

Incorporating local perspectives in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Great Lakes Region (iWPS)

The Challenge

Since the 1990s, the Great Lakes Region in Africa has faced ongoing armed violence and political instability, driven by power struggles, ethnic tensions, and competition for resources. Nearly 60% of countries in the region continue to experience low and very low levels of peace. Despite policy commitments in the framework of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, considered for the first time by the United Nations in 2000 with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325, women and girls in the region suffer disproportionately from conflict-related violence, including sexual violence and are underrepresented in peace negotiations and mechanisms due to unequal power structures and harmful gender norms.

Evidence shows that women’s participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20 percent, and by 35 percent the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years. In other words, peace agreements are more likely to last when women are involved in peace processes. While local women’s rights organizations work tirelessly to promote peace, they have limited opportunities to influence policymaking and face financial challenges to conduct their work. As a result, the needs of many remain unaddressed, hindering progress toward lasting, inclusive peace.

The Objective

Civil society and governmental stakeholders have incorporated local perspectives into the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

Project Name	Incorporating local perspectives into the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Great Lakes Region (iWPS)
Commissioned by	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Budget	11.500.000 Euro
Project Region	Great Lakes Region
Lead Executing Agency	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
Duration	January 2024 – December 2027

Our Approach

The project works in collaboration with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), an intergovernmental organization established to promote peace, security, stability, and development in Africa’s Great Lakes region as well as civil society.

The project focuses on three main areas to amplify the integration and impact of local women’s voices in areas related to peace and security (i) strengthening the technical and financial capacity of women-led grassroots organizations, (ii) reinforcing civil society networks, and improving their access to regional political decision-making spaces, (iii) promoting accountability by collecting data and providing analysis to support the implementation of the WPS agenda with local knowledge. All interventions align with the WPS agenda and its four pillars: participation, prevention, protection, relief and recovery.



L. to R.: SGBV training and stakeholders’ meeting, DRC & Registration and access to healthcare services, Tanzania.

Focus Areas

Output 1: Building Capacities of Grassroots Organizations

Strengthening the skills of selected women-led grassroots organizations working on the WPS agenda will enhance their technical, organizational, and administrative abilities. This will enable them to plan and carry out peacebuilding initiatives that are gender-responsive and based on human rights.

Output 2: Regional Dialogue and Networking

Strengthening connections between civil society networks and the ICGLR helps develop solutions that align with local needs and experiences. This ensures policies are more responsive to the needs of communities, promoting inclusive peace that considers women's voices in the Great Lakes Region.

Output 3: Sharing Data-Based Knowledge on WPS Agenda Implementation

Using local knowledge based on data to guide regional WPS policies ensures they are more inclusive and better address the needs of target groups. This helps the ICGLR improve the relevance, sustainability, and effectiveness of their efforts to implement the WPS agenda across the region.



Project Indicator



Indicator 1

1500 individuals

50% of them women and girls, have been supported by 24 gender-responsive and human rights-based initiatives implemented by grassroots organizations in line with the WPS agenda.



Indicator 2

ICGLR has included the results of consultations with civil society stakeholders on incorporating local perspectives into the implementation of the WPS agenda in **5 regional agenda-setting processes.**



Indicator 3

3 good practices

for integrated implementation of the WPS agenda in the region have been officially recognized by the ICGLR.

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