



FOR ALL
WOMEN
AND GIRLS

UN Women's Operational Response in Europe and Central Asia

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Europe and Central Asia

– *A Diverse Region in Transition*

- Europe and Central Asia is a deeply **diverse** region with respect to economy, politics, rights, culture, and vulnerability to crises.
- Countries range from lower to upper-middle income status, where many continue to navigate **complex legacies**.
- **Universal mandate** – three subregions covered by programmatic work.



Gender equality

– *Progress across Europe and Central Asia*

National gender mechanisms and legal frameworks strengthened.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Uzbekistan have introduced transformative legislations to tackle gender-based violence.

Ukraine passed critical gender laws despite the ongoing full-scale war.

Kazakhstan (2024)



Kyrgyzstan (2025)



Moldova (2024)



Bosnia and Herzegovina (2024)



Uzbekistan (2024)



Ukraine (2023-24)

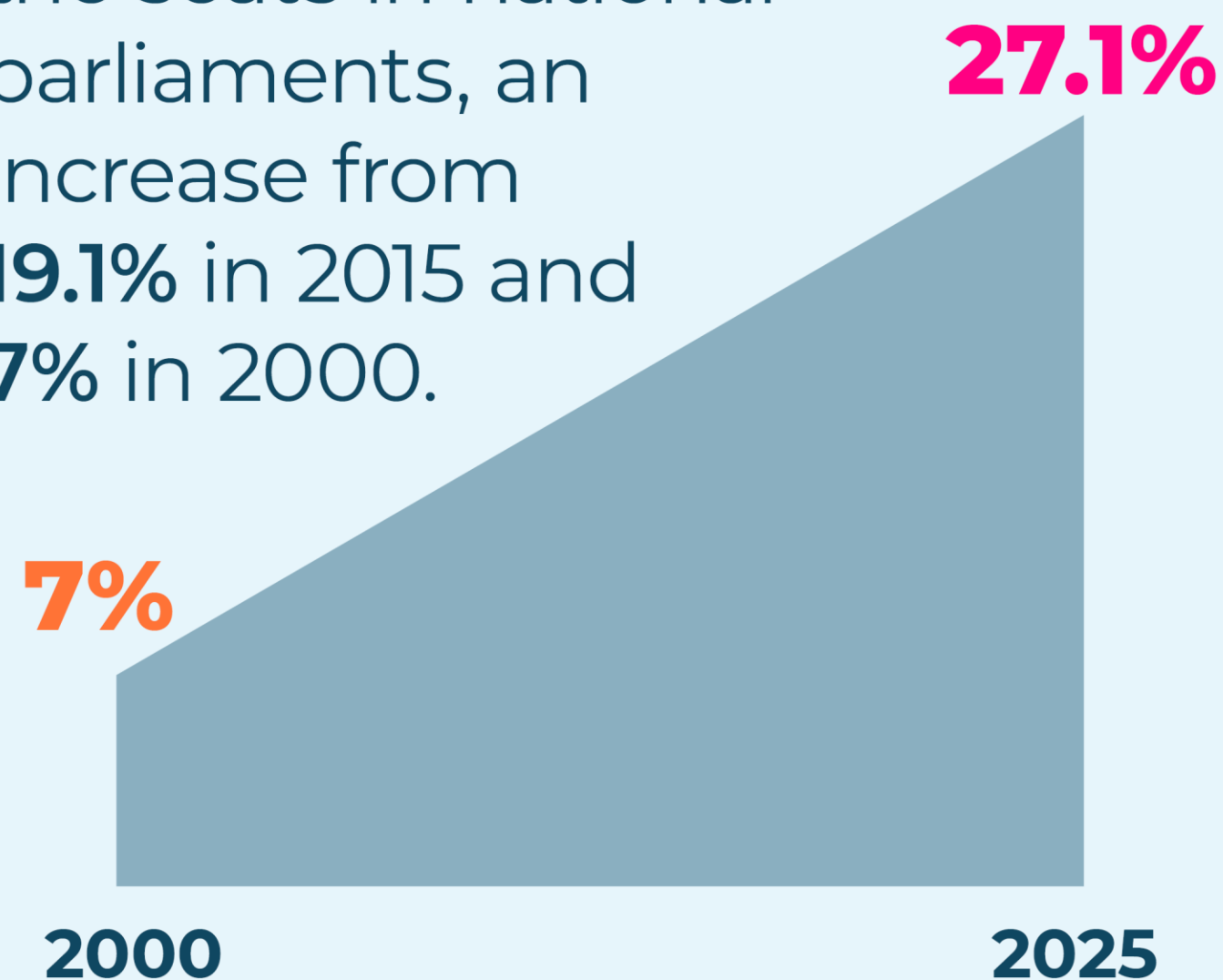


Gender equality

– Progress across Europe and Central Asia

Women’s political participation rising

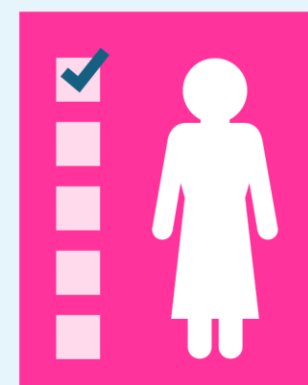
Women hold **27.1%** of the seats in national parliaments, an increase from **19.1%** in 2015 and **7%** in 2000.



Women are best represented in local government in the Eastern Partnership countries (**38%**), followed by the Western Balkans (**33%**).



10 out of 17 countries have electoral quotas

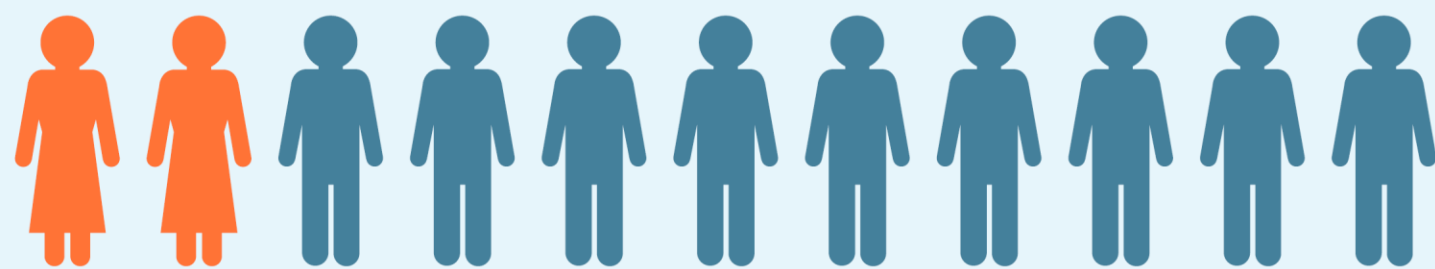


Central Asia: temporary special measures boost women’s representation in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Progress remains uneven

High education levels among women \neq equal economic participation.

25% gender gap in labour force participation

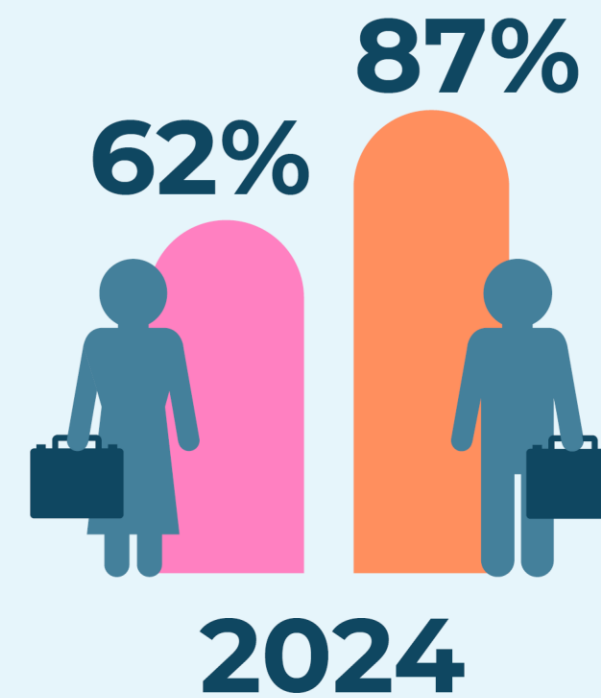


Women hold less than **3** in every **10** jobs in computer programming and less than **1** out of **5** AI-related jobs.

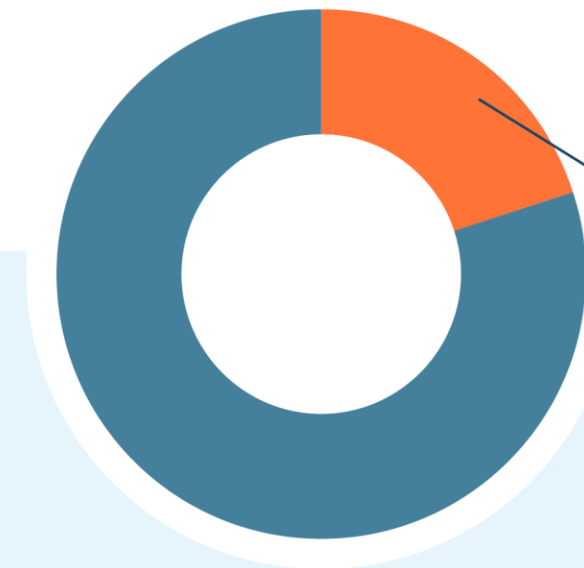
Women devote **3.4 times** as much time to unpaid care work.

Women still face structural barriers.

Women are **2.5X** times more likely to be in vulnerable employments.



30% of all entrepreneurs are women, with big variation across countries.



The gender pay gap averages **20%**.

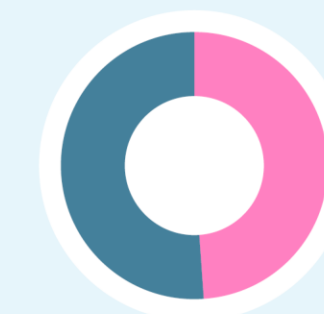
VAWG remains widespread and largely underreported.

Over a period of 12 months in ECA, **24 million women** have experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their partner.



Technology facilitated violence is on the rise – **every second women** using digital technologies have faced violence online.

7 programme countries have ratified the **Istanbul Convention**



50% of all countries have legislation on domestic violence.

Conflict, Crisis, and Backlash

Full-scale invasion of Ukraine and instability in the South Caucasus impact regional peace and security.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected.

In Ukraine, 3.6 million people remain internally displaced.

80% are women and children.



Displacement, trauma, VAWG, CRSV, interrupted essential services.



Growing backlash against gender equality and women's rights.

Civil society increasingly under threat.

Intergovernmental support – *Normative Engagements*



UN Women plays a key role in advancing norms and standards on gender equality in intergovernmental processes and spaces.

Leads and supports normative work across:

- CEDAW
- Beijing+30
- CSW
- Women, Peace and Security
- Sustainable Development Goals

Regional Result

95% of countries produced a national report on Beijing +30



Key legislative milestones across ECA

Albania

2024 electoral reform mandates

30%

gender representation per zone

Women now hold

35.7%

of Parliament and over 41.7% of cabinet posts (for January 2025)

Kazakhstan



- 2024 laws reinstate criminal penalties for domestic violence
- Stronger child protection and harsher penalties for abuse

Programmatic results

– Gender Responsive Governance

Increased political leadership leading to improved gender governance in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia, the representation of women increased by **2 to 9 percentage points**.

- Elected women graduating from UN Women leadership academy programme (ex. 30% of elected women in Moldova 2023 local elections).
- More balanced political representation and leadership leading to improved gender governance in Albania, In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Ukraine

1M people were reached through public awareness campaigns.



Gender-Responsive Budgeting

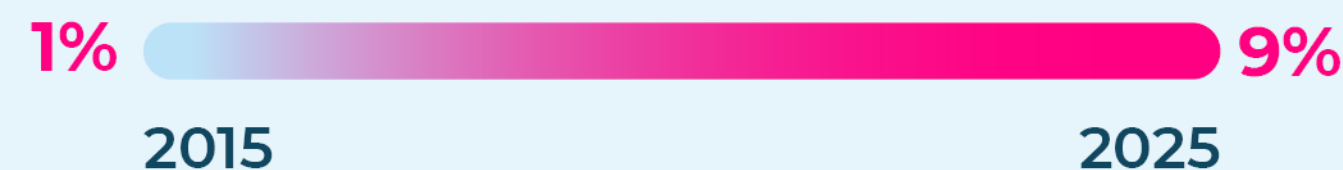
16 countries advanced GRB integration, driving reforms in public finance and policy.

264 public programmes have been gender-mainstreamed

108 local governments have adopted GRB

156 initiatives to improve women's access to essential services have been taken

Albania Increase in gender-responsive allocations



Türkiye

11 ministries/public institutions planned specific measures on women's empowerment in the 2025 Presidential Annual Programme, marking a triple increase from 2020.

Gender Data & Statistics



Enhanced SDG 5 reporting in **15 out of 18 countries** covering at least 50% of the SDG5 indicators.

3 National Action Plans on Gender Statistics launched

600+ femicide cases documented by trained civil society researchers in Central Asia

Georgia

Mainstreamed gender statistics in its National Action Plan (2024-2025).

Uzbekistan

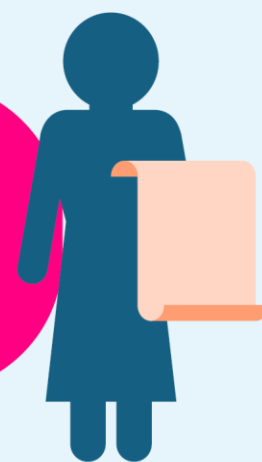
Led its first-ever gender assessment of the national statistical system (2023).

Women, Peace and Security Agenda and Humanitarian Action

Women, Peace & Security

The WPS Agenda was advanced by engaging with **14 out of 17** programme countries on their National Action Plans.

82% of all UNECE countries have NAPs



Kosovo¹

Adopted its first Transitional Justice Strategy (2024-2034), recognizing **1,704 survivors** of conflict related sexual violence and expanding reparations.

Ukraine

2,000+ Civil servants capacitated on conflict related sexual violence.

1,500 Women empowered through 14 local action plans on WPS.

40,000 Emergency responders trained.

Humanitarian action

Ukraine **400,000**

women and dependents received humanitarian assistance (2022-2024).



134 civil society organizations were supported, enabling the delivery of lifesaving, gender-responsive humanitarian assistance (2022-2024).

UN Women leading the Regional Gender Taskforce for Ukraine refugee response resulting in **3 regional gender analyses**; **8 multisector interagency assessments** integrating gender to inform the refugee response in **7 host countries**.

The GiHA working group in Ukraine has 300+ members

Moldova **62** women CSOs were supported in gender responsive humanitarian assistance.

Türkiye **15,172** women and girls received essential services as earthquake response and recovery (2022-2024).



¹ References to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Programmatic Results

– Ending Violence Against Women and Women’s Economic Empowerment

Ending Violence Against Women

+26.8M people have been reached through advocacy campaigns challenging harmful norms and promoting violence prevention since 2022.

24,000

women survivors of violence in ECA programme countries benefitted from VAWG protection services.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign (2024) reached 16+ million people

Tajikistan, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belarus took deliberate action to improve the legislative environment for VAWG.

Women’s Economic Empowerment

29,000 women in ECA region benefitted from targeted economic empowerment programs, 3,500 of them got employed, 250 registered new business (2024).

5000+ women from 22 countries enhanced their skills through regional Women’s Entrepreneurship EXPO bootcamps (2021-2025).

6.25 million people reached by communication campaign (2024).

2,580 companies joined the WEPs (by 2024)

5 countries implemented reforms on care work, leading to modest increase in labor force participation rate.

UN Coordination

Gender Mainstreaming in UN Country Teams

ECA has the highest level of gender mainstreaming across the UN System.



88% of Gender Theme Groups are meeting or exceeding minimum requirements indicating they are empowered to influence UNCT.

In 2024 **65%** of UNCTs met or exceeded minimum standards for UN programmatic results on GEWE up from 40% in 2022.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR TRANSFORMATIVE RESULTS

100% of programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina are implemented with other UN Agencies.

45% of UN Women's annual budget in Moldova is delivered via joint programmes.

38% of ongoing programmes in ECA are implemented jointly with other UN agencies.

For 12 new UNSDCFs, UN Women ECA provided technical expertise to effectively mainstream gender, leveraging our leadership in regional/country coordination mechanisms

UN Cooperation Frameworks in ECA had a gender sensitive outcome in 2023 by **61%**

Organizational Efficiency and Effectiveness

\$190M+

implemented
in ECA region
during 2022-2025

Funding:

17% core

83% non-core

Non-core resources
increased by

28%



In 2025, ECA mobilized
\$4.45 for every \$1 of core

70%

of core resources
allocated to Country Offices

Looking Ahead: *UN Women ECARO's Strategic Approach*

Sharpened focus across priority areas

- 1** Gender-Responsive Governance & Women's Leadership (WPP)
- 2** Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)
- 3** Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)
- 4** Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS & HA)



Enabling systemic change through institutional strengthening by leveraging gender data, gender-responsive budgeting, social norms transformation, and accountability mechanisms across governance systems; the EU Aquis will remain a key entry point.

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Transforming ways of working and building regional capacities through enhanced regional gender architecture, a stronger UN coordination role, and agile, cross-functional capacities aligned with the UN 2.0 vision to respond effectively to complex challenges.

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Co-creation & ownership of a forward-looking Strategic Note grounded in foresight analysis, anticipatory thinking and unlocking opportunities to advance gender equality amid uncertainty.



FOR ALL
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Thank you!

