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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Technical cooperation activities

Summary

The present document provides an overview of the technical cooperation activities related to women's issues undertaken by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) since the ninth session of the Committee on Women, which was held in Amman on 26 and 27 November 2019.

The document presents a set of activities that demonstrate the interdependence of the functions of ESCWA as a research institution that publishes studies to support policy reforms in member States, as a regional forum to build consensus among member States on the challenges they face and ways to address them and as a house of expertise that provides technical advice to decision makers at their request.

The Committee on Women is invited to take note of the implemented technical cooperation activities and to provide comments and suggestions for how to move forward.

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Introduction

1. The present document provides an overview of the technical cooperation activities related to women's issues undertaken by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) since the ninth session of the Committee on Women (Amman, 26 and 27 November 2019). These activities have been implemented by the Executive Secretariat in response to requests from member States for support in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment. The technical cooperation services provided by ESCWA fall into the following three categories: advisory services to support countries on issues related to public policies, capacity-building workshops and field projects. ESCWA has continued its efforts to transfer expertise to Arab States from inside and outside the region, and to translate its standard work and findings from its research into capacity-building and skills-enhancing programmes in member States and then into national and regional policies. Audio-visual materials have also been produced to spread knowledge and raise awareness of gender equality and women's empowerment issues. At the end of the document is a table showing all activities that fall under technical cooperation.

2. Technical cooperation at ESCWA is part of the efforts by the United Nations to achieve the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) at the regional and national levels. Technical cooperation activities related to women's issues are aimed at supporting member States in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment. These activities respond to the emerging needs of States. In this context, ESCWA has worked closely with them to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its economic and social impacts on women. ESCWA is engaged in cooperation activities in partnership with national women's machineries to support member States in achieving gender justice, as a basis for sustainable development, security and enforcement of women's rights as stipulated in international frameworks. The ESCWA Executive Secretariat seeks to plan integrated technical support for member States for greater effectiveness, increased impact and enhanced transparency and accountability and works to implement frameworks to coordinate cooperation activities with stakeholders at the national level.

3. ESCWA continues to expand its partnerships with specialized United Nations organizations, such as UN-Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI); regional organizations such as the League of Arab States and the Arab Women Organization; academia, such as the Lebanese American University; research centres, such as the Oslo Institute for Peace Studies and the Georgetown Institute For Women, Peace and Security; civil society organizations, such as ABAAD-Resource Centre for Gender Equality (Lebanon), the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality "Raedat", the Iraqi Institute; and national human rights institutions, such as the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions.

4. Requests for technical cooperation in gender equality and women's empowerment submitted by member States since the ninth session of the Committee on Women focused on the following topics: (a) response to the COVID-19 pandemic; (b) fighting violence against women; (c) women, peace and security; (d) gender justice; (e) women's political participation; (f) women's economic participation; (g) member States' interaction with international mechanisms on women's rights; and (h) expanding consideration of gender equality at all levels. Some of the support provided by ESCWA falls under the scope of work of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, established by the Executive Secretariat pursuant to a recommendation by the Committee on Women at its seventh session (Muscat, 20–21 January 2016). The Subcommittee works to support member States in implementing SDG 5 and mainstreaming an equality perspective in the implementation of other goals. Document E/ESCWA/C.7/2021/5 shows the support provided to the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals and the results of its work.

I. Strengthening the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating its economic and social impacts on women

5. At the regional level, ESCWA has prepared a report on “Measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic at the level of Government policies and gender equality” to be released soon. The report provides a summary of the measures adopted by Arab States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including financial packages provided to businesses, health services, labour market measures, loans and tax facilities, assistance and social insurance, and other public policies. The report shows that few of the actions taken were gender sensitive. For example, all Arab States have taken 142 social assistance measures, of which only 20 are gender sensitive. The report illustrates the implications of gender-insensitive actions for the realities of women and girls, particularly in light of the challenges women faced prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. At the national level, in response to a request for technical support from the National Family Safety Program in Saudi Arabia, ESCWA coordinated the efforts of a number of United Nations organizations between June and December 2020, in collaboration with the Program, to implement the Capacity-building programme to ensure a comprehensive approach for basic services focused on survivors of domestic violence in Saudi Arabia, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of service providers to respond to the needs of survivors of violence under the COVID-19 pandemic and build ties between service providers regionally. The programme provided 12 virtual seminars on topics including remote management of cases of violence against women, child helplines under the COVID-19 pandemic, violence, abuse and neglect of older women and the provision of shelter services for survivors of violence in the Arab region. More than 400 service providers in Saudi Arabia participated in the seminars.

7. ESCWA provided technical support to the General Women’s Union of the United Arab Emirates to prepare a guidance paper on the participation of the General Women’s Union in the Government’s general framework for national emergency, crisis and disaster response in April 2020, coinciding with the outbreak of the pandemic. The paper proposed guidelines to ensure that the perspective of gender equality and women’s empowerment was integrated into the overall framework, particularly with regard to pandemic response.

8. ESCWA also provided technical support to the Women’s Support and Empowerment Unit of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord in Libya, which is the national mechanism for women’s affairs. The support addressed the mechanism for preparing an analytical report on violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 lockdown.

II. Fighting violence against women

9. At the regional level, ESCWA, in partnership with UN-Women, organized an online regional workshop entitled “Services to protect women survivors of violence in the Arab region” on 26 to 29 July 2021. The workshop aimed to strengthen the ability of national women’s machineries and service providers for survivors of violence to provide services that are high quality, affordable, accessible and in line with international standards. Representatives of national women’s machineries and more than 100 service providers in 13 Arab countries participated in the workshop.

10. To support the Sudan in developing a national system to document cases of violence against women and girls and provide services to survivors, ESCWA held [a series of seminars on “Best practices and shared experiences on shelters for women survivors of violence”](#) from 25 to 27 August 2020. The workshop aimed primarily to provide knowledge to the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and other participants about the standards and tools available to address violence against women and to implement a holistic survivor-focused approach to provide shelter for them.

11. ESCWA supported the State of Palestine in preparing a study on the reality of violence against women and girls that focused on context analysis in Palestine, mechanisms for strengthening the referral system, identification of key stakeholders and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis. The study

highlighted the challenges faced by service providers amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It is part of a review of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women, which is being updated by the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

12. ESCWA also supported Morocco in developing a financial plan to accompany the National Strategy on Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls by 2030. The financial plan aims to estimate the costs of actions under the Strategy, helping to link achievements to specific budget allocations by official bodies and to monitor them. A participatory workshop was held in Rabat on 29 and 30 June 2021, bringing together representatives of official bodies who worked to calculate the costs of the main actions, which were used as the basis for developing the financial plan.

13. ESCWA, in collaboration with UNFPA in Lebanon, supported the National Commission for Lebanese Women in assessing the achievements of the national strategy countering violence against women and girls two years after it was issued. The objective of the assessment is to identify the achievements from 2019 to 2021 in order to assess the impact and develop the necessary measures to ensure that the objectives of the strategy are achieved.

14. Also in Lebanon, ESCWA, in partnership with UNFPA, supported the National Commission for Lebanese Women in developing standard operating procedures for the application of Law No. 205/2020 on the criminalization of sexual harassment and the rehabilitation of its victims in private sector institutions. These procedures and the accompanying training programme are aimed at clarifying the rights under the law for those in the private sector and at establishing a mechanism to receive reports, investigate cases of sexual harassment, punish perpetrators and provide redress to victims.

15. ESCWA, in partnership with UNFPA, supported the National Commission for Lebanese Women in developing standard operating procedures for domestic violence shelters, to ensure minimum standards in terms of their capacity, availability, geographical coverage or services provided.

16. In collaboration with the Directorate of Women at the Ministry of Social Development in Oman, ESCWA held an online specialized workshop on health, legal, police and social service standards for survivors of violence on 22 and 23 June 2021, as part of enhancing the knowledge of workers in this field about good practices from Arab and international experiences on countering violence against women.

17. ESCWA continued to support member States in assessing the economic cost of violence against women by building on its previous publications, which include [“Estimating costs of marital violence in the Arab region: an operational model”](#) in partnership with the UN-Women Regional Office and [“Guidelines to estimate the economic cost of domestic violence in the Arab region”](#), issued in partnership with UNFPA. ESCWA has undertaken preparatory work for estimating the economic cost of violence in Jordan. In the first phase, it conducted field visits to learn about national efforts to counter violence against women and related services and the availability of data and information to estimate the cost of such violence, through interviews with various relevant national actors. It prepared a national report to present the results of these visits; proposed a plan to estimate the cost of violence against women and identify mechanisms to be implemented to fill data gaps; and proposed future steps in accordance with the model developed by ESCWA. In the second phase, two days of consultations were held with various national stakeholders in Jordan to validate the results of the field visit reports and agree on subsequent steps to assess the economic cost of violence against women.

18. In the same vein, as part of its continued support for the State of Palestine in estimating the economic cost of violence against women, ESCWA contributed to the development of the national survey on the prevalence of violence and the economic cost of spousal violence and accompanied the data analysis process, including estimating the prevalence of violence in the State of Palestine and estimating its economic cost, the first national study using the [“Guidelines to estimate the economic cost of domestic violence in the Arab region”](#).

III. Women, peace and security

19. At the regional level, ESCWA organized a regional workshop on the Women, Peace and Security Index from 19 to 26 January 2021, in partnership with the Arab Institute for Women at the Lebanese American University and in collaboration with the Oslo Institute for Peace Studies and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The workshop aimed to enhance knowledge about how to use the Index at the national level to enable decision-makers to adopt positive measures that contribute to women's independence and empowerment in society. The [workshop helped clarify the indicators for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda](#), taking into account the overall role of the agenda and its specialized and multiple priorities that can vary according to context, stakeholders and time frame. Participants made presentations on the Women, Peace and Security Index in various countries of the region, at the national and local levels.

20. Given the importance of monitoring, evaluating and planning financial costs as a tool to enhance accountability in the implementation of national plans, ESCWA organized an online subregional workshop on monitoring and estimating the costs of national action plans for women, peace and security from 20 to 23 July 2020. [The workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills needed to set a budget and introduce a monitoring and evaluation framework for the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security](#) at national women's machineries in Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.

21. In support of Arab States' interaction with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the implementation of [Security Council resolution 1325 \(2000\)](#) and complementary resolutions through a national action plan designed for the purpose, ESCWA launched a national consultation process to formulate the first Sudanese National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for 2020–2022 (Khartoum, 14–15 December 2019) and provided technical support for the development of the plan, which was launched in March 2020.

22. ESCWA provided technical support to Yemen to develop the aforementioned national action plan on women, peace and security, through technical consultations and workshops to train trainers from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour on the draft national plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security (2019–2021). The Yemeni Cabinet adopted the national plan in December 2019. ESCWA also supported the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in preparing the executive summary of the national plan and translating it for dissemination to donors.

23. As part of the support for member States in implementing their national plans on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, a national project was designed that would include the Lebanese Government (represented by the National Commission for Lebanese Women) and United Nations agencies (ESCWA, UN-Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)) to accompany the Lebanese State in implementing its [national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 \(2000\) on women, peace and security](#). The plan was adopted by the Lebanese Government on 12 September 2019. ESCWA has also contributed to the formation of two national coordinating committees on women in the economy and women in politics and public affairs as part of the 1325 National Steering Committee, which is tasked with following up on the plan and monitoring its implementation.

24. ESCWA also provided technical support to the Supreme Council for Family Affairs in Kuwait by organizing [an online national workshop on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Kuwait](#) (28–29 September and 13 October 2020). The workshop was attended by governmental and non-governmental organizations that discussed the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and its intersections with various international frameworks related to sustainable development, women, peace and security, as well as options for States to respond to the agenda.

25. As part of the ESCWA project to assist and empower Syrian refugee women and girls at risk in host communities in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt, three papers have been prepared to show the status of Syrian refugee women in host communities, with funding and support from the Italian Agency for Development

Cooperation. The first paper was titled “[Women Syrian refugees in Jordan: Social, legal and development needs](#)” and the second “[Women Syrian refugees in Lebanon: Social, legal and development needs](#)”. The third paper, “Strategic needs for women Syrian refugees”, will be published soon and will examine the needs of refugee women upon their return to their country.

26. In support of the State of Palestine following the aggression against Gaza in May 2021, ESCWA conducted a rapid gender analysis (RGA) on equality issues to gather information on disparities in needs, capacities and coping strategies between women, men, boys and girls. The aim of the analysis was to collect and analyse data on community dynamics associated with the social roles of women and men, to draw additional data from assessments and analysis of women’s and men’s social roles and to formulate practical recommendations for all parties concerned with enhancing the response to the needs of women and girls in relief and reconstruction operations.

27. In the same vein, ESCWA provided technical support to the Ministry of Women’s Affairs in Palestine to hold an international conference to discuss Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, hear the experiences of women and girls in Gaza and strengthen solidarity and ways of ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable.

IV. Gender justice

28. ESCWA seeks to harmonize its work on gender justice in the Arab region with the comprehensive definition of gender justice adopted by member States at the [seventh session of the Committee on Women in the Muscat Declaration: Towards the Achievement of Gender Justice in the Arab Region](#). This approach to gender justice has two principal components: ensuring accountability by creating effective national mechanisms that limit discriminatory measures, and achieving equality by eliminating all forms of discrimination between men and women.

29. ESCWA provided technical support to the Supreme Council for Women and the Royal University for Women in Bahrain to establish the Women’s Research Centre at the Royal University of Bahrain. ESCWA contributed to the development of a reference paper on the development of an action plan to look at how the Centre was established and to develop a preliminary vision of its vision and purpose, and the issues to be implemented. The Centre was launched on 11 February 2021. It will be a dynamic research facility and hub for policymakers, civil society and academics to influence policies and practices that promote the women’s rights agenda in the Arab region.

30. ESCWA developed the “Capacity-Building Programme on Gender Equality Issues for the State of Palestine Legislation Harmonization Committee: Integrating a Gender Equality Perspective into National Legislation”. The training programme provides a mechanism for strengthening the capacity of members of the Legislation Harmonization Committee, which is the body responsible for harmonizing Palestinian national legislation with international conventions and treaties to which the State of Palestine has acceded, while ensuring that a gender equality perspective is integrated into the harmonization process in accordance with relevant international frameworks, principles and standards.

V. Women’s political participation

31. ESCWA, in partnership with the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality “Raedat”, UN-Women and the Scottish National Party’s Westminster Foundation for Democracy, has implemented a regional project on “Improving women’s political representation in elections in the Arab region”. As part of this project, [regional training workshops for women’s political leadership trainers and women candidates in Arab States](#) were held online from 6 to 28 November 2020. The training built the capacity of 22 trainers from 14 Arab States to transfer the knowledge and skills gained to national partners and managers of women’s campaigns.

32. In Iraq, cooperation between ESCWA, UNAMI and the Iraqi Institute resulted in the implementation of an integrated project in 2019–2020 on “promoting women’s political participation”. On 31 October 2020, a policy report and summary on “Women running for elected office in Iraq: Needs and challenges” was launched to mark the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

33. In coordination and cooperation with the Women’s Empowerment Department of the Secretariat General of the Iraqi Cabinet, ESCWA provided technical support to Iraq in implementing the general framework of the action plan to promote women’s participation in the 2021 Chamber of Deputies elections.

VI. Strengthening women’s economic participation

34. In support of Arab States in developing and reforming the care economy and social protection policies and promoting women’s economic empowerment, ESCWA has developed guidelines on the care economy that define what it is, explain its components and its links to social protection policies and address the challenges facing its expansion and its importance in promoting women’s economic empowerment. These principles are primarily addressed to policymakers and senior officials in the relevant countries and are expected to form the basis of training workshops targeting the relevant national institutions.

35. As part of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in Lebanon and in order to help build a better understanding of the national public framework that can promote or hinder women’s economic participation, ESCWA has supported the National Commission for Lebanese Women in conducting a survey and analysis of all relevant policies, strategies, mechanisms and official circulars affecting economic participation, particularly of women, at the national, sectoral, ministerial and local levels, and at the level of non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations. The survey showed that most of Lebanon’s economic policies were couched in gender-neutral language and did not directly seek to achieve gender equality or women’s economic empowerment.

36. In order to delve deeper into the subject of unpaid care and understand the national dynamics in the provision of care, the dynamics emerging in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the actions taken to contain it, ESCWA has prepared a number of national case studies on the care economy and the unpaid care work hindering women’s active participation in the economy. The studies cover childcare centres and homes in Lebanon, Mauritania and Saudi Arabia; services and care work for older persons in Morocco; and services and care work for persons with disabilities in Oman. The studies present a package of recommendations on the development and restructuring of care-related measures to meet women’s needs and enhance their ability to participate economically.

VII. Interaction between member States and international women’s rights mechanisms

37. In cooperation with UN-Women and the League of Arab States, ESCWA continued to implement the regional project to prepare the Arab Report on the [Periodic Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 25 Years](#), which was presented to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session in New York in March 2020. In this context, the [Group of Experts meeting to review the regional report on progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 25 years](#) was held in Beirut on 25 and 26 September 2019, to present and discuss progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region over the past five years, based on national reports, and thence to draft the unified regional report for the Arab region. The [High-Level Conference on Progress Made in the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after Twenty-Five Years](#) was held in Amman on 28 November 2019, during which a final document was adopted reaffirming the Beijing principles and priorities for action during the coming period were set. A high-level meeting to facilitate regional consensus on priorities arising from the review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after twenty-five years was then held in New York on 9 and 10 March 2020, to support the priorities arising from the regional review.

38. Also at the regional level, in collaboration with the Arab Women's Organization and UN-Women, ESCWA held an online workshop from 12–16 January 2021 for North African States and the Sudan, with representatives and representatives from ministries of foreign affairs, national women's mechanisms and civil society organizations. The workshop dealt with the process of preparing State reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) using the latest technology, and improving the internal coordination capabilities of the relevant national authorities. This workshop complemented ESCWA's regional training efforts with the Arab Women's Organization to enhance the capacity of the mechanisms mentioned, in particular to facilitate the task of writing reports with intersecting topics and submission dates.

39. ESCWA, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for the Syrian Arab Republic and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, contributed to a virtual workshop on 16 December to build the capacity of Syrian Government agencies to prepare the third periodic report of the universal periodic review mechanism.

VIII. Gender mainstreaming at ESCWA

40. ESCWA provides technical support for conducting a “gender-responsive institutional audit” of national women's mechanisms, based on its successful experience in implementing the [Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment across United Nations organizations](#). ESCWA issued a training guide titled “[Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment within National Institutions: Technical Notes \(Second Edition\)](#)” which includes performance indicators for public institutions in this area.

41. Based on the importance of gender equality audits as a tool for self-assessment and a necessary initial step ahead of the implementation of the action plan, ESCWA has encouraged all national mechanisms on women's affairs in Arab States to conduct them. According to technical observations on the implementation of the plan, the International Labour Organization (ILO) methodology is used to prepare participatory gender audits. This methodology requires that the audit process be led by a team of facilitators certified by ILO. On this basis, ESCWA, in collaboration with ILO and the International Training Centre of the ILO, has organized a training programme to build the capacity of the staff of national women's mechanisms in the Arab States and facilitate certification as facilitators of ILO participatory gender audits. The training programme, held between December 2019 and January 2020, included a distance education component followed by an intensive face-to-face component. Following the programme, certifications were awarded to a group of 15 facilitators from the Arab region, who formed a core of experts in the gender participatory audit process that would work in national mechanisms for women's affairs and other Government institutions to launch the action plan.

42. Based on the results of this training, in July and August 2020 ESCWA provided technical support to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family of Mauritania to prepare a participatory audit taking into account gender equality according to the ILO methodology. Facilitators from the national women's mechanisms in Jordan and Morocco served on the audit team. The audit is the first phase of the Ministry's launch of the “[Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment within National Institutions](#)”, developed by ESCWA in consultation with national mechanisms on women's affairs in the Arab region to strengthen their capacity to integrate gender equality into the work of national institutions. Based on the recommendations of the participatory audit, the Ministry selected 40 staff members from the Ministry's key directorates and departments to participate in an integrated training programme to build and strengthen their capacity and facilitation skills and to transfer the expertise and knowledge they acquired to their departments. The programme, implemented in October 2020, aims to build the capacity of participants to integrate gender equality at every stage of a programme's life cycle, to raise awareness of the importance of using a gender-responsive approach in planning, implementation and evaluation as well. The practical part of the programme allowed participants to apply mechanisms for integrating gender equality into programmes and initiatives.

43. ESCWA has also developed a “Capacity-building programme on the development of gender-responsive and sustainable development-responsive policy papers in the State of Palestine”. The programme mainly addresses the planning and policy staff of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, as the national mechanism for

women's affairs in the State of Palestine, and other ministries and departments concerned with developing public policies that are responsive to gender equality and sustainable development in Palestine.

IX. Conclusion

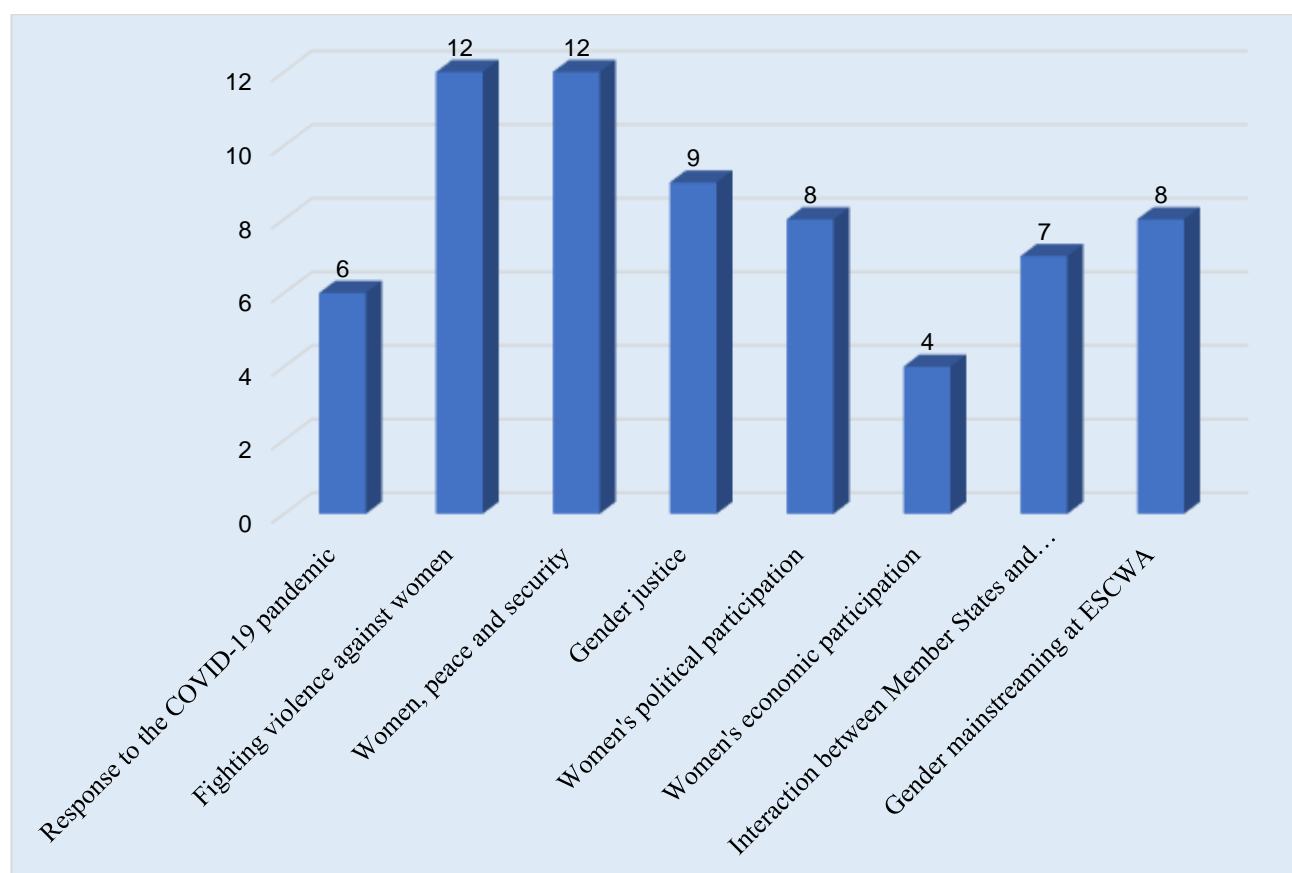
44. ESCWA seeks to respond to the needs of member States and meet their technical support requests, which are the priorities of ESCWA interventions in the region, including the implementation of global policy frameworks, notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The ESCWA Centre for Women strives to promote women's rights and empowerment and further gender equality in all Arab countries.

45. In this context, ESCWA coordinates its interventions with those of the United Nations country team and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in each country, with the aim of avoiding duplication of efforts, maximizing the utilization of available resources and ensuring complementarity and added value.

46. ESCWA is committed to continuing constructive interaction with member States and working to provide the required advisory services, in cooperation with all its partners in the region, particularly national women's machineries.

Annex

**Technical cooperation activities in the area of gender equality
and women's empowerment, 2019–2021**



List of activities

	Activity	Partner	Beneficiary	Outputs
Strengthening the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating its economic and social impacts on women				
1	Report: "Measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic at the level of Government policies and gender equality"		Government agencies, national machineries	Policy analysis to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic from a gender equality perspective
2	Capacity-building programme to ensure a comprehensive approach to basic services focused on survivors of domestic violence in Saudi Arabia, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (June 2020–March 2021)	Saudi National Family Safety Program, UN-Women, UNDP, UNICEF, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNFPA, HelpAge International	Government agencies, civil society	Knowledge bank and reference materials to protect women and children from epidemics

List of activities				
	Activity	Partner	Beneficiary	Outputs
3	Guidance paper on the participation of the General Women's Union in the general framework of the national response to emergency, crisis and disaster management in the United Arab Emirates (April 2020)	United Arab Emirates General Women's Union	Government agencies	Draft guidance paper on the participation of the General Women's Union in the general framework of the national response to emergency, crisis and disaster management in the United Arab Emirates, upon the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic
4	Technical support on the mechanism for preparing an analytical report on violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 lockdown in Libya (28 April 2020)	Women's Support and Empowerment Unit in the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord in Libya	Government agencies	Draft structure of the analytical report on violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 lockdown in Libya
5	Webinar on Women's Leadership: Towards an Equal Future in the World of COVID-19, celebrating International Women's Day (Online, 8 March 2021)	Ministry of Social Development and Labour of Qatar	Government agencies, civil society	Understanding of women's political participation in the Arab region and challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic
6	Third Saudi Family Forum (Online, 11 October 2020)	Family Affairs Council, Saudi Arabia	Government agencies, civil society	Increased knowledge of the requirements and standards for women's issues and work-life balance during the COVID-19 pandemic
Fighting violence against women				
7	Regional online workshop on "Services to protect women survivors of violence in the Arab Region" (26–29 July 2021)	UN-Women	Government agencies	Strengthened ability of national women's machineries and service providers for survivors of violence to provide services that are high quality, affordable, accessible and in line with international standards
8	Regional workshop on the Regional Accountability Framework of Action on Ending Child Marriage in Arab States (Amman, 25–26 February 2020)	UNICEF, UNFPA	Government agencies, civil society, international community	Regional framework with five priority areas of intervention to end child marriage, agreed basic messages, interventions and ways to influence member States and other bodies working on the issue of child marriage
9	Series of webinars on best practices and shared experiences on shelters for women survivors of violence in the Sudan (Khartoum, 25–27 August 2020)	Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Sudan	Government agencies, civil society	Discussion of the standards and tools available to address violence against women and implement a comprehensive survivor-focused approach to providing shelter service

List of activities

	Activity	Partner	Beneficiary	Outputs
10	Study on violence against women and girls in the State of Palestine as part of a review and modernization of the National Strategy on Violence against Women and Girls (1 May – 30 October 2020)	Ministry of Women's Affairs of the State of Palestine	Government agencies, civil society	Study on violence against women and girls in the State of Palestine, focusing on the challenges faced by service providers amid the COVID-19 pandemic, to contribute to understanding the prevalence of violence and identifying prevention services available and its effects on survivors
11	Participatory training workshop to develop a financial plan accompanying the Moroccan National Strategy on Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls in Horizon 2030 (Rabat, 29–30 June 2021)	Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality and Family	Government agencies	Estimate of the financial costs of implementing the National Strategy on Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls in Horizon 2030
12	Strategy and national action plan to combat violence against women and girls in Lebanon	National Commission for Lebanese Women, UNFPA (Lebanon Office)	Government agencies, civil society	Preparation of a monitoring and evaluation framework, a publishable final version and distribution and implementation of the strategy and national action plan to combat violence against women and girls in Lebanon, which was officially adopted in February 2019
13	Development of standard operating procedures for the implementation of the sexual harassment law in Lebanon	National Commission for Lebanese Women, UNFPA (Lebanon Office)	Government agencies, civil society, private sector	Mechanism to explain to private sector workers their rights under the Sexual Harassment Criminalization and Victim Rehabilitation Act No. 205/2020
14	Development of standard operating procedures for shelters in Lebanon	National Commission for Lebanese Women, UNFPA (Lebanon Office)	Government agencies, civil society	Minimum standards for shelters providing services to survivors of violence
15	Specialized online workshop on standards for health, legal, police and social services for survivors of violence in Oman (22–23 June 2021)	Ministry of Social Development	Government agencies, civil society	Capacity-building on standards and practices to ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach to addressing violence against women through legal/policy frameworks and service delivery
16	Workshop on estimating the economic cost of violence against women for Iraqi parliamentarians (Baghdad, 12–13 October 2019)	Westminster Foundation for Democracy	Iraqi Parliamentarians	Capacity-building on the role of parliamentarians in combatting violence against women in Iraq and draft guidelines for the role of parliamentarians in estimating the cost of violence against women

List of activities				
	Activity	Partner	Beneficiary	Outputs
17	Context analysis to estimate the economic cost of violence against women in Jordan (11 and 14 March 2021)	Jordanian National Commission for Women	Government agencies, civil society	Analysis of the trends and means needed for the successful implementation of the project to estimate the economic cost of violence against women
18	National study on the cost and prevalence of violence against women in the State of Palestine (2020–2021)	Ministry of Women's Affairs, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, National University of Ireland	Government agencies	Release of a report titled “The economic cost of spousal violence against women in the State of Palestine” containing data analysis and an estimate of the annual economic (direct and indirect) costs of spousal violence against women for individuals/households, and the overall costs of failure to take action
Women, peace and security				
19	Regional workshop on the Women, Peace and Security Index (Online, 19–26 January 2021)	Arab Institute for Women at the Lebanese American University, the Oslo Institute for Peace Studies, the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security	Government agencies	Presentation of the Women, Peace and Security Index and information on how to use it at the national level to enable decision-makers to adopt positive measures that contribute to women's independence and empowerment in society
20	Subregional online workshop on the development of frameworks for monitoring and estimating the costs of national action plans on women, peace and security (20–23 July 2020)	National women's machineries in Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen	Government agencies	Knowledge and skills needed to set a budget and introduce a monitoring and evaluation framework for the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security at national women's machineries in Arab States.
21	National consultations to draft a national action plan on women, peace and security in the Sudan (Khartoum, 14–15 December 2019) and launch it in March 2020	Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Geneva Institute for Human Rights	Government agencies, civil society	Setting national priorities for a national action plan on women, peace and security in the Sudan
22	Preparation, translation and promotion among donors of the Executive Summary of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in Yemen (13 February 2020)	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour	Government agencies, civil society, United Nations agencies, donors	Executive summary in Arabic and English of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in Yemen, to be promoted among donors

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	Activity	Partner	Beneficiary	Outputs
23	Launch of the National Coordinating Committee for Women in the Economy and the National Coordinating Committee for Women in Politics and Public Affairs (Beirut, 15 and 17 December 2020)	National Commission for Lebanese Women	Government agencies, civil society	Formation of two national coordinating committees specializing in women in the economy and women in politics and public affairs as part of the 1325 National Steering Committee, which monitors the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security in Lebanon
24	National online workshop on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Kuwait (Kuwait City, 28–29 September and 13 October 2020)	Supreme Council for Family Affairs of Kuwait	Government agencies, civil society	Explanation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and its intersections with various international frameworks related to sustainable development, women, peace and security, as well as options for States to respond to the agenda
25	Three papers on the status of Syrian refugee women in host communities in Jordan and Lebanon, with the third paper addressing the strategic needs of refugee women upon their return to Syria. The three papers were discussed at an expert meeting	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation	Government agencies, civil society	Identification of the practical and strategic needs of refugee women with the aim of improving living conditions and researching issues that promote gender equality
26	Quick analysis of gender equality issues following the Israeli aggression against Gaza in May 2021	Ministry of Women's Affairs of the State of Palestine	Government agencies, donors, civil society	Practical recommendations to enhance the response to the needs of women and girls as part of relief and reconstruction
27	Technical support for an international conference on the Israeli aggression against Gaza	Ministry of Women's Affairs of the State of Palestine	Government agencies, donors, civil society	Recognition of the various effects of aggression on women
28	League of Arab States High-Level Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Crisis Response Capabilities (Cairo, 20–21 November 2019)	League of Arab States	Government agencies	Discussion of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as a framework and the role of national women's machineries in integrating and promoting women's rights in the post-conflict period
29	Webinar on transitional justice from a gender perspective (13 and 17 April 2020)	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, University of Peace		Increased knowledge of methodologies for integrating a gender perspective into transitional justice processes and frameworks and shared experiences from the region and beyond

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30	20th Anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Tunisia (Tunisia, 26 October 2020)	Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Seniors of Tunisia, UN-Women, UNDP	Government agencies, civil society	Introducing experiences of implementing Resolution 1325 in the Arab region
Gender justice				
31	Technical support for the establishment of the Women's Research Centre at the Royal University for Women of Bahrain (Manama, 23–25 October 2019)	Supreme Council for Women, Royal University for Women of Bahrain	Government agencies, academia, civil society	Development of an integrated project proposal for the establishment of the Women's Centre at the Royal University for Women in Bahrain
32	Launch of the Women's Research Centre at the Royal University for Women in Bahrain (Beirut-Manama, 11 February 2021)			Signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Royal University for Women and the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain to launch the Women's Research Centre
33	Capacity-Building Programme on Gender Equality Issues for the State of Palestine Legislation Harmonization Committee: Integrating a Gender Equality Perspective into National Legislation (April 2021)	Ministry of Women's Affairs of the State of Palestine	Government agencies	Training mechanism to strengthen the capacity of members of the State of Palestine Legislation Harmonization Committee to integrate a gender equality perspective into the process of harmonizing legislation with international frameworks, assets and standards
34	National advisory workshop to discuss the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women in Jordan (2020–2025) (Amman, 17 November 2019)	Jordanian National Commission for Women	Government agencies, civil society	Preliminary draft of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women in Jordan (2020–2025) and the development of its theory of change
35	Development of a matrix of assumptions and risks and an action plan to address them in the implementation of the Jordanian National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (2020–2025) (Amman, 1–2 April 2020)			Matrix of assumptions and risks and an action plan to address them in the implementation of the Jordanian National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (2020–2025)

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36	Regional meeting on the situation of women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa (Amman, 22–23 September 2019)	UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, Plan International	Government agencies, civil society, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations	Foundational and conceptual framework for analysing the situation of women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa
37	Series of online meetings of a group of experts on the situation of women and girls in the Middle East (8–20 April 2020)			
38	Women Empowered for Leadership conference for gender equality (Amman, 1–2 October 2019)	HIVOS, Jordanian Government, Dutch Government	Civil society	Strengthened civil society efforts in Jordan to ensure full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life to achieve SDG 5
39	9th Kuwait Women's Conference and Regional Symposium: Implementing SDG 5 Challenges and Approaches (Kuwait, 11–13 November 2019)	Women's Research and Studies Centre at the Kuwait University College of Social Science, Ministry of State for Economic Affairs, Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, UNDP, UN-Women	Academia, Government agencies, civil society, diplomats, private sector, United Nations agencies	Lessons learned and key elements of success to overcome various policymaking and implementation constraints to advance SDG 5 in Kuwait and the region
Strengthening women's political participation				
40	Draft document on improving women's political representation in elections in the Arab region (20 June 2020)	Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality "Raedat"	Parliaments, civil society	Integrated project on improving women's political representation in elections in the Arab region, ready for implementation with partners
41	Regional training for women's political leadership trainers and women candidates in Arab States (Online, 6–28 November 2020)	Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality "Raedat", UN-Women, Westminster Foundation for Democracy of the Scottish National Party		Capacity-building for trainers from Arab States to transfer the knowledge and skills gained to national partners and managers of women's campaigns

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42	Training materials on “Promoting women’s political participation in Iraq” (1 June 2020)	Iraqi Institute, UNAMI	Civil society	Specialized training materials for women and young women from Iraq to enhance their skills and abilities to engage in political life and public affairs
43	Report on “Women Running for Elected Office in Iraq: Needs and Challenges” (Online, 31 October 2020)			Report on “Women Running for Elected Office in Iraq: Needs and Challenges”
44	Policy brief on “Women Running for Elected Office in Iraq: Needs and Challenges” (March 2021)			Policy brief on “Women Running for Elected Office in Iraq: Needs and Challenges”
45	Policy brief on increasing the proportion of women working in the security services in the State of Palestine (November 2020)	Ministry of Women’s Affairs of the State of Palestine	Government agencies	Policy brief on increasing the proportion of women working in the security services from 6 to 30 per cent in the State of Palestine
46	16th General Assembly meeting of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (Cairo, 4–5 December 2019)	Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions	National human rights institutions	Introduction to ESCWA’s work and mandate in the area of gender equality, women’s empowerment, sustainable development and partnerships with national human rights institutions
47	International conference on Social Media: Challenges and Ways to Promote Freedoms and Protect Activists (Doha, 16–17 February 2020)	National Human Rights Committee of Qatar, OHCHR, International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	Government agencies, national human rights institutions, civil society	Introduction to ESCWA’s work in the area of technology as a tool to make cities safe and combat violence against women
Strengthening women’s political participation				
48	Survey and analysis of all policies and strategies on women’s economic participation in Lebanon (2021)	National Commission for Lebanese Women	Government agencies, civil society, United Nations agencies	Development of roadmap for women’s economic participation in Lebanon as part of the joint United Nations programme on women, peace and security in Lebanon and the National Coordinating Committee on Women in the Economy

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49	High-level meeting to discuss the regional action strategy to promote human rights and implement the sustainable development goals (Marrakech, 4–5 February 2020)	Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions	National human rights institutions	Discussion of the international framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and the promotion of human rights
50	Expert group meeting on women's economic empowerment in the Arab region (Online, 28–30 July 2020)	International Labour Organization	Government agencies, international community	Discussion of the proposed structure and the initial plan for a study on women's economic empowerment in the Arab region
51	Webinar on women's rights and family stability in Bahrain on International Women's Day (Online, 8 March 2021)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Council for Women, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bahrain	Government agencies, civil society	Introduction to gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, and how to mainstream them in national policies and country reports, including voluntary national review
Interaction between member States and international women's rights mechanisms				
52	Expert Group Meeting to discuss the Regional Report on Progress in the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab Region Twenty-Five Years Later (Beirut, 25–26 September 2019)	UN-Women, League of Arab States, Arab Women's Organization	National women's machineries in Arab countries, relevant international and regional organizations	Presentation and discussion of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab Region over the past five years based on national reports and the drafting of the unified regional report for the Arab Region, to be presented to the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2020
53	High-Level Conference on Progress Made in the Implementation of Beijing after Twenty-Five Years (Amman, 28 November 2019)	UN-Women, League of Arab States, Arab Women's Organization	National women's machineries in Arab countries, relevant international and regional organizations	Adoption of a final document reaffirming the Beijing Principles and setting priorities for action during the next phase, submitted to the 64th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2020 to reflect the Arab position on the Beijing+25 Review
54	A high-level meeting to facilitate regional consensus on priorities arising from the review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after twenty-five years (New York, 9–10 March 2020)	Commission on the Status of Women (64th session)	Government agencies	Garnering support for the priorities of the review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration after twenty-five years

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55	Two national workshops on follow-up to human rights recommendations for Government human rights coordinators in Jordan (Dead Sea, 11–13 and 18–20 December 2019)	Government Coordinator-General for Human Rights in the Prime Minister’s Office, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Danish Institute for Human Rights	Government Human Rights Coordinators in Jordan	Capacity-building of governmental agencies concerned with monitoring, reporting and compiling recommendations from international human rights conventions (particularly CEDAW) and the universal periodic review mechanism, in synergy with the Jordanian National Human Rights Plan (2016–2025)
56	Subregional training workshop (Middle East countries) on reporting techniques to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Beirut, 30 September – 2 October 2019)	Arab Women’s Organization, UN-Women	Ministries of foreign affairs, national women’s machineries, civil society organizations in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen	Enhancing skills in State reporting to CEDAW using the latest technology and improving the internal coordination capabilities of the relevant national authorities
57	Reporting skills training course for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for north African countries and the Sudan (online, 12–16 January 2021)	Arab Women’s Organization	Ministries of foreign affairs, national women’s machineries, civil society organizations in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia	
58	Virtual workshop on the third session of the universal periodic review mechanism (online, 16 December 2020)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Government agencies	Discussion of the links between the Sustainable Development Goals, human rights, gender equality and ways to highlight them in the universal periodic review process
Gender mainstreaming at ESCWA				
59	Training guide titled “Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment within National Institutions: Technical Notes (Second Edition)”		National institutions and mechanisms	Identification of performance indicators in institutions seeking gender equality and women’s empowerment

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60	Implementation of the capacity-enhancement programme for ILO participatory gender audits (January 2020)	ILO and the International Training Centre of the ILO	National women's machineries	Network of facilitators from the Arab region certified by the ILO in participatory gender audits
61	Implementation of a gender audit according to ILO methodology in the Mauritanian Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family (July – August 2020)	Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family of Mauritania	Government agencies	Adoption and implementation of participatory audit recommendations by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family of Mauritania
62	Workshop on Institutional Planning for the Supreme Council for Family Affairs in Kuwait (Kuwait City, 19–20 February 2020)	Supreme Council for Family Affairs	Government agencies	Best practices and shared experiences with regard to the mandate, functions and elements of institutional flexibility that the national women's machinery must have, and various strategic and institutional planning methodologies and tools
63	Capacity-building programme on the development of gender-responsive and sustainable development-responsive policy papers in the State of Palestine (November 2020)	Ministry of Women's Affairs of the State of Palestine	Government agencies	Practical training mechanism to build the capacity of Government officials working in the design and implementation of public policies
