

EU Initiatives on Gender Equality in Development

Thematic issue : Gender, peace, security and Development :
What should the EU do?

June 2010

IN FOCUS

Gender equality and women's empowerment crucial for Peace and Security

Violent conflict affects men and women in a different way. It also transforms the socially constructed roles of men and women. This reconfiguration of gender relations is a crucial factor for peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. Still women are often only treated as victims instead of involving them as actors in the peace process and in the post-conflict reconstruction

Women are particularly vulnerable to sexual crimes and exploitation. Mostly they face discriminatory legal frameworks. Usually they don't have access to mechanisms, power and resources to improve their situation. Still women maintain social life and develop survival strategies in the unpaid economy of care, even under the most critical circumstances of extreme poverty, threats and serious violation of their human rights.

The "drivers of change" in fragile states are often women. They can be key actors in the peace-building process and should not only be considered as passive victims. Their role in promoting sustainable peace and fostering security can be crucial, especially in setting priorities for the reconstruction agenda, and legal reforms. The period of transition offers new opportunities for those who suffered most as consequence of conflicts.

UNIFEM reviewed women's participation in peace processes in 24 countries. In the majority of the cases women's participation was between 0% and 10%. Only in one case (Kenya – 2008) women represented 33% of the mediators, which was the highest figure. Also the budget allocations for gender issues are still far to search. E.g. the budget allocations for women's needs in post conflict situations are less than 8% (UNIFEM, 2009).

During a thematic workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development', held in Brussels in September 2009, Dominique Delicour, Head of Unit E4 of AIDCO, concluded that although the European political and financial instruments are in place for the implementation of a 'Comprehensive Approach, of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security, there is still a world to win by implementing these commitments.

There is a strong EU policy framework that places the promotion of gender equality at the heart of peace, security and development initiatives. EU staff has to ensure that EU's external actions are shaped to protect women from violence and to enhance equality between men and women during and after armed conflict and in situations of fragility.

The financial instruments are available to implement a comprehensive approach. It's now a question of doing it and working together. The above mentioned workshop was an opportunity to share strategies, tools, good practices and many examples on how to do it. The participants of this workshop stressed that more coordination is needed at Headquarters as well as at country level.



Violence against women communication campaign, Ha Noi, Vietnam, 2008

In this issue :

- * Gender equality and women's empowerment crucial for Peace and Security
- * Liberia implements the UNSCR 1325
- * Big gap between policy and practice in Afghanistan
- * How to address gender-based violence?
- * Justice based on equality
- * A Joint Country Gender Assessment : Paradox and Promise in the Philippines
- * Liberia: Gender issues in the process of Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
- * The Gender Support Programme in Zimbabwe
- * Nicaragua: Mainstreaming gender equality in Security Sector Reform (SSR)
- * Gender equality in crisis management
- * Somali Women's Agenda: paving the way towards gender equality
- * Announcements



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

European Commission: Daniela Rofi (EUROPE-AID),
EC Gender Advisory Service :
Thera van Osch, Claire Leloup.

Collaborating in this issue :

Victoria Correa (DG DEV-E3), Romina 'Beng' Santa Clara (ED delegation Manila), Ramon San Martin (GAS)
Design and Lay-out : Sushigraphic

National ownership and national action plans can help to join forces and coordinate in a comprehensive way. The EU should support the bottom-up perspective, involving women and women's organizations as crucial actors in the area of peace and reconstruction. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are key stakeholders; the EU should stay in contact with CSOs for any action.

The promotion of gender equality in peace and security processes is everyone's business, not only of the gender focal persons. The role of men in the process of enhancing gender equality should also be taken into account in any action.

Local cultures are not always an obstacle; they can become dynamic vehicles for change. Once we understand these cultures better we can make progress.

Gender is not an abstract issue. A range of strategies and tools on gender and peacebuilding in conflict and post-conflict situations has already been developed. This was shown with many practical examples and cases that were presented by resource persons in the above mentioned workshop. Some of these examples are included in this thematic issue.

Daniela ROFI (AIDCO/E4)

United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

The UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 establish a commitment for fighting against sexual abuse and violence against women during armed conflict, and for promoting women's participation in conflict prevention, peace building and post-conflict reconstruction processes. Their implementation is reinforced by the new UNSCRs 1888 and 1889.

UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (year 2000):

- Prevention of conflict
- Protection of women before, during and after violent conflict
- Participation of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, management, resolution, and peace-building

UNSCR 1820 to Stop Violence and Sexual Abuse in Armed Conflict (year 2008):

- Stop sexual violence against civilians in armed conflict
- Take measures to prevent VAW, to protect women from violence, and make an end to sexual violence.
- Enhance women's participation in all processes related to ending sexual violence in conflict, including peace talks.

UNSCR 1889 on Women, Peace and Security (October 2009):

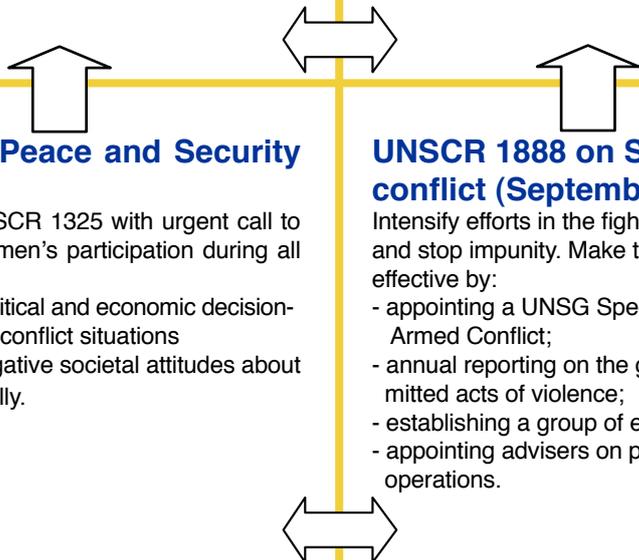
Accelerate the implementation of UNSCR 1325 with urgent call to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes:

- Enhance women's engagement in political and economic decision-making at all stages of pre- and post-conflict situations
- Empower women and counter all negative societal attitudes about women's capacity to participate equally.

UNSCR 1888 on Sexual violence in armed conflict (September 2009):

Intensify efforts in the fight against sexual violence in armed conflict and stop impunity. Make the implementation of UNSCR 1820 more effective by:

- appointing a UNSG Special Representative for Women and Armed Conflict;
- annual reporting on the groups and individuals which have committed acts of violence;
- establishing a group of experts to be deployed on the ground;
- appointing advisers on protection of women in peacekeeping operations.

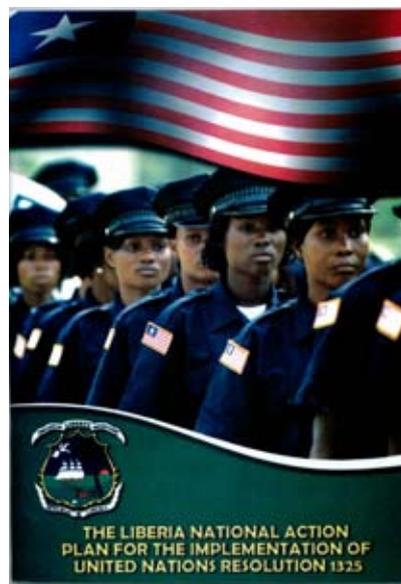


UNSCR Resolution 1888 was adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on 30 September 2009. It is a call for action to fight gender based violence and to boost women's participation in peacebuilding and post-conflict processes. Resolution 1889 aims at reinforcing and accelerating the implementation of Resolution 1325.

Liberia implements the Security Council Resolution 1325

Liberia shows that a comprehensive approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 is possible. In this approach security, reconstruction and development are linked to each others in a strategy based on 4 pillars:

1. Protection of women and girls from all types of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. This can be done with programmes focused on trauma counseling, protecting rights, creating security, and ensuring access to health.
2. Prevention: prevent all types of violence against women, including sexual and gender-based violence. This includes an effective strategy, among which capacity building in security sector to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for these crimes.
3. Participation and empowerment: The promotion of women's full participation in all conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery processes; increase access of women to housing, natural resources and management of environment.



Link to the LNAP: www.undp.org/cpr/documents/gender/lnap_gender.pdf

4. Promotion: promote capacity building and involvement of civil society; e.g. women's groups to contribute to the national action plan; promote the participation of girls in prevention, early warning, recovery issues through education and training; promote accountability on gender issues by government and civil society organisations.

The Liberia National Action Plan (LNAP) takes into consideration the importance of involving not only governmental institutions at national and international level, but also civil groups and other agents.

Consequently, the following actors work together in the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in Liberia:

- Government of Liberia: Leader in promoting and implementing the LNAP
- UN Partners: International funding and supporting the Government of Liberia.

- Civil Society Groups: Watchdogs for the use of national and international resources.
- International and National NGOs: Implementing a bottom top approach.
- Donors: Funding the implementation of the LNAP.
- Private Sector: Involved with the LNAP and its implementation.
- Beneficiaries: They should be aware that trust and sustainability are necessary for the success of the Plan.

The LNAP has a clear performance assessment matrix. For each of the four pillars the strategic issues and priority areas are defined together with the description of the Outputs and Indicators.

Article based on the presentation of Ruth Ceasar, Liberian expert on DDR, during the Thematic Workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development', Brussels, September 2009.

This table shows one line of this matrix taken from the LNAP:

Pillar One: PROTECTION			
STRATEGIC ISSUE	PRIORITY AREAS	OUTPUT	INDICATOR
Government provides psycho-social and trauma counseling to women and girls affected by all types of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence committed against them during the war years	Construction and resourcing of health facilities, safe houses and centres	Hospitals, clinics, safe houses, rehabilitation centres and other facilities in place across the country to offer psycho-social counseling, training and care. Skilled medical personnel encouraged to return from overseas to offer their services as needed by the MoHSW	Number of facilities constructed and percentage of the population using them measured by community, district and county figures. Incentives system in place to attract skilled counselors to return and offer their services

Source: The Liberia National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Resolution 1325

Big gap between policy and practice in Afghanistan

One of the lessons learned by NATO missions and operations in Afghanistan is that a comprehensive strategy should be used to implement UNSCR 1325 on the ground. Jos Hoenen, senior policy advisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, explained during a thematic workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development', in (Brussels, September 2009), that this implementation includes :

- the enhancement of the gender-balance within the forces;
- gender mainstreaming in missions and operations;
- interaction with women and men within their respecting the cultural context;
- cooperation with women's organisations;
- promotion of gender equality through main assignments adapted to local developments.

He also stressed that high commanders should be held accountable for progress on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

During the same workshop, Abida Durrani (cultural advisor on Afghanistan) showed the big gap between policy and practice in Afghanistan. In 2004 Afghanistan ratified CEDAW. Now a 10-year National Action Plan of Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA) is in place with a three-pronged strategy to achieve gender equity, which is "to eliminate discrimination against women, develop their human capital, and ensure their leadership in order to guarantee their full and equal participation in all aspects of life".



Girl in a classroom in Afghanistan. Photographer: Jos Hoenen

The pillars of the NAPWA are:

- Security
- Governance, rule of law and human right
- Economic and social development (Economy, work and poverty; Health; Education)

As the NAPWA has all elements for a comprehensive implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820; it should be taken on board by the international community.

How to address gender-based violence

Violence against women is a global problem and the main cause of death of women in the age between 15-44 years. At least 1 out of every 3 women around the world has been beaten, raped or otherwise abused.

“Violence against women devastates lives, fractures communities, and stalls development. It takes many forms and occurs in many places — domestic violence in the home, sexual abuse of girls in schools, sexual harassment at work, rape by husbands or strangers, in refugee camps or as a tactic of war.” (UNIFEM,2009)

Experiences in addressing GBV by Marie Stopes International and International Rescue Committee show that simultaneous actions are required at different levels :

- At structural level: preventive measures to recognize and protect women’s rights, such as law reform to eliminate gender discrimination, reforms of justice and police forces, and policies to promote gender equality in the sectors of health, education and social economic welfare.
- At systemic level: preventive strategies and responding mechanisms when rights are breached, put into action by those working within the system of statutory and customary law and justice, of security, of health care, of social welfare, in local communities, and civil society organisations.
- At operational level: women who survive GBV need multiple levels of care, such as a safe place, HIV and STI testing, primary health care, gynecological surgery, counseling, community and family mediation, food and non-food distribution, economic reintegration, legal advice and support.

Combating gender-based violence is a European political top priority. In 2008 the EU adopted the EU Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls and combating all Forms of Discrimination against Them. Violence against women is still the most frequent and less reported violation of human rights. Measures to stop violence against women are crucial for the achievement of the MDGs. Gender-based violence is not only an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace, but also one of the causes of the increasing rate of HIV infection among women and girls.

In conflict and post-conflict situation GBV is increasingly used as a tactic to destabilise communities. GBV has devastating and destabilising effects in conflict and post-conflict situations. Therefore it is important to address GBV as an important cross-cutting issue in conflict, transitional and post-conflict situation.

The eradication of gender-based violence is a top priority for the European Union.

The ‘EU Guidelines on violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discriminations against them’ identify priority actions for the EU in order to support, protect and empower women who are victims of violence and to fight against impunity.



Gender-based violence as tactic of warfare

Violence and sexual abuse against women in war times is not a new phenomenon. In recent conflicts however it is used as a deliberate tactic of warfare to destabilize communities and to undermine long-term recovery. “From the rape camps in Bosnia in 1993, to today’s widespread rapes in Darfur, DRC and Cote d’Ivoire, it is clear that sexual violence is a command responsibility, a war crime and crime against humanity that requires a security response. The sheer scale of the problem is staggering. Almost 30 thousand women were raped in six months in 2007 in the Kivus. Rapes happen daily in the refugees camps in Darfur. During the war between Bosnia and Croatia, the number of rapes went up to 64.000. Rape also continues after a conflict, taken up on a widespread level by normal civilians.”

Implementing SCR 1325 and 1820 in EU missions: Improving immediate and long-term security for women. Conference hosted by The French Presidency of the Council of the EU and UNIFEM, Brussels, 10 October 2008

A Woman who has Survived Gender-Based Violence Requires Multiple levels of Care

Source: Presentation Maaïke van Min (Marie Stopes International) and Shannon Meehan (International Rescue Committee) during EC Workshop “Gender, Peace, Security and Development”, Brussels, 23-25 September 2009.



Justice based on equality

Justice is central to security and peace-building as it opposes arbitrariness. It is however a delicate and complicated process about redressing wrongs, recognizing and compensating harms, restoring human dignity, establishing the rule of law, and equal treatment. As is shown by Maitrayee Mukhopadhyay (Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam) in reality multiple institutions co-exist at different levels in most countries: Customary law, Religious law, Statutory law, Constitutional law, and International human rights.

The question is how to harmonise these levels in order to deliver equal outcomes for women and men in the process of rebuilding peace. The following examples were presented during the workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development' (Brussels 2009):

South Africa

A good practice comes from South Africa, where the Customary Marriage Law has been aligned with the equality clauses in the Constitution, after a broad consultation with women and other stakeholders.

Rwanda

In Rwanda gender deficits were observed in the assistance for repairing harm, the Assistance Fund for the Genocide Survivors (FARG). The categories described as 'harm' did not explicitly mention forms of gender-specific violence e.g. rape, sexual violence and gender specific mutilations. Another gender deficit was the compensation for material loss to rightful owner, which was gender biased as women never held legal titles to property and did not inherit from husbands, due to customary laws.

Sierra Leone

A good practice of transitional justice was the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone, in which women were equally represented. The Commission engaged the views of women's rights activists, women's groups and women victims through special closed hearings for women nation wide at the request of female witnesses.

The submissions and recommendations received included appropriate remedies and assistance for women including victims of rape, sexual violence, female ex-combatants and recommendations to strengthen, improve and advance the status of women.

RD Congo

In the framework of REJUSCO (REstore JUstice in COngo) the E supports the Program on Gender and Fight against Sexual Violence, which aims at ensuring the existence of fair judicial process to sexual violence cases, reinforcing the credibility of the justice system and ensuring the survivor's accessibility to it, reinforcing the respect and implementation of women's rights.

The need for reconstructing the judicial system in the Democratic Republic of Congo became evident, after the democratic elections in 2006 and a transition period when 13.230 cases of sexual violence were identified between January 2007 and March 2008. In more than half of these cases medical assistance was provided, whereas in only 11,4% of the cases Judicial assistance was provided (UNFPA Jan. 2007-March 2008).

The Program on Gender and Fight against Sexual Violence establishes various actions:

- Sensitization on matters related to women's rights and SGBV
- Sensitization of the local communities with the participation of local, traditional, political and military authorities
- Workshops on Women's Rights in local universities

The target groups of the Program are civil society, judicial actors, armed forces, national police and medical staff. The partners involved are the State and the judicial institutions, the local NGOs, traditional chiefs and local authorities. Sofia Candeias (coordinator Gender Unit Rejusco) stressed during the thematic workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development' that harmonization between donors is needed for more effective results in this area in RD Congo.

Building justice based on equality is a complicated process, but crucial for sustainable peace and security. The above mentioned examples show that the post-conflict transitional period offers many entry points to address gender issues, especially in the area of transitional justice. Donor coordination is key to achieve sustainable justice based on gender equality.

Good Practice: A Joint Country Gender Assessment: Paradox and Promise in the Philippines

By Romina 'Beng' Santa Clara (EC Delegation Manila)

During 2008 the EC Delegation to the Philippines was closely involved in the first joint country gender assessment (CGA) for the Philippines, which was a collaborative effort involving government, local stakeholders and international development agencies. It was conducted in response to a request from what was then known as the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and has since been renamed the Philippine Commission on Women for a review of the Philippine Framework Plan, together with an initiative from the Asian Development Bank to bring other actors into the process. The planning started in October 2007 and the joint report was launched in October 2008. The EC organized and financed all costs related to the nationwide stakeholder consultations including three regional consultations in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. More than 200 representatives from government (national and local), NGOs, and women's organizations from around the country shared their views, experiences, and case studies to add substance to the report.



The joint assessment had a two-fold objective according to the Philippine Commission on Women: spark discussion on selected policy issues that are aligned with the Government's Framework Plan; and inform development partners' future strategies for promoting gender equality in a harmonized manner.

Each international development agency had coordinating and writing tasks for the joint report. The ADB was overall responsible for editing and publishing the report as well as contributing pieces in the report. The UN Family was responsible for the Social Development Section and CIDA was the lead on Economic Empowerment. The EC coordinated the consolidation of inputs on the Gender-Responsive Governance Section, and led the writing of the chapter on gender and peace.

Highlights of the Governance and gender and peace chapter

Good governance is based on citizens' ability to exercise their responsibility and right to participate in public decision making, include their voice in policy making and funds allocation, and access resources. Having a female president, however, does not automatically result in gender equality or guarantee that the Government has a stronger focus on gender equality. During the regional stakeholder consultations, a pressing need was identified to strengthen accountable and gender-responsive governance in three key areas: gender budgeting, peace building, and disaster risk reduction.

The Philippines has had a long history of armed religious and political conflict and strife, with a host of protracted negative effects on women, men, boys and girls. Conflict results in displacement, and this has a major effect on households and livelihoods. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimated that from 2000–2006 almost 2 million people were displaced as a result of ongoing conflicts in the country. In conflict-affected areas, women tend to be responsible for social protection (such as caring for the family and supporting the soldiers), undertaking livelihood projects, resolving family and community conflicts, and promoting peace. Men are expected to assume the role of combatants.

Children tend to suffer particularly severe psychosocial effects. When designing a peace process, gender impacts must be considered to create sustainable peace and development, which requires social inclusiveness and accountability.

Involving local stakeholders in the peace process is necessary to empower communities and enhance governance mechanisms in the long run.

Some of the key recommendations in this area were:

- Implement and localize UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.
- Address the special needs of children, women, and vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities in the peace processes (regardless of their faith or political persuasion) and include them in relief and rehabilitation efforts.
- Document and popularise the voices, vulnerabilities, and experiences of women, children, and indigenous peoples in ongoing conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

Philippine Framework Plan

The Philippines adopted gender mainstreaming as a strategy for women's empowerment and gender equality since the reign of President Aquino. The Framework Plan is the snapshot of the long-term Philippine Plan for Gender Responsive Development 1995-2025 which in turn, influences the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan. The Framework Plan has three themes: women's economic empowerment, women's human rights including access to basic social services, and gender-responsive governance.

The EU since the conclusion of the Joint CGA has supported actions that localizes the implementation of the UN SCR 1325 in Southern Mindanao, and broaden the participation of vulnerable groups including indigenous communities in the peace and governance processes. Specifically, the EC-funded project of the Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC) directly supports the inclusion of women's voices in the local peace process. In the local calls for proposals of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights – Country Based Support Scheme (EIDHR-CBSS), priority for funding was allocated to the issues of children (from grave abuses to those affected by armed conflict), violence against women, and participation of indigenous peoples. A joint public forum (EC and UNICEF) on the rights of the child with emphasis on children affected by conflict is envisaged during the anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child in November 2009.

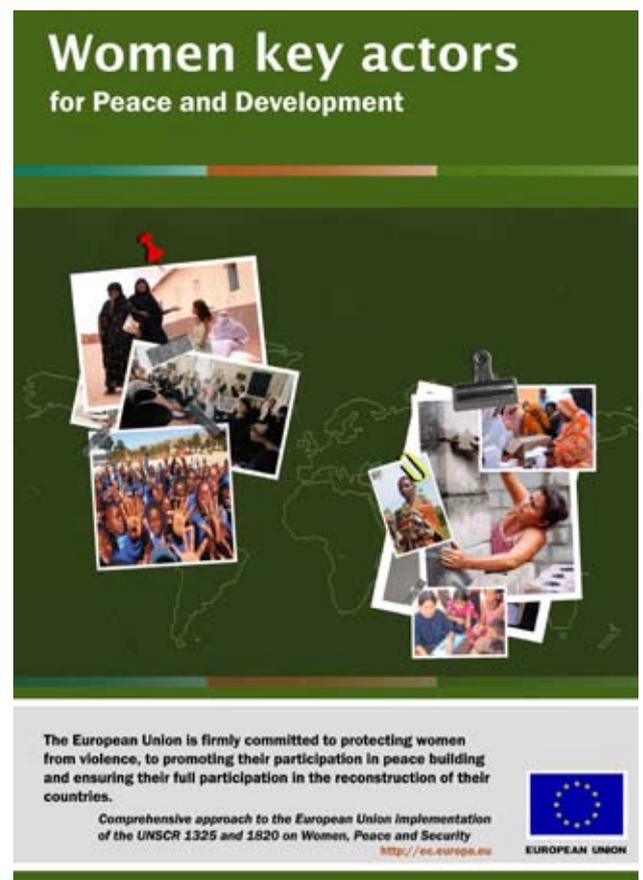
Overall, the joint assessment pointed to seven key findings on gender equality and women's empowerment:

- Education indicators are worsening
- Reproductive health needs and rights are fundamentally unmet
- Potential for new jobs in new industries exists, but old problems persist
- Migration comes at a cost
- Informal work needs adequate support
- Effective disaster risk management requires gendered lens
- Gender-responsive governance is essential for a gender-fair society

The Philippine government monitors aid flows on gender equality issues through the annual reports submitted by aid agencies using the report tools of the Harmonised Gender and Development Guidelines. Information on gender equality and ODA are published at the www.odagad.org. Based on aid coordination meetings, primarily through the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Gender and Development Network, these findings are being used for programming assistance and aid coordination between the government, civil society and international agencies. For example, the latest AusAid Gender Plan has specific references to the report's findings.

For the EU, support has been given to a number of migration and development projects by local NGOs and intergovernmental organisations on the social costs of migration including the challenges of feminisation of migration as well as building the capacities of migrants' groups and migrants' families. The next multi-annual indicative programme (2011-2013) includes migration management under the governance portfolio.

Romina 'Beng' Sta. Clara (EC Delegation Manila)



The European Union is firmly committed to protecting women from violence, to promoting their participation in peace building and ensuring their full participation in the reconstruction of their countries. Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security.

Liberia: Gender issues in the process of Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration.

Apparently small details can make big differences. In Liberia women and children initially did not benefit from the DDR programme, because they didn't want to be transported with the male ex-combatants. The male-led UNMIL in charge of demobilization and disarmament was not aware of the risks for and the fear – mostly traumatised - women and children when put together with the male ex-combatants a long way in the back of a truck. By overlooking this gender specific detail of the DDR- process, many women and children were excluded as beneficiaries in the first phase of demobilization.

The UNSCR 1325 proved to be a very useful tool for the Liberian women's organisations to intervene in a pro-active way as stakeholders in the post-conflict DDR-process. They achieved increased awareness and sensitization targeting women beneficiaries. Although women were underrepresented as armed combatants, they played a mayor role in the logistics of the warfare, often violently forced to do so.

Ruth Ceasar, Deputy Executive Director for Operations of the National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (NCDDRR) in Liberia, explained during the Workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development' (Brussels, 2009) how the women-for-peace movement corrected the mistakes due to the gender blindness of UNMIL in the Liberian DDR process. Between 2006 and 2009 Mrs. Ceasar was responsible to ensure that the 101,000 ex-combatants were disarmed and demobilized, rehabilitated and reintegrated into communities as well as monitored and tracked in formal education and vocational training institutions in various trade areas. During this period the number of women and girls targeted as beneficiaries of the NCDDRR increased each year.

The programmes for Reintegration were amplified with Rehabilitation and redesigned to meet the special needs of female beneficiaries, such as child care facilities during training hours, health and psychosocial assistance to address traumas caused by GBV, opportunities mapping and career counselling.

As a result the participation of women and girls in these programmes for Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) increased considerably.



Liberia: Young women participating in a Metal Works Training

The Gender Support Programme in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe the EU and DFID (United Kingdom Department for International Development) are funding the Gender Support Programme. This fund aims to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment in Zimbabwe and was launched on 17 June 2009, with over US\$3 million in funding from the EU and DFID. The fund is managed by UNIFEM and will support civil society organisations working towards gender equality and women's empowerment. In particular, the fund engages with the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe.



Women producing statues in Harare (Zimbabwe), 2009.

Photographer: Victoria Correa.

The national coordinator of this coalition Netsai Mushonga shared her experiences during the thematic workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development' (Brussels 2009). She explained that her country has gone through low level conflict and, although it cannot be classified as war, the population of Zimbabwe is suffering the same pain, living in a culture of war and violence, especially against women.

She stressed the importance of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Zimbabwe, which serves as an excellent advocacy tool for the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe to:

1. combat violence against women
2. increase women's political participation
3. address humanitarian crisis and food insecurity
4. support processes of reconstruction and transitional justice
5. and to ensure that gender equality and women's rights are taken on board in the Constitution Making.

The Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe was created as a result of women's reaction to the way in which the Constitution making process was taking place. "Women demanded equal participation in the process. They realized the process within NCA was being hijacked by men and that it was masculine and women's issues were being systematically sidelined", Netsai Mushonga said.

These reactions materialized in a women's space to strategize and engage: the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe. This group gave women a collective voice in constitution making and used the UNSCR principles (Participation, Protection and Prevention) during the process. Therefore, they presented a list of demands in order to ensure the implementation of each principle.

Nevertheless, as Netsai Mushonga highlighted, there are still many things to do in order to fully implement the UNSCR 1325 in Zimbabwe, such as the need of :

- popularizing of UNSCR 1325
- building capacity and awareness of all critical stakeholders in UNSCR 1325
- getting the Government and UN's contribution to efforts towards 1325 implementation
- creating a Zimbabwe's National Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Culture and customs are often mentioned as obstacles for change, especially for gender mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform. Karin Grimm from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) explained during the workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development' (Brussels, 2009) that culture is changeable and often the best vehicle for SSR-transformations. One of the challenges in most post-conflict countries is to address the increased sexual and domestic violence against women. In the post-conflict situation in Nicaragua a model was developed to mainstream gender equality in police reform.

In Nicaragua police reform in 1993 resulted in the successful formula of Commissioners of Women and Children. These commissioners are spread all over the country to arrest perpetrators of domestic violence, and to protect and support survivors with a range of healing and empowering services such as juridical, medical and psychosocial assistance.



Nicaragua: Responding to domestic violence.
Source: DCAF – Good Practice: Women's police stations and domestic violence units in Latin American countries.

The modernization of the Nicaraguan police force resulted not only in the creation of these commissioners, but also in a range of initiatives that brought great changes in the Nicaraguan police. These broad gender reforms took place in the 1990s, following the pressure from Nicaraguans women's movement and from police women themselves. As a result

- women's police stations were created, providing special attention to women and children victims of violence
- the recruitment criteria were renewed, adapting the height and physical exercise requirements to feminine applicants
- trainings on GBV were introduced at the police academies
- a Gender Advisory Board (Consejo Consultivo de Genero) was established for the analysis and the discussion of the working conditions of female officers
- Aminta Granera was appointed as Chief of the National Police in Nicaragua in 2006, the first woman to be Chief of the Police in Latin America.

This reform had a great impact on the Nicaraguan Police, which has the highest proportion of female officers in the world. The Nicaraguan police has developed many successful initiatives to address sexual and domestic violence and has gained much credibility and legitimacy in the eyes of the population.

Specific attention for the socially constructed differences in behaviour, attitudes, needs and priorities of men and women, boys and girls in a crisis situation is crucial for interventions aimed to restore human security. Gender mainstreaming in crisis management increases civilian as well as military effectiveness. Especially in conflicts zones security threats are different for men and women and distinct needs may arise as a result of different social and cultural expectations and gender roles. Beside these gender differences in the area of operations, there are also different gender roles and needs within the operation itself. This makes gender issues key aspects of operational effectiveness.

The importance of gender awareness within the military organisation is shown by the case of dehydration of female soldiers in the Operation Iraqi Freedom. Despite clear instructions to all soldiers to take in several liters of liquid a day to prevent dehydration, a number of female soldiers dehydrated and two of them died as a result. The case was investigated. It appeared that the women stopped drinking in the afternoon, as they were afraid to go to the toilet during the night, because some of them had been harassed and a few had been raped by their male colleagues

In 2006 the Council of the EU adopted 'Conclusions on promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in crisis management', underlining that each operation the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) must put in practice the 'Checklist to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Operations' (Council: 12068/06).

Giji Gaya (International Security Information Service) presented many examples during the Workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development' (Brussels, 2009) of how involvement of women can improve fact finding, intelligence, human security, mutual understanding and local support for CIMIC operations (civic-military cooperation).

EUFOR RDC

The EUFOR RD Congo (2006) discovered that patrols composed by both women and men meet less hostility compared to all male patrols which meet more hostility and negative attitude among the local population.

EULEX Kosovo

The mission worked with UNIFEM on legal reforms in the justice sector to promote women's access to justice.

EUPOL Afghanistan

The OPLAN of EUPOL in Afghanistan states the attending or soliciting sexual services from places of prostitution or trafficked persons is forbidden and that NO EUPOL AFGHANISTAN member will at any time or in any place procure the services of a prostitute or a trafficked person.

To ensure momentum any internal skeptics must be combated and weekly gender-reports should become a routine of ESDP missions, as it was the case of the EUFOR RDC. "People start to look and listen for information on women and gender issues", said Giji Gaya. She stressed that all personal involved in crisis management should be accountable for gender issues, not just the gender staff. However awareness raising and gender training is still needed.

ESDP and Crisis Management

Since its foundation, the EU is involved in all phases of the crisis cycle; from preventive strategies, to post-crisis rehabilitation and reconstruction. Substantial EU resources are devoted to countries in political crisis through its country programmes and specific instruments such as the Instrument for Stability.

To ensure a coherent EU approach to crisis situation EU instruments and ESDP actions must be complementary and involve local delegations and local partners. ESDP missions mainly support police, judiciary and customs reforms and capacity-building. Every ESDP mission must apply the gender checklist to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325

Checklist to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Operations of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP):

1. Aim:

- Ensure the use of this checklist for ESDP operations, including their follow-up, by civilian and military planners in member states and the Council Secretariat
- Address gender issues in the context of human rights.

2. Advance planning – strategic contingency planning and strategic planning:

- Analyse the specific situation of both men and women in the Early Warning and Situation Analysis
- Include gender expertise and address gender issues in the purpose of Fact Finding Missions and Planning Teams
- Consult national and international Women's Organisations
- Include gender issues in the report of fact finding missions
- Include a summary of gender related issues in the area of operation for the Crisis Management Concept, Strategic Options and/or Initiating Military Directive, specifying if and how identified problems should be addressed

3. Operational Planning:

- Task appropriately in the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) the specific concerns and priorities as identified in the Crisis Management Concept
- Assess the need to include a gender adviser in the development of the CONOPS
- Include the specific standards of behaviour in the annex of the Operation Plan (OPLAN) for every ESDP mission
- Include guidance on gender issues and related tasks in the OPLAN, as well as on reporting requirements on gender related aspects.

4. Force Generation/Call for Contribution

- Recruit gender expertise as early as possible and include personnel with responsibility for gender issues in the staff of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) and in ESDP operations
- Include the following sentence in all calls for contributions: "The EU strives for an improved gender balance in ESDP operations, in conformity with UNSCR 1325. The General Secretariat (Head of Mission/Operation commander) encourages Contributing States and European Institutions to take this into account when offering contributions." And also stress specific needs related to gender issues.

5. Conduct of Operations

- EUSRs, Heads of ESDP Missions (HoMs) and Commanders must ensure the implementation of gender related tasks set out in the OPLAN and consider how gender issues are taken into account in each component
- Integrate a gender perspective into policies, programs and projects, monitoring and data collections
- Include information on gender specific violence and local women's role as actors in regular reports of EUSRs, HoMs or commanders, additional to the OPLAN requirements to report on gender-related aspects
- Include statistics on gender ratios in the missions and on consultations with women's groups in regular reports
- Report breaches of the agreed standards of behaviour through the EU Chain of command
- Include gender and standards of behaviour in regular mission reviews as a routine
- Assess the contribution of EUSR's work and ESDP operations on the situation of men and women in the area of operations
- Ensure clear procedures for handling gender-related complaints, incl. sexual harassment, and make personnel aware of this
- Set up a list of local and international women's groups present in the area of operation and meet regularly with them, as well as with women in decision-making positions
- Stress the importance of gender sensitive policy in contacts with local authorities and encourage active involvement of local women in peace negotiations and reconciliation processes
- Include gender and UNSCR 1325 awareness training in pre-deployment training
- Provide gender training to mission personnel during ongoing missions, which ensures adherence to the standards of behaviour and zero tolerance for abuse and misconduct.

6. Lessons Identified

- Gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 should be included as a specific item in lessons learned process.

**Summary based on the conclusions of the Council of the European Union,
27 July 2006 (document 12068/06)**

Somali Women's Agenda: paving the way towards gender equality

The European Commission has, since 2005, supported the establishment of a «Somali Women's Agenda (SWA)», which brings together for the first time and in a systematic way, all clans, the Diaspora and organisations across the country, in a common vision and shared strategy for improving gender equality in Somalia. Mobilised as members of a platform representing a constituency of approximately 100,000 Somali women, SWA is presently composed of 17 organisations.

SWA has been active in advocating for women's participation in the political arena, and they have succeeded in obtaining 12 seats for the local government of Benadir of which 7 are for women. SWA is also involved in the Djibouti Peace talks as a monitoring group to ensure the implementation of what is agreed by the TFG and Opposition and to further ensure that the UNSC Resolution 1325 is implemented by all parties.

The EU will continue to support SWA, by funding a 3-years program focusing on building the institutional capacities of the platform, enhancing their advocacy and lobbying role and increasing women's awareness on «Islam and Women's Rights». The program is drawn from the 5-year Strategic Plan and defined mission, vision and objectives of SWA.

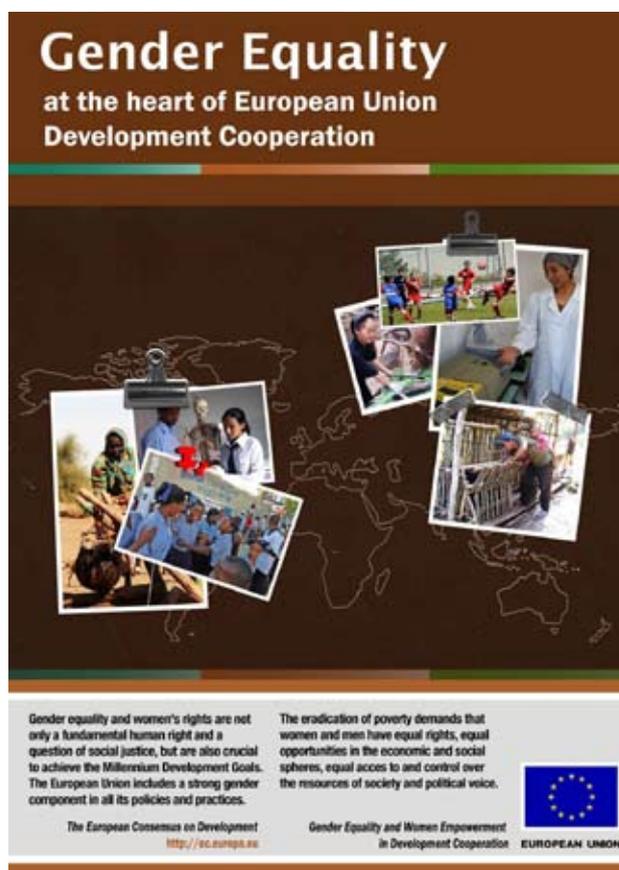
During the workshop on 'Gender, Peace, Security and Development' (Brussels, 2009) Helena Ostman (EC Programme Manager) summarized the devastating impact of 20 years of civil war on the position of women in Somalia.



Somalia, 2009.

Now the EU supports the process for a common agenda of women's organisations in Somalia, who created the SWA (Somali Women Agenda) as an advocacy body for gender issues. The patrilineal clan based society is still deeply rooted in Somalia. Currently three systems of law co-exist in Somalia: customary law, shari'a law and common law. The literacy rate for women is 12% compared to 36 % of men. Female genital mutilation stands at 98%.

Twenty years of Civil war has left deep scars in the Somali society, affecting women disproportionately due to their subordinate role within the cultural context. Armed conflict among warring clans and the loss of male providers and male labour resulted in disrupted agriculture and food distribution; it generated famine (about 300,000 dead) and widespread break-up and displacements of families. Homes and household resources were destroyed, leaving women and children in extreme poverty.



Despite feminization of poverty, women were at the forefront of the emergency care and social recovery. Most Civil Society Organisations are led by women. Nevertheless, 'official' politics and peace-making are still exclusively male domains and women have not gained membership of community or clan institutions. International Instruments on Women's rights are not signed and the UNSCR 1325 is not applied.

Together with Norway, the EU made a Joint Strategy Paper, which includes a gender profile of the country, and sets targets for gender issues. In 2007 a process started to put together a common agenda for the promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality in Somalia. This resulted in 2008 in the creation of the Somali Women Agenda (SWA) as an advocacy body. The EU supports the SWA with EUR 1,8 million from the 10th European Development Fund. With this project Somali women are making huge steps forward to become subjects of their own history and to pave the way for a 'gender'-sector in Somalia.

Organisations that join the Somali Women's Agenda (SWA):

- IIDA
- YOUTH LINK SOMALIA
- SSWC
- HEEGAN
- DIJHRO
- WAWA
- ALLA MAGAN
- SWEA
- FEPMA
- FATXI
- SOMALI WOMEN DIASPORA (SWD)
- WAMO
- CORD
- DELPHIA
- KALSAN
- Somali women activists
- Somali women journalists
- Other individuals committed to the cause.

At AIDCO-E4 the following visibility and training materials are available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish:

Type of material	Title in English
Posters	Gender Equality at the heart of EU Development Cooperation
	End Violence against Women; the EU takes action
	Women key actors for Peace and Development
Flyers	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the Heart of the EU Development Cooperation
Training material	Toolkit on mainstreaming gender equality in EU development cooperation
Briefing notes on	Gender and Trade
	Women's Human Rights
	Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Decentralisation, Public Administration Reform and Local Development
	Gender Equality and Technical and Vocational Training (TVET)
	Gender Budgeting: Its usefulness in programme-based approaches to aid

Gender trainings and workshops in 2010

Type of training	Language	Syslog	Start	Finish
GENDER Online Course 1: Basic training on Gender and Development	English	322181	01 Febr.	8 March
GENRE Course en Ligne 1 : Formation de base Genre et Développement	Français	322198	22 March	22 April
GENDER Online Course 1: Basic training on Gender and Development	English	322214	20 April	20 May
GENRE Course en Ligne 2 : Outils de base & stratégies pour l'intégration du genre dans la coopération	Français	324487	03 May	01 June
GENDER Online course 2: Basic tools and strategies for gendermainstreaming in EU development cooperation	English	324486	01 June	30 June
GENRE Course en Ligne 3 : L'intégration du genre dans le cycle du projet	Français	324501	15 June	15 July
GENDER Online course 3: Gender main streaming through the Project Approach	English	324494	15 July	16 August
GENDER Online Course 4: Gender and aid Effectiveness	English		31 August	30 Sept.
Brussels: Basic Training Promotion of Gender Equality in EU Development Cooperation	English	318976	14 June	15 June
Bruxelles : Formation de base Promotion de l'Egalité de Genre dans la Coopération au Développement de la UE	Français	318974	14 June	15 June
Brussels: Gender Focal Persons Workshop	English French	318980	16 June	18 June
Tailor-made Gender Training in EU Delegation Cote d'Ivoire	Français		October	
Tailor-made Gender Training in EU Delegation Kenya/Somalia	English		September	
Tailor-made Gender Training in EU Delegation in Liberia	English			