



UN-WOMEN EXECUTIVE BOARD

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

19 February 2026

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)

Strategy, Planning, Results and Effectiveness Division (SPRED)

Photo: UN-Women





Content



1. Overview of Enterprise Risk Management at UN-Women
2. Principal risks facing the organization

STRENGTHENING RISK MANAGEMENT AT UN-WOMEN

Regular updates to ERM architecture

01

- Risk Management Policy and Procedure revised (September 2025)
- Introduction of Regional Risk Management Committees

Continuous review of risk profile

02

- Continuous bottom-up (office-level) and top-down (corporate) risk monitoring
- Supported by Risk Deep Dives at senior management level

Systems to identify and manage risks

03

- Outcomes of micro risk assessments feed into Strategic Note risk registers
- Ongoing integration with PRISM (the new results management system) for end-to-end linkage to Planning, Monitoring and Reporting

Driving compliance across UN-Women

04

- Quality assurance reviews of all Strategic Note risk registers
- Enhanced training, informed by recommendations from upcoming audit on ERM
- Quarterly Business Review (QBR) regularly tracking risk compliance metrics

Oversight of programme partner risks

05

- Introduction of mandatory risk registers for programme partners in 2026 to reinforce early detection and risk-based assurance
- Outcomes feed into Strategic Note risk registers for continuous monitoring

PRINCIPAL RISKS

1



Financial

Decline in the quality, level and/or type of funding may affect programme delivery and strategic objectives. UN-Women mitigates this risk by advancing predictable funding, transparency, and resilience through diversification and enhanced efficiency.

2



External environment

Adverse changes in the external operating context, including political, economic, climate and/or humanitarian crisis, may impact operations. UN-Women mitigates this risk through partnerships and UN coordination, country-level monitoring and advocacy, and stronger crisis and climate readiness.

3



Strategic Positioning

A competitive and evolving multilateral environment (e.g., UN80) may bring challenges in advancing UN-Women's triple mandate. UN-Women mitigates this risk by strengthening strategic positioning of the triple mandate, deepening partnerships and accountability, and advancing the pivot to regions and countries.

4



Cybersecurity

Exposure to cyberattacks, data breaches, and/or digital disruptions may compromise operations, information integrity or service continuity. UN-Women mitigates this risk by strengthening cyber controls, managing emerging-tech risks, and leveraging digital innovation.

5



Accountability and reputational

Perceived or actual lapses in accountability, transparency, or ethical conduct may result in loss of stakeholder trust and reputational damage. UN-Women mitigates this risk through an integrated integrity and safeguarding approach, survivor-centred SEA/SH prevention and response, and strengthened risk-based controls.

UN-WOMEN'S RISK APPETITE



01

UN-Women accepts **higher contextual and strategic risks** when responding to crises or operating in fragile and high-need settings, where opportunities for impact are greatest.



02

UN-Women maintains a **low risk appetite for safety and security, fiduciary, safeguarding, and accountability risks**, reflecting its duty to protect people, resources, and trust in all contexts.



03

Risks are continuously monitored against defined tolerances and **promptly escalated** when thresholds are approached or exceeded, enabling timely mitigation, management action, and informed decision-making.



THANK YOU

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