

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY  
2024 CALL FOR PROJECT CONCEPT NOTES  
UN WOMEN**

**I. Overall approach to UNRSF 2024 Call for Concept Notes**

*[Describe how your organization's approach to road safety is connected to your programme of work and its geographical scope and substantive expertise. Link this to your approach to the UNRSF 2024 Call for Concept Notes.]*

UN Women is the UN organization 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 implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four thematic priority areas: 1) Governance and participation in public life, 2) women's economic empowerment, 3) Ending violence against women and girls, and 4) women, peace and security, humanitarian action, and disaster risk reduction. UN Women coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

The Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) section is part of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division at UN Women Headquarters in New York. The section is responsible for a number of functions including policy and technical advice to regional and country offices on EVAW, supporting normative work on EVAW and developing and overseeing global policy support related to global level programmes.

UN Women has been working to ensure safe and sustainable transportation with women and girls through multiple strategies including by promoting their participation in the transportation sector, advocating for gender responsive transportation planning and infrastructure, and developing capacities of transportation authorities including decision-makers on women's safety needs in transportation, including on roads. This work is notably done through its longstanding integrated Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces global programme, spanning 60 cities in 33 countries, including for example interventions aligned with on multi modal transport land use and planning.

Building on over 50 years of sustained efforts undertaken by women's organizations, grassroots, international networks, local governments in cities around the world, UN Women launched the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative. It builds on its "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls" Global Programme which began with 5 cities, and now spans nearly 60 cities in the Global North and South to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls (SVAWG) in public spaces in different settings (urban, rural, online), and notably in transportation, where this is most often likely to happen.

Across the cities where we are supporting integrated programming, transportation emerges as a key area where women experience heightened levels of sexual harassment and where they do not feel safe. This impacts their daily mobility choices, including when, how, and why they move. Lack of safety limits women's autonomous mobility which in turn limits their access to opportunities, including related to education and employment.

Despite affecting millions of women and girls, sexual harassment has long been tolerated, and the issue is largely neglected in policy and practice. The gender gaps in transportation planning and infrastructure further limit women's sense of safety.

The Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces programme has three impact level results:

1. Women and girls enjoy a greater sense of safety, and increased comfort in public spaces
2. **Increased use of public spaces and increased autonomous mobility of women and girls**
3. A reduction in different forms of sexual violence in public spaces, especially in the intervention sites

As noted in the UNRSF Concept Note, "safe and sustainable mobility is key to sustainable development and is among the cross-cutting issues of relevance for the achievement of numerous goals and targets." A failure to include women's perspectives, experiences, and ideas to inform road safety solutions only serves to further reinforce existing gender gaps and is a barrier to achieving the SDGs. By integrating a gender perspective to road safety, informed by local women's voices, efforts across the pillars of the Global Plan of Action for Road Safety. Road safety must consider inclusive and diverse modes of sustainable mobility and transportation for the perspectives of the needs of diverse users, from different genders, ages, disability status, and socio-economic backgrounds. Road safety plans can effectively contribute to closing gender gaps in mobility when diverse women's voices and a gender lens are applied through all phases of the process (data, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, communication of results).

UN Women proposes to implement a regional road safety programme in cities in 3 countries in Africa where we have existing Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces programming, over a period of 18-months. The focus of the intervention is aligned with Funding Priority 1: Regional programmes that implement road safety laws and standards aligned with UN legal instruments. The focus would further seek to advance action related to safe road design, including through capacity building to implement gender responsive lens to Pillar 3 through road safety audits and assessments, and by raising awareness for road managers, users and inspectors of a gender responsive approach. It will also contribute to Pillar 4 on strengthening post-crash response by increasing understanding of the gendered implications of crashes and how best to support those providing after-crash care.

## **II. Application strategy**

*[Please clearly state [yes/no] whether you will be accepting applications of interest from external stakeholders such as governments, intergovernmental bodies, civil society (NGOs, academia etc.) and private sector, for your submission to the UNRSF for this Call. If yes, specify what process/timeline should be followed by these stakeholders to be considered.*

UN Women will integrate a road safety lens to its ongoing work through its Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces global programme. This will enable us to build on existing and well-established partnerships with government at local and national levels who are engaged in this area, as well as with local civil society/women's rights organisations and other key stakeholders to be able to quickly advance programmatic action to address road safety gaps from a gender perspective. So, as a result we would not require a process to accept applications of interest from external stakeholders.

### **III. Contact information**

*[Please provide the contact information of the focal point who will be coordinating the 2024 Call for Concept notes on behalf of your organization.]*

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\*Note:

- This Annex will be posted on the UNRSF webpage.
  - Participating organizations email the secretariat with their respective engagement strategies by 1 July 2024.
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