete commitments and action plans for the period from 2021 to 2026. It aims to catalyse global action at local, national and regional levels, spark intergenerational conversations, drive increased public and private investment and improve accountability. To coordinate and implement commitments, the Forum brings together stakeholders in six [Actions Coalitions](#) and a [Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action](#).

Generation Equality was conceived as an initiative to accelerate results from global to regional, national and grass-roots levels, recognizing the importance of synergizing international dialogue among multiple stakeholders with locally driven collective action that draws on the expertise and local knowledge of various stakeholders. From its inception, localization has been an intrinsic priority for Generation Equality.

Localization is seen as key to the adequate planning, implementation and follow-up of Generation Equality commitments.

2023 marks the mid-term period of Generation Equality, providing an opportunity for collective reflection on progress, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities for the future. This case study analyses localization efforts, drawing insights from the 2023 Commitments Reporting Survey and through a series of key informant interviews (KIIs) conducted in August 2023 with the Governments of Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, to explore how Generation Equality's localization efforts are being institutionalized. Their engagement in addressing gender equality predates their participation in Generation Equality, however, the initiative spurred further action and commitments and ultimately built momentum. These efforts have positioned these countries as leaders in addressing persistent gender inequalities and dealing with issues ranging from women's economic empowerment and gender-based violence (GBV) to advancing bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

What is localization?

For Generation Equality, localization refers to the process of translating multi-stakeholder-driven, global-level agendas and initiatives to the national and local levels. It promotes the joint ownership of planning, implementing and monitoring of commitments by State and non-State actors. This requires combining local knowledge with multi-stakeholder partnerships that are active at an international level.

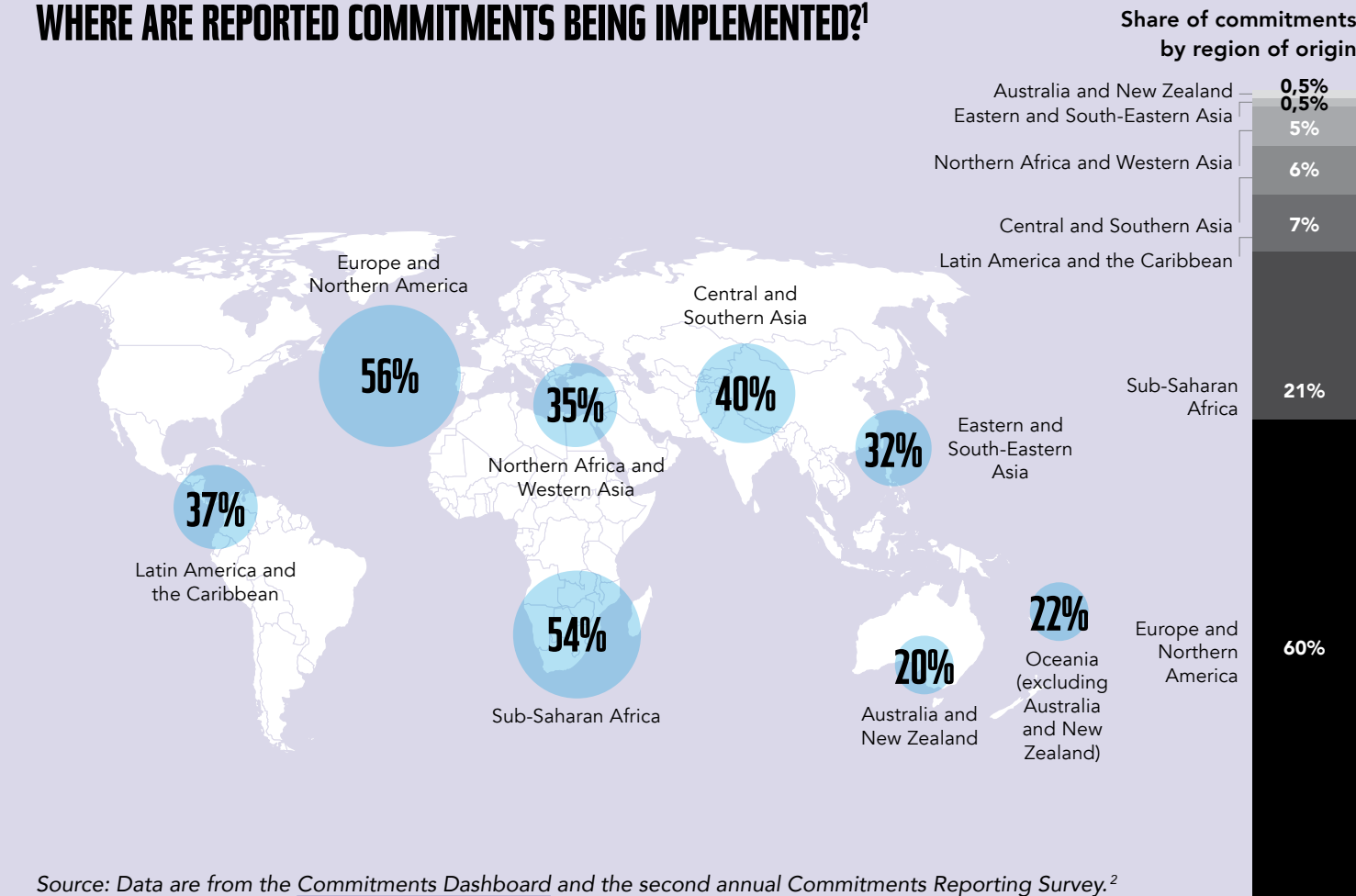


Photo: UN Women/Ploy Phutpheng

KEY FINDINGS



WHERE ARE REPORTED COMMITMENTS BEING IMPLEMENTED?¹



¹ Both the map illustrating the region of implementation and the graph of commitments by region of origin represent all comments covered in the survey- financial, policy, advocacy and programmatic.
² The survey was conducted between May and July 2023. Overall, 42 per cent of Commitment Makers have reported (compared to 26 per cent in 2022) on 69 per cent of commitments (more than double last year's reporting rate of 31 per cent of commitments). Despite some methodological limitations, the high survey response rate provides a robust reporting on commitments for an accounting and better understanding of progress made over the past two years. See [Generation Equality 2023 report - Technical Note](#) for details.

1 Localization breaks down silos, increasing ownership, collaboration and coordination. In Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, the inter-ministerial steering committees helped break down silos and improve collaboration and coordination between stakeholders. In turn, this has resulted in an increased sense of ownership of Generation Equality commitments by governments, CSOs and the private sector, as well as strengthened collective action. For example, in Burkina Faso, decisions in the National Committee for monitoring regional commitments made at the Generation Equality Forum are made in consensus with CSOs and workshops are being organized to prepare joint project proposals to secure national or international funding addressing sexual and reproductive health.



2 Political will at the highest level has a domino effect in spurring budget allocations. In Kenya, Kazakhstan, and the United Republic of Tanzania, the Government's Generation Equality commitments have been championed by the President, such as through Kenya's 12-point plan on gender-based violence.³ This political backing meant that the commitments retained prominence despite changes in government and aided a prioritization of national budgets towards implementing commitments. For example, to address gender-based violence, Kenya allocated \$3.4 billion Kenyan shillings (around USD 25 million) for the implementation of a Policare policy (which purposely combines the words 'police' and 'care'); while the United Republic of Tanzania dedicated 4 billion Tanzanian shillings (around USD 1.5 million) to addressing women's economic empowerment; and Kazakhstan continued to financially sustain the Spotlight Initiative (with USD 400,000 in 2024 and the same expected for 2025) through its national budget in addition to the \$70,000 allocated to the Initiative in 2021- 2022. Moreover, Kazakhstan has invested over \$6 million USD in the development of Entrepreneurship Centers for women, \$6 million to expand the network of preschool institutions and \$796 million for child care payments.



3 Generation Equality has created a framework for accountability and knowledge-sharing that is mutually beneficial for State and non-State actors. Countries have introduced regional, national and sub-national monitoring frameworks to track the progress of State and non-State actors' implementation of commitments to learn, collaborate and correct their course, where needed. Burkina Faso, for example, leads a regional coordination committee which examines the national action plans of participating countries in the French-speaking region of West Africa (Burkina Faso, Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo). In the United Republic of Tanzania, youth-led and civil society organizations are participating in planning and decision-making in both national and local steering committees, anchoring joint actions on local needs and priorities.



³ See "[Generation Equality Forum: Kenya's Roadmap for Advancing Gender Equality and Ending All Forms of Gender Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation by 2026](#)".

ANALYSIS OF LOCALIZATION EFFORTS

In all four countries, localization was spearheaded by the national government. Mirroring the global Generation Equality multi-stakeholder methodology, governments established national steering committees comprised of international partners and donors, civil society organizations (CSOs), youth-led organizations and private sector representatives tasked

Localizing Generation Equality breaks down silos

Generation Equality's global approach to collective multi-stakeholder partnerships among State and non-State actors is being replicated at regional, national and sub-national levels. In the case of the four countries studied, multi-stakeholder partnerships were facilitated through the establishment of regional, national and sub-national steering committees made up of government representatives, multi-lateral entities, the private sector, youth-led organizations, and CSOs. The Committees, established at regional, national or sub-national level, are tasked with validating and reviewing commitments, assessing annual action plans, monitoring the progress of implementation and reporting.

Common among all countries analyzed is the establishment of a multi-stakeholder National Committee that is chaired by the Ministry or Department tasked with gender issues.

In Kazakhstan, the government created a National Action Coalition Secretariat to strengthen collaboration among different sectors. The Secretariat, established in cooperation with the UN Women Country Office, provides technical support to national partners and also coordinates the actions of twenty state and civil society organizations that are implementing commitments. In a complementary manner, Kazakhstan established a Monitoring Group in which representatives from relevant ministries meet every quarter to monitor progress and discuss adjustment measures (where needed) to remain on track for commitment implementation.⁴ As a result, gender mainstreaming has become more prevalent within state institutions.

with validating and reviewing commitments, assessing annual action plans, monitoring the progress of implementation and reporting, including through public reports. In addition, departments and ministries in the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya established county-level steering committees facilitating collaboration at the grass-roots level.

Likewise, Kenya established a three-tier leadership structure to monitor progress on implementing Generation Equality commitments, consisting of the National Advisory Committee, **National Steering Committee** and a **Secretariat**. These coordination mechanisms have linkages with the national and county-level gender-based violence and female genital mutilation **Sector Working Groups** – which are committees of the Intergovernmental Forum on Gender and the County Gender Sector Working Group established in 2019 and are comprised of State and non-State actors. In the Steering Committee, the State Department develops priorities, monitors progress and discusses budgeting with CSOs, such as Equality Now and youth-led organizations at the table. This mix of State and non-State actors is seen as essential to the sustainability of gender initiatives in Kenya. Working across agencies and sectors, the engagement with civil society has been key to ensuring continuity and public attention around GBV as a national priority issue. This type of engagement has also allowed the GBV agenda to be prioritized by two distinct political administrations, which is notable as political changes can sometimes pose significant barriers to the continuity and progress of specific agendas. As a result of these collective efforts, cases in FGM have reduce across Kenya.

Similarly, in the United Republic of Tanzania, the President appointed a **National Advisory Committee** in 2021 to work closely with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups to champion the implementation of

Generation Equality commitments (on Women's Economic Justice and Rights), monitor programming, and report to and advise the President on progress made. The National Advisory Committee consists of 25 members with expertise in sectors including women, youth and people with disabilities: 19 from Mainland Tanzania and six from Zanzibar.

Meanwhile, in Burkina Faso, decisions of the **Multi-Stakeholder National Committee** are made in consensus with CSOs and workshops are being organized to prepare joint project proposals to secure national or international funding to promote sexual education, provide free maternal health, and systematically enforce integrated health units and health care in times of crisis. A complementary **Technical Committee** supports the planning of annual activities and ensures follow-up at the administrative level. The Technical Committee aims to guarantee the advancement of Generation Equality initiatives and works closely with the National Committee to organize and follow-up on recommendations.

National committees have proven to be crucial to the localized implementation of Generation Equality, as the structures they provide facilitate collaboration and attract the attention of government officials, as well as experts and other non-State actors. Their **experience highlights the importance of multi-agency committees and an "all-hands-on-deck" approach to tackling gender inequality**, as cited by Kenyan officials. Mainstreaming Generation Equality initiatives at all governmental levels has strengthened programmes and unlocked oppor-

tunities for the public and private sector to improve equality between women and men, girls and boys. The various national and local-level coordination mechanisms are a testimony of the strong political will and ownership of efforts to advance gender equality by strengthening collective action and breaking down silos between State and with non-State actors.

Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania have further strengthened collaboration at the sub-national/county level and fostered transformative and measurable local planning and action. In Kenya, **each county has a commissioner** who coordinates different initiatives and reports to the National Committees. The United Republic of Tanzania has named **local government focal points** who are strategically positioned to drive programme implementation and ensure that plans and budgets are on track. Each focal point has the task of harmonizing and strengthening the work of ministries and agencies by mainstreaming Generation Equality commitments into local planning agendas. The Nationals Committee holds regular forums at the local and national level to discuss challenges and opportunities to improve gender equality. The Committee has a monitoring and evaluation framework and communications strategy that are used as instruments to prepare the progress report from all actors and sectors. At the time of writing, there is a proposal to also appoint local focal point persons from the private sector so that they can also report their findings to the national government, thus complementing the work of the public sector.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

⁴ Participants include the Ministries of National Economy, Information and Social Development, Labor and Social Protection, Internal Affairs, Justice, Health, and Ecology, as well as the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor's Office, the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, and the State Development Institution.

Countries are championing the multi-stakeholder approach to advance results for gender equality not only at national and subnational levels, but they are also **spearheading collaboration with neighboring countries**. Kazakhstan has been leading regional dialogues on GBV as the host of the [Central Asian Alliance to End Gender-Based Violence](#), launched in July 2023, which aims to accelerate prevention and address GBV in the region. The establishment of the Alliance is a key achievement of the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme. Since its launch in 2020, the programme has raised awareness on gender equality and healthy masculinities among 7 million people in Central Asia, facilitated the formation of a regional network of more than 500 civil society actors, created an informal youth network, and established a community of practice for the police. As a host of a regional Generation Equality midpoint moment, Kazakhstan has also grown as a champion and ambassador for Generation Equality, bringing together governments, civil society and the private sector from across Central Asia to discuss progress and announce commitments on technology and innovation. Similarly, Burkina Faso, through the Regional Coordination Committee which is due to meet every year, has been monitoring implementation of the SRHR Action Coalition Blueprint and advancing dialogues on new and revised commitments to strengthen sexual and reproductive health among key Western African countries. These spaces provide an opportunity for actors to share experiences and learn from each other. Decisions are made in consensus so that diverse opinions are taken into account.

Political will sparks financing for gender equality

Political ownership and support at the highest level has had a domino effect on programming and spurred allocations towards addressing gender inequalities in national budgets. Generation Equality was championed by the Presidents of Kenya and of the United Republic of Tanzania, which bolstered support for national budget allocations in both countries. Specifically, Tanzania dedicated \$4 billion shillings to addressing women's economic empowerment and Kenya dedicated \$3.4 billion shillings to address gender-based violence. President Kenyatta of Kenya's public announcement of the country's 12 GBV commitments at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris in 2021 spurred the creation of the National Steering Committee and GBV Sector Working Group in the first year. Since that time, the National Committees and Secretariats have played a role in lobbying for increased budget allocations, building on the significant public attention that followed the public announcement of Generation

Equality commitments. Given that one of the commitments contained specific budget allocations to address GBV, the Government, together with CSOs has since established 54 private shelters and GBV rescue centres in 18 counties, facilitated the integration of GBV services directly into the country's universal health coverage, and created GBV specialized courts to improve women's access to justice.

Similarly, strong government support in Kazakhstan has facilitated the fulfillment of their Generation Equality Commitments at the local level, even before the five-year mark. The Government now aims to extend commitments focused on the empowerment of women and digitalization and will do so as a member of the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation. These additional actions are a testament to Kazakhstan's confidence in the Generation Equality model and are also a sign of the political prioritization of actions to address gender equality. This further demonstrates how **Generation Equality is driving momentum, and consequently budget allocations, from high-level authorities and how local actions are having regional implications**.

Although political will at the highest level is important, **some countries have nevertheless faced challenges related to the lack of a designated budget for gender equality initiatives**. For example, in Burkina Faso, State and non-State actors have innovative ideas for how to address SHRH, yet a lack of funding is only allowing them to address a fraction of the interventions possible.

Generation Equality drives monitoring and accountability

The experiences of Burkina Faso and Kazakhstan demonstrate that **Generation Equality encourages new partnerships as well as knowledge-exchange at the regional level**. These practices also help with activity implementation and follow-up; for example, regional dialogue and forums have provided spaces for both accountability and idea-sharing, which has advanced Generation Equality priorities.

In 2021, Kazakhstan contributed to the regional community through the creation of a virtual knowledge repository in Central Asia to share best practices on gender equality and preventing violence against women and girls. The virtual repository hosts comprehensive discussions with participants from various government agencies, parliamentarians, experts and CSOs from Central Asia and Afghanistan. In 2023 Kazakhstan officially joined the Women Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Compact under the auspices of Genera-

tion Equality and advanced the WPS-HA agenda during Kazakhstan's chairpersonship in Women' Dialogue of Central Asia in 2023. As a result, the initiative of the development of the Regional Action Plan for effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 was supported by partners in the region during the International conference on WPS-HA organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan in October 2023.

As an Action Coalition Lead for SRHR, Burkina Faso is a key driver among other Western African countries to mobilize, implement and monitor Generation Equality commitments. The Government of Burkina Faso has partnered with civil society organizations, including youth organizations and the

private sector, to take a leadership role in family planning, education for family life, contraception, health centers for women and youth. Through their work with the regional coordination committee, Burkina Faso reviews national action plans, monitors the implementation of the SRHR Action Coalition blueprint, and discusses course corrections with other key countries in West Africa. For example, in June 2023 Burkina Faso hosted a [Follow-Up Workshop on the Regional Commitments of the Generational Equality Forum](#). For this gathering, each country prepared a presentation on their 5-year plan, which allowed them to present the status of their actions and report on progress in terms of the advancement of SRHR.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these findings, the following recommendations are made, each for a specific type of stakeholder, to help sustain and further the localization of Generation Equality commitments, for local-level progress and results:

1 For governments:

Ensure buy-in from key political players and local authorities by making public commitments at the highest levels of government possible, as facilitated through Generation Equality. Allocate national public funds to these initiatives, as a means of bolstering local ownership and the sustainability of gender equality initiatives.



2 For governments:

There is a need to enhance their coordination mechanism to reduce duplication of efforts, ensure standards are met, and increase accountability to affected populations.



3 For countries looking to create localized processes:

Create the necessary architecture to localize commitments and translate the international gender equality agenda to both national and local spheres by learning from other Generation Equality stakeholders. This could be through the creation of national and/or regional steering committees or local monitoring groups to mirror the multi-stakeholder partnerships active at the international level. Local gender experts and activists from CSOs should be included in all stages of the initiative (planning, implementation, evaluation, etc.).



4 For civil society and young people:

Civil society's important local and grass-roots insights can be highly effective drivers of change. CSOs and youth organizations should seek to engage with national and local government bodies in an ongoing manner to ensure continuation of efforts to address gender inequality, including during times of political change, as well as by raising the needs and priorities of women and girls at the grass-roots level.



5 For international partners and donors:

Funding and technical support are areas where Commitment Makers need support. Collective action towards gender equality backed by national budgets and political ownership is a recipe for success and should thus be supported by donors. Generation Equality can facilitate exchanges on complementary and tailored funding.



6 For Generation Equality stakeholders:

To better measure the scope and success of localization efforts, indicators should be developed to assess how multisectoral stakeholders are conducting actions in a localized manner. Such indicators could be incorporated into the existing Accountability Framework and reporting methods.



ANNEX

Summary of methodology

The case studies were developed through a mixed-methods scoping review process spanning five stages, integrating both quantitative and qualitative methods as well as extensive document analysis. Like other scoping reviews, the proposed methodological approach places equal priority on academic rigour and the need for a rapid and iterative process to develop relevant, timely case studies of impact that demonstrate how Generation Equality is advancing change.

STAGE 1.

Inception and concept development: First, priority themes and relevant cases were identified through consultation with the UN Women Accountability Framework team and refined in light of a preliminary review of Generation Equality background literature. This background literature initially included the Global Acceleration Plan, the draft Action Coalition Accountability Framework, Generation Equality Accountability Report 2022 and the descriptions of what constitutes a policy, financial and collective commitment.

STAGE 2.

Document analysis: Once the study team has absorbed relevant background information, relevant documents were assembled for each case study. These documents included, for example, internal documents and public reports regarding the work of particular Action Coalitions, the text of commitments that exemplify themes of interest, and institutional websites and blog posts of organizations that may be featured in the case studies. Preliminary findings from the 2023 Commitments Reporting Survey were reviewed to contextualize the trends and cases to be featured in the case study reports.

STAGE 3.

Data collection: At this stage, the study team conducted key informant interviews with the UN Women Accountability Framework team, Commitment Makers, Generation Equality governance structures and other actors, such as beneficiaries. Informants were selected based on four primary criteria: 1) a high degree of engagement with Generation Equality; 2) substantive participation in Generation Equality initiatives that have demonstrated advanced and progressive results; 3) the relevance of particular institutions and initiatives to the selected case study topics; and 4) representation across Action Coalitions and regions.

STAGE 4.

Data analysis: Documents and interview findings were then charted, analysed thematically and summarized. The central aim of this stage was to triangulate findings from the document analysis and key informant interviews, and to contextualize these qualitative findings in light of the quantitative findings of the 2023 and 2022 Commitments Reporting surveys.

STAGE 5.

Review and finalization: At this stage, the study team produced second drafts of each case study for review by the Accountability Framework team. In addition to drawing out the distinctive features of each case, this stage of writing was also concerned with establishing a consistent voice and format across the case studies.

Resources consulted

- Raw data from the [Generation Equality 2023 - Commitments Reporting Survey](#)
- [GEF Action Coalitions Commitments Dashboard](#)
- [Action Coalitions Global Acceleration Plan](#)
- [Generation Equality Accountability Report 2022](#)
- [Generation Equality Accountability Report 2023](#)
- [Gender Sector Working Groups Call for Male Engagement in the Fight against GBV](#)
- [Generation Equality Forum in Kenya First Anniversary - June 2022](#)
- [Intergovernmental Consultation Framework for Gender Sector](#)
- [Equality Now](#)
- [Uniting for progress: Launch of the Central Asian Alliance to End Gender-Based Violence](#)
- [Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan](#)
- [Act for Equal](#)
- Burkina 24, [Forum génération égalité en Afrique de l'Ouest francophone : Dr Robert Kargougou encourage la mise en œuvre des engagements pris.](#)
- General Report: Regional meeting to monitor SRHR/FGE commitments in Francophone West Africa. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. 5–7 June 2023.

The list of stakeholders interviewed in Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania can be found in the list of acknowledgements.



Photo credit: UN Women

