



STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 - 2028



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1.0 Introduction

Researchers Without Borders (REWiB) is a regional feminist organization established in August 2022 with the mission of monitoring and advocating for the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda in Africa. Our initiative focuses on researching security trends in Africa and their impact on the WPS agenda, collaborating with feminist researchers and peace activists to advocate for sustainable peace and security through the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 at national and regional levels across the continent. We are committed to offering a civil society perspective on WPS implementation in Africa through research endeavours and participation in regional

platforms dedicated to examining WPS progress. By partnering with stakeholders, we aim to provide essential data on WPS implementation to inform policy and practice in the African region.

As the host of the African Feminist Collective on Feminist-Informed Policies (the AfIP Collective), we advocate for a decolonised WPS agenda that centres African women's lived experiences and leadership and aim to redefine peace and security through indigenous African feminist epistemologies and knowledge production that challenges militarised and state-centric security paradigms.

This Strategic Framework is designed to establish a strong brand that demonstrates how feminist research can effectively track the implementation of the WPS agenda and contribute to feminist peace-building and conflict prevention at local, regional, and global levels.

As our first Strategic Plan, we recognize the importance of learning as we progress. This requires periodic pulse-taking, reflection, and planning. We aspire to become a learning organization that adapts its strategy based on acquired knowledge. Ultimately, our goal is to become a leading reference point for research on WPS in Africa.

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2.0 Context

The international human rights frameworks concerning women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace processes have evolved significantly over the years. Beginning with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, which called for increased women's involvement in conflict prevention and resolution, to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000, urging the incorporation of gender perspectives in peace and security efforts, the global community has recognized the importance of women's participation in achieving sustainable peace. Regionally, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), adopted in 2003 remains one of the most progressive legal frameworks guaranteeing comprehensive

rights for African women and girls including participation in political and peace processes and protection from violence.

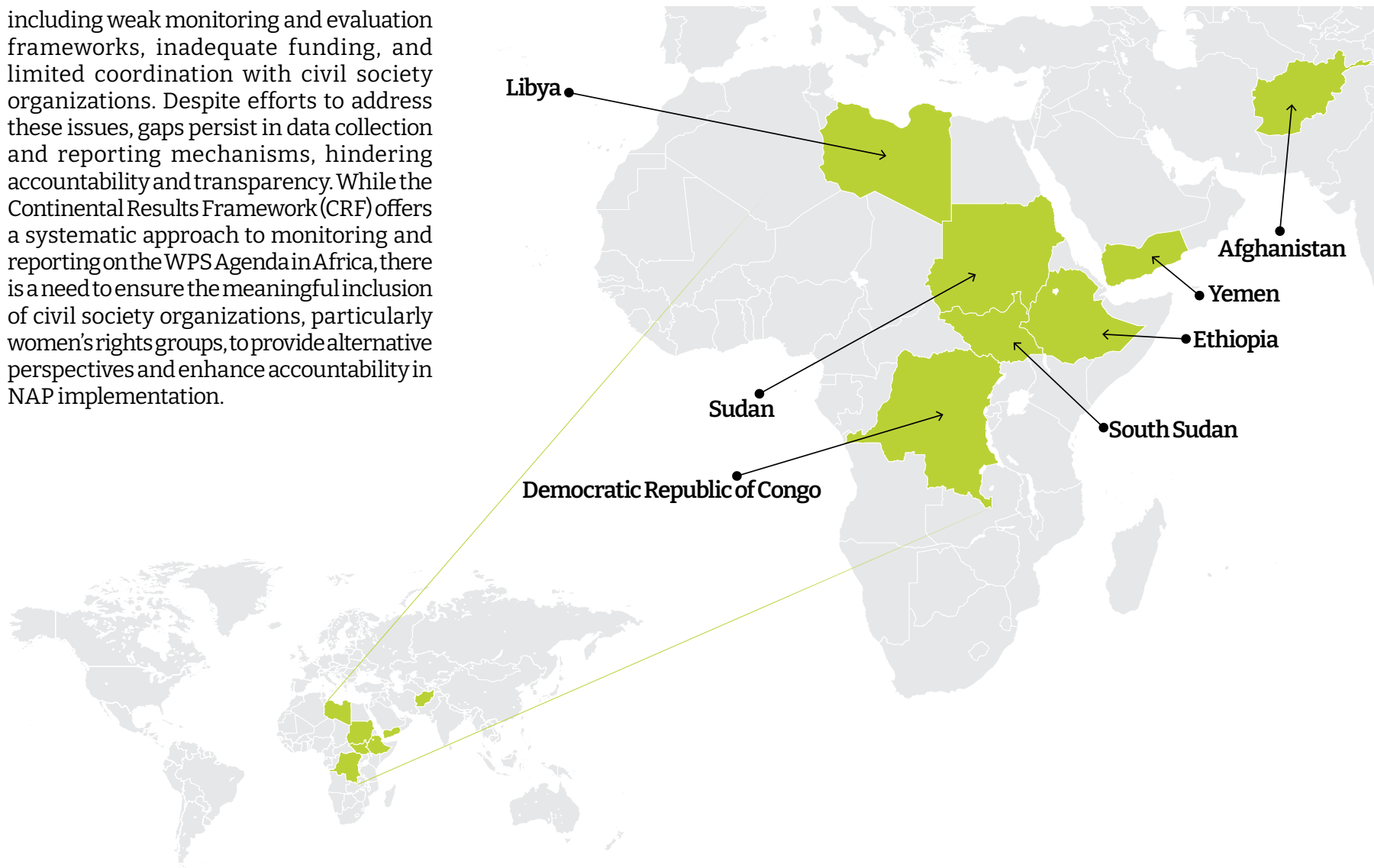
Despite these advancements, challenges persist, including increased militarized responses to peacebuilding often influenced by neocolonial geopolitical interests, slow progress in women's participation in decision-making roles, and the underrepresentation of women in formal peace processes.

The changing nature of warfare, with civilians increasingly targeted and women bearing disproportionate impacts, underscores the urgency of addressing gendered vulnerabilities in conflict settings. While progress has been made in promoting

women's participation in peace processes, data indicates that women continue to be excluded from key decision-making roles, with low representation as negotiators, mediators, and signatories in peace agreements. Furthermore, efforts to include women in recent peace processes, such as those in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen, have fallen short, highlighting persistent challenges in realizing women's meaningful participation.

In Africa, significant strides have been made in promoting the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, with the adoption of National Action Plans (NAPs) and regional frameworks. However, implementation challenges remain,

including weak monitoring and evaluation frameworks, inadequate funding, and limited coordination with civil society organizations. Despite efforts to address these issues, gaps persist in data collection and reporting mechanisms, hindering accountability and transparency. While the Continental Results Framework (CRF) offers a systematic approach to monitoring and reporting on the WPS Agenda in Africa, there is a need to ensure the meaningful inclusion of civil society organizations, particularly women's rights groups, to provide alternative perspectives and enhance accountability in NAP implementation.



3.0 Problem Statement

In Africa, there is a notable absence of research institutes specifically dedicated to studying women, peace, and security (WPS), unlike those present in other regions such as the Georgetown Institute for WPS and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. This absence reflects broader issues of epistemic injustice where African women's experiences and knowledge systems are marginalized, as also seen in the Feminist Foreign Policy space. Furthermore, the reliance on Global North frameworks perpetuates neo-imperial power dynamics, necessitating the development of decolonized data systems that uphold African women as knowledge producers.

This gap is what Researchers Without Borders (REWiB) seeks to address by focusing on researching WPS in Africa. Additionally, there is a lack of comprehensive data on the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa, as highlighted during the 2021 African Union Peace and Security Open Session on WPS. To bridge this gap, REWiB aims to monitor and track the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa, utilizing indicators approved by the African Union Continental Result Framework and global frameworks.

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4.0 Vision, Mission, and Goal

Vision

A peaceful continent built on feminist principles, where justice and human rights prevail

Mission

Use feminist research as a tool to advocate for sustainable peace and development in Africa.

Goal

Provide credible information to influence peace and development in Africa

Strategic Objective 1

Provide credible data on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Africa

Strategic Objective 2

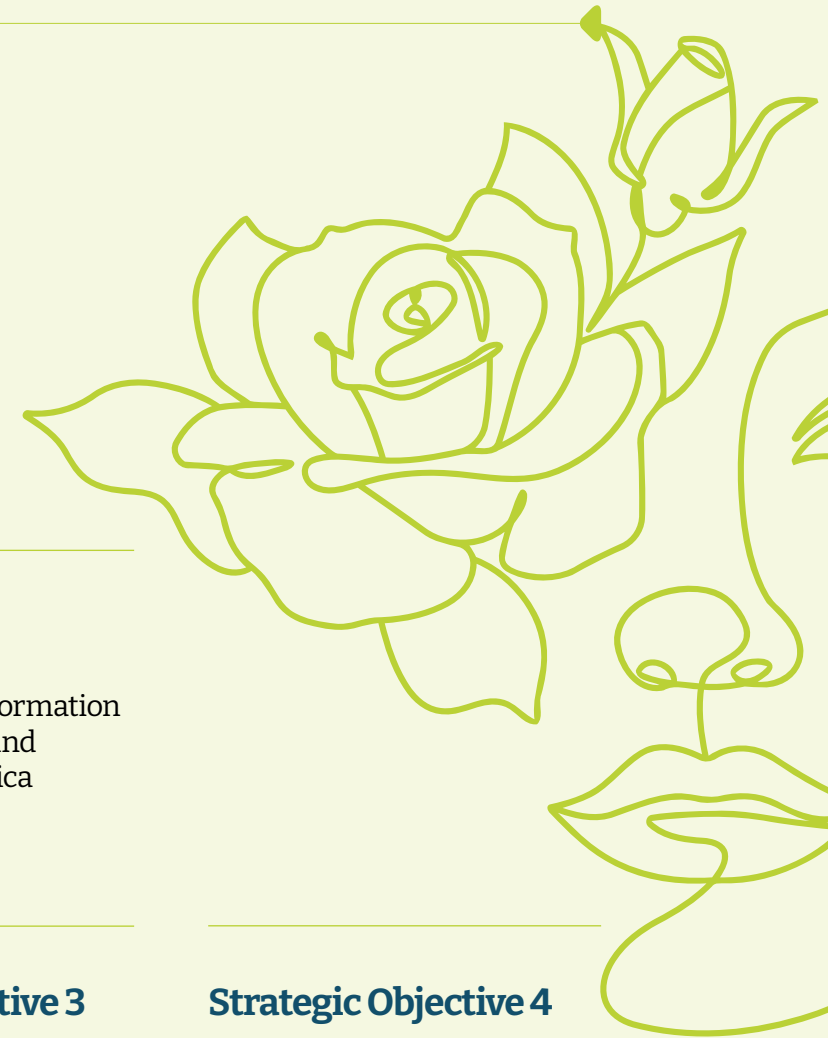
Increase the use of data generated to advocate for improved implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa

Strategic Objective 3

Contribute to global policy discussions and frameworks related to Women, Peace, and Security.

Strategic Objective 4

Improved governance and organizational growth



5.0 Theory of Change

IF data is collected on the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa, through feminist research and dialogues, **THEN** information will be available to advocate for increased implementation of the WPS agenda; **BECAUSE** there is a need to ensure the rights of different categories of women and girls are upheld to ensure their protection from violence and participation in decision making.



6.0 Activities and Indicators

STRATEGIC GOAL	PROVIDE CREDIBLE INFORMATION TO INFLUENCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN AFRICA		
Strategic Outcomes	1. 1: Provide credible data on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Africa	Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reports produced reflecting the achievements and gaps in achieving the WSP Agenda in Africa and making recommendations for improvement
	2. Increase the use of data generated to advocate for improved implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa 3. Contribute to global policy discussions and frameworks related to Women, Peace, and Security		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that information generated is used for advocacy for improved WPS implementation • Evidence that information generated is used to influence global policy decisions on WPS.
Strategic Outcome 1	Provide credible data on the implementation of the Women, Peace And Security agenda in Africa		

Strategic Objective 1 **Provide reports on monitoring of the different aspects of the WPS agenda in Africa**
Output 1 **Credible data on WPS is available for improved implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa**

	Activities	Monitoring Indicators
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Research on different aspects of WPS in Africa • Produce policy briefs from research report and publish • Hold webinars to share research results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of research conducted • Number of policy briefs produced and distributed • Number of webinars held to share research findings
1.2	<p>Analysis of security trend across Africa and the impact on women</p> <p>Document the political economy of conflicts in Africa from a gender perspective</p> <p>Track the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa</p> <p>Track women's participation in peace processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reports produced • Number of reports produced and disseminated • Number of policy influencing spaces • Number of reports produced and disseminated • Number of policy influencing spaces <p>Reports on women's participation in peace processes</p>

Strategic Objective 2 **Increase the use of data generated to advocate for improved implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa**
Output 2.1 **Increased implementation of the WPS Agenda in Africa**

	Activities	Monitoring Indicators
	Attend the African Union Heads of State Meeting CSO Pre summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Report • Number of policy engagements
	Share research findings on different social media platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Twitter posts • Number of reactions and reach
	Advocacy meetings on WPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meetings attended • Number of issues raised

Output 2.2 Increased spaces for dialogue and exchange of information on WPS implementation in Africa

	Activities	Monitoring Indicators Evidence
	Hold regional dialogues on WPS in Africa	Number of Dialogue held and issues generated

Strategic Objective 3 Contribute to global policy discussions and frameworks related to Women, Peace, and Security

	Feminist Foreign Policy Discussions	Number of initiatives by AFIP Collective
	Develop partnerships through attending global events on WPS – WPS week, CSW, WPS Focal Point Meetings	Number of engagements and issues generated How issues influenced policy debate and changes derived.
	Provide expert input, research, and recommendations for global initiatives. Publish position papers and research findings	Number of position papers produced and disseminated

Strategic Objective 4 Improved governance and organizational growth
Output 4.1 Effective and improved functioning of the organization

	Activities	Monitoring Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functioning Board • Office space • Recruit personnel • Develop operational policies • Develop a fundraising strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Board Meetings Held • Rent Agreement • Number of personnel recruited • Number of policies developed • Copy of strategy

7.0 Approach to Work

REWiB will collaborate with existing networks across Africa, such as the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) NGO Forum and the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC), to collect data and amplify the voices of women at the grassroots level in spaces where the WPS agenda could be influenced.

Furthermore, REWiB will engage with the African Feminist Collective on Feminist Informed Policies (AFIP Collective) to assess the extent to which Feminist Foreign Policies (FFPs) of various countries support the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa, emphasizing the need for decolonized and anti-racist approaches in these efforts. By providing timely data and research outputs, REWiB aims to advocate for improved responses to the needs of women, girls, and minority groups in conflict and post- conflict settings, while urging governments to address emerging crises with socio-economic and political impacts.



8.0 Planning, Monitoring, and Reporting

The annual planning and reporting cycle for REWiB will be closely aligned with its strategic objectives and thematic areas of focus. To ensure effective implementation and adaptation to changing circumstances regular monitoring mechanisms will be established.

Annual Planning: At the outset of each year, REWiB will develop a detailed work plan that delineates key activities, expected outcomes, and relevant indicators to track progress effectively.

Bi-Annual Monitoring:

Every six months, a comprehensive review will be conducted to assess progress against the predefined indicators of success. This monitoring process will facilitate the identification of areas requiring intensified efforts and allow for timely adjustments to the strategy as needed.

Annual Reporting:

At the end of each year, REWiB will compile a comprehensive report documenting its achievements, encountered challenges, lessons learned, and recommendations for future actions. This report will serve as a testament to REWiB's steadfast commitment to its objectives and its ongoing endeavour to infuse feminist principles into global peace-building initiatives.



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